

# Create Your Own Volunteer or Fundraising Project

## Sample Project Ideas

*Contact your local agency, faith group, neighborhood or others to coordinate a community project!*

### Creative ways to fundraise

- Penny Wars and Drives, asking people to empty the change in their cars or donate their change banks
- Putting on a holiday concert, a “dance-off”, a play, or any type of fun event or school activity where the admission costs go back to fundraising
- Getting friends and family involved, asking them to help
- Letter writing campaign
- Bake sales
- Getting teachers involved with “shave-a-thons”, Dress Down Days, selling the opportunity to throw pies at teachers, or a Sumo Wrestling contest where students bid on which teachers will face off with the principal
- Using Facebook and social networking sites
- Yard sales or auctions
- Car washes
- Group game of “Rock, Paper, Scissors”. Everyone puts \$1 into the game. Break the group into two’s and each group plays RPS. The winner gets to keep the other person’s \$1 and advance to the next round. The last winner gets everyone’s dollars. That money can be donated to the campaign under the winner’s name.
- Soliciting corporate sponsors or asking businesses to put a donation jar on their counters
- Ask family and friends to substitute and upcoming birthday gift with a donation

### Creative ways to volunteer

- Stock a food pantry
- Invite local community members to speak to your class about social issues or advocating for those in need.
- Organize a neighborhood “Trash Clean-Up”, clean up alleyways and sidewalks

- Paint classrooms, playrooms, kitchens
- Fix, and paint picnic tables and benches
- Build and decorate recycling containers
- Build a chicken coop or bee boxes
- Construct bird feeders or houses
- Remove weeds from cracks in sidewalks and flowerbeds
- Build a compost bin
- Participate in arts and crafts with clients
- Organize a book drive
- Record books on tape or dictate letters for the blind
- Organize a “Cut-A-Thon” with a local barbershop to donate hair cuts
- Provide entertainment for a local hospice or nursing home
- Coordinate a collection drive of a diapers, socks, camping gear, etc.
- Collect and distribute clothing
- Clean bike paths and trails
- Clean up a campground
- Create a scarecrow for a community garden
- Spruce up or landscape an apartment or assisted living building for clients
- Repair bicycles
- Create games and toys for kids
- Organize a coin drive
- Provide companionship for clients
- Organize a car wash for an agency’s transport vehicles
- Develop a slideshow or video to highlight an organization
- Create or restore a community garden
- Packing and sorting books
- Put together educational kits
- Bleach/sanitize donated toys
- Assemble comfort bags for clients such as backpacks with teddy bears, coloring books, etc. for children in shelters
- Create a mural
- Organize a field trip for an organization
- Organize a bake sale as a fundraiser
- Make birthday/holiday/thank you cards

- Make crafts for fundraisers
- Child care – teens watch younger children while parents volunteer
- Create or distribute promotional materials such as brochures
- Work on a mailing project
- Network and update a computer system
- Paint or organize a storage area
- Clean up/restore a playground
- Advocate for a greener Fort Collins by organizing people to bike, not drive
- Organize a blood drive
- Hold a community BBQ fundraiser
- Plan a dance for clients
- Ask a nonprofit agency that serves your favorite cause for a wish list. Take a look at the wish list and purchase and/or collect items that will support the services they provide year-round. To see a whole list of agencies' wishes, visit <http://www.uwaylc.org/documents/WishList2009.pdf>.
- Send a card to one of our armed service men and women. Visit [www.americasupportsyou.mil](http://www.americasupportsyou.mil) for other ways to show support.
- Donate locally – go to [www.uwaylc.org](http://www.uwaylc.org) to find out how you can help families who live in Larimer County or internationally – go to [www.networkforgood.org](http://www.networkforgood.org) to find out how you can donate to the most recent disaster across the world.
- Make Birthday Boxes for the elderly or youth in transition.
- Doing what you would normally do for yourself, just for others
- Blood drives
- “Adopt” a family for the holiday seasons and supply them with a dinner and gifts
- A school clean up of lockers, bathrooms, and outside or decorating the school
- Having “volunteer parties”
- CSA farms
- Volunteering at an agency like the Food Bank, Elderhaus, Respite Care, Habitat for Humanity, or Meals on Wheels
- Hunger banquets
- Poverty simulations

- Adopting a class at an elementary school and reading to them, etc.
- Organizing babysitting nights for families
- Tutoring younger students
- Linus Project, make blankets
- Participating in Walk the Rockies
- Silent auctions
- Having speakers come during lunch hours
- Making a sports competition between schools
- Helping in the outdoors of the community by picking up trash, planting trees, etc.
- Ask about opportunities at a local church office
- Collect coats, interview clothes, etc. for needy organizations or volunteer for Mary's Closet

#### **What are the benefits to individual students and/or student groups who participate in PSDVD?**

- Volunteer experience is great to add to resumes and college applications
- Brings schools together and helps receive bragging rights and prizes if they win
- Makes you feel good
- Helps bring awareness to poverty in Fort Collins and the surrounding communities
- Connects you to United Way and gives leadership experience through service
- Fills community service hours requirements for IB, NHS, Key Club, CAS, or advisory classes

#### **Why should students care about fundraising or volunteering for United Way?**

- This is our community and it's important to give back to it and support it
- Money donated gets used locally
- You may need some help someday and it's good to know organizations like United Way will be there
- Creates powerful awareness
- The recession is making the times especially difficult
- Helps people in a variety of situations