

IDEAS FOR ECOC CONGREGATIONAL FUNDRAISING



- I. Concession Stand Car Washing
- II. Board/Video Game Tournament-ing
- III. Break the Ballooning
- IV. Walk-a-thon-ing
- V. Collecting
- VI. Auctioning
- VII. Bands Battling
- VIII. Movie Nighting
- IX. Chili Cook-off-ing
- X. Flamingo Flocking
- XI. Minister Napping
- XII. Topless Car Washing
- XIII. Goblin Insuring
- XIV. Hunger Dining
- XV. Drag Bingo
- XVI. Bachelor(ette) Auctioning
- XVII. Amateur Night Having
- XVIII. Seed Bombing

XIX. Theatre Doing

XX. LOCK-IN

Blue- Relates to ECOC

Red- General fundraising ideas

➤ TRADITIONAL IDEAS

➤ **Concession Stand Car Wash –**

<http://www.fundraiserhelp.com/car-wash-fundraiser.htm>

- Car washes have long been a favorite for fundraising activities, but you can get a leg up on the competition by selling snacks and refreshments at your car wash! Set up a few folding chairs, and your customers can relax and enjoy the day while their car is being cleaned! Some great refreshments to sell are snacks and drinks like soda, water, juice, and coffee.



➤ **Board/Video Game Tournament –**

<http://www.fundraiserinsight.org/articles/hosting-a-games-night-fundraiser.html>

- Organize a board game tournament. Charge a fee for entry, and organize people into teams of four players. Each assembled team will work together to earn points to become the ultimate winning team of the night. You can designate a portion of the raised money as proceeds for a prize for the winning team. Sponsor a raffle and concession stand for members of the audience not competing in the tournament. Purchase raffle prizes, chips, sodas, candy, popcorn, bottled water, coffee, hot dogs, and more to entice the crowd and earn more money.
- To make this relate more to the work of the ECOC, use games in which it is easy to handicap random players, such as Monopoly, Life, or Risk. These handicaps can then be based on the real handicaps that AIDS victims and orphans face every day.

➤ **Break the Balloon –**

<http://www.fundraiserinsight.org/articles/hosting-a-games-night-fundraiser.html>

- Hold a break-the-balloon fundraiser. This fundraiser is ideal alone or incorporated into other events such as a fundraising faire or fundraising dinner. All you need is a helium tank, balloons, string and strips of paper with prizes printed on them. Of course, you'll need to provide prizes; ask local retailers to donate prizes in exchange for free advertising. On the day of the event, simply place the prize strips inside the balloons, blow them up with helium and tie them in place with string. Charge a fee for



balloons, and instruct people to pop their balloons at the announcement. Those who pop a balloon containing a prize slip win a prize.

- ***Note: if you do not have access to a helium tank, the balloons can be hung to the ceiling via tape and still be functional.*
- To raise awareness of the Every Child is our Child program use condoms instead of balloons. You can also have each slip of paper include a fact about the ECOC community, region, or education. You can also have balloons at an event and charge for the balloons and their chance to win! Talk to your administrators to work out the “tax-deductible” part of this event.

➤ **Walk-a-thons –**

<http://walkathonguide.com/>

- Walk-a-thons include parades, "fun runs", and marathons. These sorts of fundraisers can be approached in two different ways. Participants may go around asking for donations based on how far they will be walking, or the organization running the event may ask a larger corporation to sponsor it and donate money based on how many participants are involved. Corporations will use opportunities like this to advertise.
- Gear this toward ECOC by walking or running in recognition of how far AIDS orphans have to walk to attend school in some places.
- This can be made into a **wake-a-thon** where participants stay awake as long as they can in recognition of the AIDS orphans who do not have a place to sleep and are helped by Every Child is Our Child program.



➤ **Collections –**

<http://www.fundraising-ideas.org/DIY/candrive.htm>



- Many people have items around their houses that they would be willing to donate to a good cause, and you can take advantage of this fact when planning a fundraiser. Some ideas of profitable collection drives include: can and bottle drives, ink cartridge recycling drives, or even cell phone recycling drives. However, virtually anything that you can think of that can be easily collected and redeemed for cash could be a good option for a collection fundraiser.
- The collection plate during service is an easy way to fundraise. Ask your congregation to reserve one or two Sundays to give the collection money from that service over to your fundraiser. Your congregation may already have a “split plate” initiative or collection plate form and/or protocol, so be sure to ask about that.
- This can be a contribution for the UU-UNO overall work or your congregation may agree to donate to a specific program initiative, i.e. climate change or Every Child is Our Child. You may also want to collect funds from your congregation to visit the

office in New York City or to help members attend our annual Intergenerational Spring Seminar in April.

➤ Auction –

<http://www.naffziger.net/blog/2006/10/23/how-to-run-a-successful-charity-auction/>

- Go around to local businesses explaining your cause and ask for donations. **Example:** dinner for two from a restaurant, a catered party for X amount of guests from a catering company, baked good from the local bakery, a boat ride for two (if there is a local marina), or movie/show tickets from a theater. You can also ask the members of your congregation for donations. **Example:** a school supply basket, baked goods, pampering supplies, babysitting, technology lessons, and cleaning/odd job services.
- Leave flyers about ECOC in the baskets and/or envelopes of the auction items.
- You can add a silent auction too or a raffle. Sell the tickets for \$X.
- Have inexpensive snacks and refreshments for sale.



➤ Battle of the Bands –

<http://www.fundraiserinsight.org/articles/battle-of-the-bands-fundraisers.html>



- Bring out the bands. Local garage bands may love the opportunity to strut their stuff in your parking lot. You may need a city permit because of the noise, and you will have to sort out the sound system logistics, which for these sorts of events will often be donated by local businesses. However, selling tickets to a battle of the bands competition is a tremendous way of raising funds and involving the community in your cause.

➤ Movie Night Fundraising –

<http://www.fundraiserinsight.org/articles/movie-night-fundraiser.html>

- Many organizations rent a movie and hold movie night fundraising events. This works especially well if you have a large room and projection/large screen TV. Make money by charging a single price for the movie and refreshments; provide the movie free but sell refreshments; or charge nothing and just ask for donations. Make sure you select a movie that will be of special interest to your group. Allow plenty of time for socialization before and after the movie. Some groups have held all-nighters where movie-goers bring their sleeping bags and blankets and have a movie marathon.

- Play movies relating to the Every Child is Our Child Program. For a longer list of suggestions, email unintern@uua.org!
- *The Lazarus Effect, Lifecycles: A Story of AIDS in Malawi, The Storm, Five Heroes of Aids in Africa.*

➤ **Chili Cook-Off –**

<http://www.chicaandjo.com/2008/11/03/host-a-chili-cook-off-party/>



- Chili makers pay \$X to enter their chili in the competition. Each attendee pays \$Y for a bowl and can try all the chilies with their bowl. Everyone votes for their favorite chili. The most delicious chili (or have several categories, such as best vegetarian chili, etc.) wins a prize, which can be small inexpensive plaques, or simply fame and glory within the congregation. The extra chili can also be sold in pint containers for \$5 each.



➤ **WACKY IDEAS**

➤ **Flamingo Flocking –**

<http://flamingoflocking.com/>

- Purchase 10 pink plastic flamingos (lawn decorations). Pick 10 yards in your community to be the lucky recipients. Attach cards to the flamingoes' necks with a phone number along with all the pertinent information regarding your group. State that for a \$10 donation, the flamingos will be removed but for \$15 they will be moved to the lawn of their choice. Make sure you also place a sign that has a contact name and phone number among the flamingos for those who drive by and would like to have the flamingos placed in a friend's yard. (Also give the option to simply pick up the flamingo gratis, since some people have no sense of fun.) It takes some organization, but is lots of fun. An additional fundraising idea is to sell "Pink Flamingo Insurance" for \$10 to protect you from the invasion of these pink pests.



➤ **Topless Car Wash Fundraising –**

<http://www.fundraising-ideas.org/DIY/toplesswash.htm>

- Got your attention, huh? This is run just like a regular fundraising car wash. Advertise that it's a "Topless" car wash and set up the car washing area behind a business where it can't be seen from the street. People will flock to it out of pure curiosity! Designated people to lure drivers to participate in the car wash. When the driver pulls into the wash area they find that a "Topless" car wash means 1) the bottom of the car is washed free but a donation of \$X is required if they want the top washed; 2) the entire car is washed except for the roof for \$X and for an additional \$Y you wash the top; 3) convertibles with the top down (topless) get a

free wash, or 4) capitalize on our institutionally sexist society and have women in bikinis holding the signs in front, but (topless) guys doing the washing. Pick the option you like best and come up with a variation of your own. Folks are generally pretty good natured and appreciate the ingenuity.

➤ **Hunger Dinner –**

http://www.cwrc.org/pages/cwrc_youthresources.cfm



- Host a Hunger Dinner at your congregation to raise awareness of world hunger problems. Each person pays the same admission price when they RSVP for the dinner. As guests enter, each one draws a ticket from a bucket. On each ticket is a letter designating the social class that person will fall into for the evening: U=Upper Class, M=Middle Class, L=Lower Class. Guests will then go to dine with their respective classes.

Make the numbers of each ticket proportional to the numbers of people worldwide who fall into these classes (approximately 15% U, 35% M, and 50% L). The Lower Class will be given plain white rice, bowls, and spoons, and will eat on the floor. The Middle Class will eat fried rice and rolls on plates with forks. They may sit in chairs, drink water, and take seconds. The Upper Class will eat at a table, with a table cloth and full set-ups, including iced water, and will be waited upon by staff members. They will be served a fancy three course meal. All classes should dine in the same large space so that they can see each others' conditions. Put worldwide and US hunger statistics on the walls of the room.

- This event will increase awareness of class differences and food accessibility problems around the world. Individuals are often positioned in class categories in connection with another marginalized identity they have; oppression of intersecting identities i.e. race and gender.
 - ◆ *worldhunger.org/learn.htm has good information and statistics about world hunger*

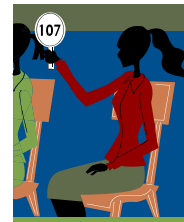
➤ **Bingo –**

- At some point, bingo changed from being a game reserved for an older crowd to one played in gay bars and hosted by vivacious and energetic drag queens. Consult with a local LGBT-friendly businesses, such as a bar or nightclub, restaurant or coffeehouse, in order to secure a venue. Performers volunteer their time and talents, and companies donate prizes. Each bingo card has a buy-in, with all proceeds going to the UU-UNO. Participants are entertained by the hosts, who bring comedy, fashion and flair to the game. You may also want to have a discussion

about the history of drag queens, cultural norms, and international rights before or after this event. This of course would relate to our LGBT/SOGI program.

➤ Bachelor Auction –

- To perform a charity bachelor auction, the materials are simple: people willing to parade themselves for charity. Audience members bid for the chance to go on a date. Rules and stipulations are established prior to the event regarding the terms of the date, possibly limiting the date to dinner or coffee. As this is a low-cost event, the vast majority of the proceeds can go directly to the charity.



➤ Amateur Nights –

- Amateur nights provide a chance for novices to show off their talents with drag shows, strip shows, talent shows or karaoke. The means by which money is raised vary; performers can choose to donate tips they earn to the cause, tickets are sometimes sold for admission, with all proceeds going to charity, or participants may pay an entry fee to showcase their talents. Prizes may be offered as an incentive for participants. This event can attract a large turnout and create a sense of unity in the local community.

➤ Seed Bombs –



- A fun way to play with clay and turn a bomb into a source of life rather than destruction! A seed bomb is a ball of seeds, clay, and compost that can be thrown into a garden and plants will grow where it falls.
 - For seed-bomb-making instructions, see <http://gardenerscott.blogspot.com/2012/02/how-to-make-seed-bombs.html>
- This relates to our climate change initiative. While making seed bombs (good Sunday school activity) lead a discussion of climate change and the environmental impacts of large-scale farming and its effects upon indigenous communities and ways of life. Sell seed bombs in a fundraiser and encourage participants to cultivate their seeds/plants and share the fruits of the Earth with their neighbors.
- *Ask your local nursery if it would be willing to donate seeds for the fundraising drive so all funds can go to the cause.*

➤ Put on a play –

- Raise awareness through historical re-enactments of important human rights events; exploring issues of racism, prejudice, and intolerance through the dramatic arts medium; interpreting human rights themes in plays. Charge admission and sell refreshments during intermission. Depending on the play you put on, this may relate to any of our programs.



- “8” is a good choice, describing the lawsuit response to California’s Prop 8. It relates to our LGBT/SOGI Human Rights program.
- “Vagina Monologues” is also a great choice – an amazing production relating to our Women’s Empowerment program.
- Ariel Dorfman has written several human rights related plays.

➤ **Host a Cluster CON or Lock-in –**

- Invite youth groups from a few of the surrounding congregations or just your youth group, to spend a night or two over the weekend in your church. Each person must pay a \$X to come. For a small group of people, not too much money is necessary to really make it happen. Donations of food and a little time from the members of your congregation and your youth group, is all that is needed to have fun games and yummy food to keep all your guests happy.
- Talk about the UU-UNO and why the con/lock-in is being held. Let them know where the money is going and that they are helping!
- The UU-UNO has already developed a con with a handbook entitled: Justice Con. You can work with the Envoy Coordinator to help you set this up.



HOW TO PLAN AN ECOC FUNDRAISER

A. Save the Date

With your congregation, choose a time that you think will be best for the fundraiser. Consider weather if it's an outside event.

B. Develop the idea

Consider the congregation

1. What can your fellow members really afford? Small donations or larger?
2. What age group are you hoping to attract? Is your fundraiser appropriate for any age or more aimed towards a particular age group?
3. Do you need special equipment?
Example: projectors, sound systems, etc.
4. Who do you know in your congregation who will want to help? Consider their special skills.
Example: organizing, outreach, cooking, tech, etc.
5. What type of event do you think your congregation will respond best to?
6. Can you relate your idea to the UU-UNO/ ECOC?
7. Do you want a speaker to help make your fundraiser more cohesive to the UU-UNO/ ECOC?

C. Make a fundraising planning group/committee

You are going to need help!

- Submit an announcement to your service director/minister or if possible do it yourself. No one knows more about what you want to do than you!
- Have a table at coffee hour.
- Reach out, make some calls/emails and get your congregation interested.
- Hang up a flier on your congregation's bulletin board and your contact information for interested members of your congregation.

D. Meeting with your fundraising planning group/committee

PLAN! PLAN! PLAN!

- Make the first meeting the best meeting.
 1. Have snacks, refreshments (make people want to plan)
 2. Have everyone get to know each other
 3. Educate about the UU-UNO & ECOC
 4. Have a goal: amount of money, education, FUN!
 5. Brainstorm
 6. Try to decide on an idea so the rest of your meeting can be used to just plan it out
- Find out everyone's availability. How often can everyone ideally meet? Can people participate via Skype, etc.



- How many meetings do you think you will need to complete your planning?
- What jobs need to be assigned?
Example: Set up, monitoring, event runners, participants, clean up, etc.
- Make a schedule, the more precise you make it, the smoother your event runs. No one can be confused with what they are supposed to be doing at any given time with a schedule in their hands.
- What supplies do you need?
- Can your congregation donate any supplies?
- What do you already have?

Last meeting:

- ✓ Everyone has/knows their job
- ✓ All supplies are available, collected, and in your possession
- ✓ Everyone knows the schedule
- ✓ There are enough people coming to really make the fundraiser a success
- ✓ You are ready to make a fun time for your congregation and or community
- ✓ You have an alternative/rain date in case of last minute issues that may prevent your fundraiser from happening.

E. Meet with the RE committee

If you are considering a fundraiser open to the kids in the congregation, ask the committee their thoughts.

1. Can your fundraiser be more kid friendly?
2. If your fundraiser isn't age appropriate, is there other ways for the kids to be involved?
3. Ask if you can go into the classrooms and get the kids excited about the fundraiser.

Example: *offer child care for a small fee, have the kids help make signs and bake snacks to sell at your fundraiser.*

F. Make it Happen: The Day of your UU-UNO Fundraiser

- Give your planning committee ample time to set up and prepare
 - Have your schedule on hand and so should your committee members
- **FOLLOW IT!**

HAVE FUN!

