

Fund-Raising BRAINSTORM

The following are some ideas for raising funds for your Great Steps team or other NF events. If you have any to add, please let us know!

Include Friends and Family in the FUNd-Raising!

- Send an e-mail out to everyone you know directing them to your firstgiving.com site. Set a really high goal, and tell everyone you'll do something drastic (shave your head?) if you reach it!
- Add a link to your firstgiving.com site on your facebook page
- Ask friends and family to donate to your fundraising efforts rather than buy you a gift for a special occasion, like your birthday.
- Ask people to give something up for NF such as their weekly night out, lunch money for the week, a pack of cigarettes - and contribute what they would have spent to your fundraising event.
- Host a party and ask participants to pledge their support. Have it at a local hangout or coffee shop and charge an entrance fee. Ask the establishment where you are holding the event to support you with 10 percent of the sales from the event.
- Take your fundraising letter and information on Neurofibromatosis everywhere.
- Encourage your donors to make donations in honor of, in memory of or in support of someone who has been affected by Neurofibromatosis. If you are participating in an event such as Great Steps for NF offer to write the honored person's name on your shirt for a donation or create a "thank you" board for the event.
- Change your home, cellular and work voicemail to announce to all that you will be participating in Great Steps. It's a great way to spread the word!
- Have a scrapbooking party in your home or at a local venue. If you have a personal tie to the cause, incorporate pictures of your loved one affected by Neurofibromatosis into the party. Get food and drinks donated and charge at the door.

Fundraise at the office

- Ask your corporation to make a donation.
- Sell candy, chips, popcorn, soda, bagels or donuts at the office. You may be able to get the goods donated so everything goes to your fundraising.
- Casual Dress Day – Determine if your office will allow employees to dress down in return for a donation to your team.
- Ask your boss to donate a free day off to use in a raffle at work. The winner gets a day off without using his or her sick time or vacation time.
- Most e-mail programs give you the ability to create your own signature at the bottom of each message. This is a great way to let both personal and business contacts know NF is a cause close to your heart. Add a link to your firstgiving.com page in your email. You may be surprised at the number of people who end up donating.
- Ask everyone in your office to donate \$25 a month until your event. Let them know they are only giving up one dinner out in these months to help people living with Neurofibromatosis.
- In the lunchroom or break room, leave a stack of donation forms and a sign with a picture of yourself and a note about why you are participating in the walk.

Raise money in the community

- Ask businesses (doctor, dentist, salon, etc.) that you frequent for a donation of cash or services. If you do business there, they may appreciate your loyalty enough to donate.
- Ask a local place of worship if you could speak to the congregation or speak at your chamber of commerce. Share with them your commitment to helping those living with Neurofibromatosis and the research needed to end the disease. After the service, set up a table to collect donations or ask if a special collection can be taken up for Neurofibromatosis.
- Get a jar to collect change and decorate it with Neurofibromatosis facts or a picture of you or the person you are walking in honor of. This is a great way to get friends involved too - have them put a jar at their office. Get everyone you know to create a “change jar” and make the effort not to spend their change but toss it your way instead.
- From a small town? Your heroic efforts may make great news! Call your local paper and see if they will write a story about you. Be sure that you include ways for people from your community to donate.