

Amanda Green - My Top Four Creative Fundraising Ideas

There are a huge number of ways to reach or even exceed, the £375 fundraising target that Link sets Hitchers. Every year Hitchers always manage to come up with even more original (and often bizarre) ideas than before. Here are my top 4 ideas for all our Hitchers out there looking for some creative inspiration to help you along the way to your total and beyond!

- 1. Fancy Dress/Themed Event:** Do not underestimate the fun to be had from ridiculous costumes. Organise a **Moroccan or Croatian themed night** where everyone has to dress up, hold it either in your house/flat or find a cheap venue. Charge up to £5 for attendance, and you could even go the extra mile and buy lots of food in bulk from supermarkets to cook everyone an exotic dinner!
- 2. Take Me Out:** Borrowed from the TV programme – this idea is very popular among all those single students looking for love. Decide how much you would like to raise from this event, and set an entry fee that will allow you to reach your goal. Find a venue large enough, possibly with a stage at one end, and host your own version of the programme with a group of girls wanting to find their perfect man, and a group of eligible bachelors happy to step on stage and choose their ideal date. You will also need an amusing host to get the crowd going. **Ask local businesses to give away free prizes that can be used as dates** (i.e. free meal at pizza express, 2 free coffees at Starbucks, etc) and send every matched couple off together at the end to see what happens!
- 3. Clothes Swap:** A great idea for all your fashion-conscious friends who want a bit of a wardrobe update! Host a house party where everyone wears/brings clothes they want to change or don't mind exchanging, charge an appropriate entry fee, and let the swapping begin. You could do variations on this theme like a Rubik's cube swap where you have to come in one colour and end up dressed in all different colours by the end of the night, or vice-versa. **There could be a prize for the person who manages to swap the most clothes!**
- 4. Slave Auction:** This requires a group of friends who are willing (or can be bribed) to auction themselves off in the name of charity. You need a venue- preferably one with a stage, capacity for your audience, and seated tables. There may not be any need to charge entry if you think that your singletons are desirable enough to raise lots of money, but you could charge a couple of pounds to everyone who comes. **Top tip: ask the "auctionees" to perform a "skill" of their choice to provide maximum entertainment!** The highest bidder for each person will win them as a slave for the day and it will be up to them to think up the most original, interesting or embarrassing tasks for them to perform!