



Tiffany Grabski – Fundraising tips

Coming up with fundraising ideas doesn't ever seem to be an issue; it's making those ideas a reality that often becomes the obstacle.

The key is doing the things that are interesting and fun to organise so you look forward to it rather than seeing it as a chore. I don't enjoy asking people on the street for money, however I don't mind asking strangers for money if I feel like they are getting something out of it!

For example a raffle, auction, gig, or other event that involves prizes and entertainment benefits both you and your donors, and will often make them want to donate far more than the one or two pounds they would likely give you normally.

My Hitch partners and I got our idea from a friend who ran a speed date at a local pub to raise money for a charity some years back. We thought this would be a great idea, and not only did it prove successful, but it was an awesome night too!

We hired a room in a bar (for free!), prepared some questions, charged an entrance fee, and roped in all our friends and some randoms from the bar to fill seats. Everyone had a good laugh (especially us!) and we came out with almost half of our minimum fundraising total each.

Anything that provides entertainment to students is bound to raise you money while giving you and your friends a good night out, and with the use of Facebook and a bit of networking you could raise your total in one night!

Not only do you raise a lot of money fast while having a good time, but you also learn a lot about organising and working with a team – which is a great way to pump up your CV!

People who don't see you everyday will still manage to escape all your begging and pleading, and often miss any events you organise. Being from Canada this was initially a huge obstacle for me. Your friends and family will tend to give the most, however if they aren't nearby then it's difficult to organise an event to take full advantage of this.

This is where the Internet comes in handy! While I started with all the usual suggestions (Justgiving page, Facebook group, constant emails, letters, and sponsorship requests to schools and work), I found that there was much more you could do online!

I organised a betting sheet on which day and time we would arrive to Morocco and sold slots for £5, with the temptation of prizes donated from local businesses at home. People who knew me would buy blocks of five or more squares, while those who didn't may only buy one or two, but it was by far the quickest and easiest way to raise a few hundred pounds and can all be done by email!

While I never actually managed to make all of my ideas a reality, I was amazed with how fun and easy everything that I did was, and I hope I can help other people make their ideas a reality this year. Already I've seen people begin to develop HUGE events that will raise their entire total in one night.

People are also doing many smaller things such as selling cook books of Moroccan food (easy to make, and adults love them!), street collections, bag packs, selling calendars of your pictures when you return, or selling souvenirs to friends/family which you buy in Morocco or Prague. The ideas are endless!

So good luck fundraising, and have fun! You may not realise now, but this is a huge part of the experience and it just wouldn't be the same without the satisfaction of knowing what you've done for countless children in sub-Saharan Africa!