

Nothing teaches a student more about the value of a dollar than having them fundraise and pay part of their own trip. Ask for parent or student volunteers to head a fundraising committee or fundraising event. Here are some fun, creative ways to earn cash and encourage community involvement. Close up does not promote or endorse any particular company or idea, but we do want to share some suggestions that have generated substantial funds for other Close Up groups.

SELL SOMETHING:

- Food sales (coffee, donuts, candy, cookies, pizza, fruit, tacos in a bag, snacks during games, etc.).
- Product sales (Tupperware, poinsettias/plants, flags, wreaths, magazines, candles, t-shirts, coupon booklets, etc.).
- Sell holiday candy-grams (deliver holiday messages with a balloon, flower, candy, etc.).
- Be the photographer for school dances and sell photographs.
- Take orders for submarine sandwiches (or some other type of food) and then have students assemble the party trays or sandwiches at the school or the local community center for Super Bowl Sunday. You can make money off of each order, plus tips!

HOST AN EVENT:

- Host a potluck dinner and sell tickets to attend. You can have a pancake breakfast or spaghetti dinner.
- Have a yard sale or flea market at the school, collect donations of items to sell from teachers, parents and students.
- Host a battle of the bands or a rock-a-thon and sell tickets for people to attend.
- Hold an American Idol contest. People who buy tickets can vote for their favorite singer.
- Have school casino night.
- Host a carnival at the school.
- Teacher vs. student (insert sport here) game.
- Have a holiday bazaar in the gym (sell exhibitor space to local vendors).
- Organize a themed dinner or dance.
- Run for democracy, walk-a-thon or bike-a-thon. Students can run, and get people to pledge an amount per mile/kilometer they run. You can also do a read-a-thon or grade-a-thon (where students earn money for every A or B on their report card).
- Have a car wash and sell the tickets in advance (plan a backup "rain date" in case of bad weather).
- Silent auction with donated items from the community.
- Ask for donations of dimes and quarters. Place the coins side by side and measure the results. A mile or kilometer is the goal, and your group gets to keep the change.
- Have a fun and crazy contest, such as a "Break the Record" contest or "Guess Who's Legs" contest. Raise money by charging for an entry fee and charging per vote.
- Get permission from your administration to charge a fee for students to participate in special days, such as pajama day, hat day, jeans day or backwards day.

VOLUNTEER TIME FOR MONEY:

- Offer to work at a local cafe or restaurant for the day. Students can keep all their tips or sometimes get a percentage of that night's sales in return.
- Yard Work, Parent's Night Out - Babysitting, Shoveling, Tutoring (advertise in the local paper, school website, etc.).
- Bag groceries for tips.
- Remove and recycle Christmas trees for a fee.
- Work the concession stand at sporting events or other school events and/or collect the profit from items sold.

EASY MONEY:

- Cash-olla nights. Ask a local restaurant to sponsor a night for your school. You can get a percentage of the profits at the end of the night. Burger King, McDonalds, Cold Stone, etc. allow groups to collect part of their profits.
- Raffle donated gifts or do a 50-50 raffle where you split the proceeds of ticket sales with the winner.
- Have a Penny War. Check online for variations to this fun activity.
- Collect cans and bottles to recycle for money.
- As a fun and creative way to raise donations, consider creating a humorous request for funds. For example, design a letter for parents and neighbors that includes such statements as:
 - For a cash donation of \$10, we won't try to sell you any candy for six weeks,
 - For a cash donation of \$25, we won't approach you with any fund raisers for the next semester, and
 - For a \$50 cash donation, we will lose your name and address for a whole year!