



## Fundraising Ideas for Ambassadors

**Birthday Fundraiser** – Birthdays are a perfect time to ask your family, friends, and co-workers to help you pay it forward in lieu of gifts that will soon be forgotten. You can set up a [fundraiser on Facebook](#) and share via email and text with your family and friends. Or, if you are not on social media, you can use our online [Classy](#) portal to create a fundraiser link to share instead.

**Raffle:** Sell raffle tickets to friends and family, designating part of the proceeds to Free Wheelchair Mission. Have a dinner party or fun event when you will draw and announce the lucky winner.

**Tasty Treats:** Take advantage of nice weather and host a booth offering delicious baked goods, lemonade, and other goodies for a suggested donation. People are always excited to share their recipes and donate some baked goods for a good cause. Don't forget to get some cute kids to help—who can resist a smiling little face offering you a tasty treat? If you are social distancing, consider taking orders for treats and set up a time to deliver or pick up your goodies.

**Moonlight Movies:** Rent or borrow a projector and screen or white sheet and play a movie in your backyard or at a park! Charge “admission” (a suggested donation) and have snacks available. It's a great way to get friends, family, and even the community involved! Ask your local grocer to donate snacks and drinks to increase your donation for wheelchairs.

**Foodie Fundraiser:** Host a potluck dinner, chili cook-off, make-it-yourself pizza night, or ice cream social and collect donations or a cover charge at the door. Hold a contest with a prize(s) for the winner! Place Free Wheelchair Mission story cards on your tables along with Free Wheelchair Mission giving cubes to collect additional donations throughout the event.

**Office Feast:** Tired of boring lunches at work? Offer a fresh salad bar, homemade desserts and snacks, fruit, and other lunch items at work, and your co-workers will gladly pay \$5-\$10 for a delicious lunch! Get your food items donated from a local restaurant or store to save on costs and increase your donation for wheelchairs. Please be sure to follow local guidelines on in-person gatherings and social distancing.

**Mom and Dad Date Night:** Offer to babysit for stressed-out parents while they go out to enjoy a night alone! Have popcorn, pizza, and movies for the kids. Ask a variety of local stores to donate pizza, popcorn, and drinks to increase your donation for wheelchairs. This is also a great fundraiser during the Christmas season, when parents need to shop without the little ones.



**Car Clean-Up:** A tried and true favorite—get a group together for a weekend car wash! For a new twist, talk to a local car wash owner to see if you can host your fundraiser at their location. Pay to use the location’s soap, hoses, and vacuums, and ask your “customers” for a donation to have you do all the work! Have some snacks available for an additional donation, for them to enjoy while they wait.

**Go Green to Raise Green:** Set up a recycling drive and turn in all the recyclables you collect at your local recycling location for cash that you can donate. You can do this on a weekly basis or have set dates where you’ll turn all recyclables in at the end.

**Restaurants to the Rescue:** Partner with a local restaurant to hold a fundraiser on a slow weeknight. Many restaurants will donate a percentage of their sales to your cause for every customer who presents a flyer to their server. Ask to have donation boxes (ask us for Free Wheelchair Mission giving cubes) and Free Wheelchair Mission story cards on each of the tables. Make sure to create a flyer to hand out!

**Craft for a Cause:** Hold a craft night at someone’s house. Find people you know (yourself included) who have special crafting skills—scrapbooking, candle making, quilting, knitting/crochet, holiday wreaths/swags, etc.—and have them teach an introductory class. Have everyone bring their unwanted craft supplies to share. “Charge” a suggested donation for the classes or for admission! The best part? You can use these items to auction off at another fundraising event!

**Photo Scanning Service:** For people with scanners (or for those of you with access to them), you can offer your personal time to help to digitally archive favorite old photos for someone who just doesn’t feel up to doing it themselves (or for someone who doesn’t have the know-how!). Set a dollar amount per stack of 24 pictures and offer to upload them to a free photo hosting site or deliver them on a USB thumb drive.

**Garage Sale:** Spring has passed, but it’s never a bad time to get rid of old, unwanted items that are taking up space in your home! Apply for a permit and hold a garage sale on the weekend. Since people are always looking for a way to clear out their garages, you can offer to pick up their old stuff. This is a nice change from asking people for more money. Pair your garage sale with a lemonade stand or bake sale to increase traffic and fundraising dollars for wheelchairs.

**Groceries for Good:** Offer to go to the grocery store for mom, dad, grandma, or the neighbors. They will appreciate getting all the items they need without having to take the time to go! Set suggested donation amounts based on the number of items they have on their list.

**Taxi-for-a-Day:** Offer to drive a friend or family member around to run errands for a day or a weekend, in exchange for a suggested donation. Minus the cost in gas, this is an easy way to raise a few extra dollars!



**Poker Tournament:** Hold a poker tournament and donate part of the proceeds to provide wheelchairs. You probably already know someone who will let you use their poker set, or you can ask a group who already holds a poker night to designate one of their regular nights as a fundraiser for you.

**Bunco Night:** Bunco is easy to learn and a lot of fun to play in groups. [Download directions](#) to play off and organize a bunco night in your home, at church, or at a local community center. Each player will donate to play, with a percentage of the proceeds going towards wheelchairs.

**Bingo Night** – Host a bingo night with a percentage of the proceeds going towards wheelchairs. Incorporate a bake sale, spaghetti dinner, or other fundraiser idea to increase your dollars for wheelchairs.

**Wine and Cheese Mixer:** Invite all your friends over and have each person bring their favorite pairing of wine and cheese (make sure they bring an extra bottle of wine and an extra cheese sample). Set a donation jar next to each pairing, and have each person vote by putting \$10 in the jar of their favorite. The person who brought the wine and cheese pairing with the most money gets to take home the extra bottle of THEIR favorites! Raffle off the remaining bottles or use them for another event. All donated dollars can be given to provide wheelchairs.

**Mardi Gras Madness:** Arrange for a festive night of New Orleans-style food, music, and drinks at a home, community center, or rented location. Set a suggested donation amount for admission, food, and drinks. Encourage everyone to dress up and come for a fun, themed party! Remember to ask for food item donations from local restaurants and grocers to increase your donation for wheelchairs.

**Fall Harvest Festival Trunk or Treat:** Invite your friends, family, co-workers, or church members to decorate their trunks for some family-friendly fun! Set up fun booths for games, crafts, and more, and “charge” a suggested donation for tickets to play or to participate in activities.

**Puppy Parade or Wag-a-thon:** Pets and their owners can get in on the fun! Dress up your pet and have a costume contest for the cutest, funniest, and most detailed costume. Set up an agility course and have a contest to see which dog is the best trained! Have a contest to see which dog can do the most or the best tricks. Mark off a one-mile course where dogs and their humans can enjoy a group walk. Raise funds by asking for a suggested donation as an entry fee, then share on social media and have people donate \$1-\$5 to vote for their favorite pet.



**Rubber Duck Race:** For a suggested donation, give yellow rubber ducks to your guests and invite each person to decorate theirs. Then, drop the ducks into moving water together for a race. The first one that crosses the finish line wins! You can use a local waterway with a current, or, if there isn't one available, use a full-sized or inflatable pool and give each duck "owner" a plastic water gun to help propel their duck across the finish line!

**Pancake or Waffle Breakfast:** All you need is a big kitchen with a nice backyard, a few volunteers, and some hungry people! Publicize this as a Sunday Brunch and invite your whole neighborhood to join in!

**Move for Mobility:** Create your own Move for Mobility event. You can walk, run, hike, bike, swim, surf, or do any other activity where you can make your movements/miles matter for mobility. Ask us about receiving a Move for Mobility t-shirt to wear for your event. Don't forget to take photos or videos and share your progress/fundraiser on your social media channels.

**Pasta Night:** Who doesn't like spaghetti and garlic bread? It's easy to cook in large batches and inexpensive to buy. Organizing a pasta dinner night with a raffle or silent auction plus a wine tasting is an easy way to combine a few different activities into one night of fun! Not able to host an in-person event? Take dinner orders and either set up a drive-thru for pick up or deliver the food personally.

**Chair-ity Auction:** Have people create unique auction items out of old chairs! For example, a plastic lawn chair with a picnic basket and picnic lunch, hats, sunscreen, and a Frisbee; a kid's chair with toys for the little ones; or a rocking chair with knitting and crocheting materials.

**Engage your sports team** to host a x2 Challenge by donating \$1 for every goal, touchdown, or point scored during the month of October, when every donation is doubled by a group of generous, anonymous donors. Find a business (or lots of businesses) that offer matching gifts and watch your fundraiser multiply!

Do you have a special talent that people are always asking you to share? **Host a service project weekend or month and** offer to use your special skills in return for a donation to your individual or group fundraiser. Ideas could include mechanical work, plumbing, electrical, painting, etc. Set a goal so everyone knows how many wheelchairs you are trying to fund. Host this event in October and have your dollars doubled in Free Wheelchair Mission's x2 Gift Challenge!

**Host a talent show.** Ask for a suggested donation to attend the show and add in a bake sale or other foodie fundraiser to increase your fundraising success.



**Host a concert/karaoke/worship night** or ask a band or choir to fundraise for mobility at their next performance. Share a recipient story video during your event and pass a bucket to collect donations for wheelchairs.

**Pet care services:** Volunteer to pet sit, walk, or feed a neighbor's dog, cat, horse, turtle, or goldfish in return for a donation towards your wheelchair fundraiser.

**Let's Make a Deal:** For our youth ambassadors, let mom, dad, grandpa, grandma, aunties, and uncles all know that you will gladly do any chore of their choosing for a donation to your wheelchair fundraiser.

## Have more fun ideas for fundraising? Let us know!

Contact Dana Hindman

National Ambassador Manager — Free Wheelchair Mission

[dhindman@freewheelchairmission.org](mailto:dhindman@freewheelchairmission.org)

[FreeWheelchairMission.org/Ambassador](https://FreeWheelchairMission.org/Ambassador)