



FUND-RAISING IDEAS

10,000 Steps Challenge

Team members pledge to walk 10,000 steps a day over a certain time frame (often a week or month) in exchange for sponsorships. To keep costs down, there are plenty of apps that count steps.

Book Swap

Hold a book swap and charge a small amount for entry and/or per book exchanged.

Community Yard Sale

Everyone has a closet or garage full of things that they need to get rid of, so urge your community to bust out their old lawn mowers, clothes, and furniture to give for a good cause.

Food Truck Event

If your town has a food truck gathering spot, ask them to sponsor a night/week/event when a percentage of sales goes to the Sandra Schmirler Foundation. Ramp up your marketing efforts on social media to maximize your efforts.

Bingo

Everyone loves a rousing game of BINGO. Plus, it's a fun and easy to plan event suitable for the entire family. See if anyone in your community (or the local BINGO hall) has a set of BINGO balls, card, and markers/tabs you can borrow or rent. To raise funds charge an entry fee.

Outrageous Bet

Do you have supporter willing to go the distance to show their passion for the Sandra Schmirler Foundation? If so, then consider daring them to perform an outrageous bet for charity. They can dye their hair a funky color—anything as long as it's outrageous (and safe)! Promote these outrageous bets on social media to maximize your exposure to bring in more sponsorships. Think the "Bucket Challenge".

Movie Night

Invite your donors, volunteers, and potential supporters to a family movie night. This fundraiser guarantees a crowd! You can charge an entry fee and have provide refreshments. To minimize your costs, think about asking a local business to sponsor the event and cover the cost of rentals.

Obstacle Course

With an obstacle course, you can go big or gear the event to children. Either way, you're sure to gather a crowd ready to take a risk while raising money for the Sandra Schmirler Foundation. You don't need an extreme location to create a great obstacle course. A simple parking lot can be transformed into a spectacular course with some parking cones, baby pools, and rope.

Peer-to-Peer Online Fundraiser

Consider running an online peer-to-peer fundraiser. To ensure a user-friendly interface, technical support, and safe payment processing, partner with an online fundraising platform (The SSF can help you set this up).

Raffle

Ask friends, supporters, and volunteers to donate gift cards, gifts, and other items that will be raffled off. Ask local businesses such as restaurants, boutiques, and salons to donate items for the raffle.

Santa

Kids love Santa, and their parents love supporting worthwhile organizations. That's why a visit from Santa is a win-win for you're the Sandra Schmirler Foundation and your community. Schedules get very hectic around the holidays. To ensure a good showing, plan your day with Santa at the very beginning of December. Don't forget to have an amateur photographer on-hand to capture all those happy faces.

Easter Egg Hunt

Prep children in your community for a visit from the Easter bunny with a fun Easter Egg Hunt. To cut down on time filling those plastic eggs, buy them in bulk online.

Viral Challenge

While there's no guarantee that a challenge you start will go viral like the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge did, there's no time like the present to try! Challenge your supporters to record themselves doing something crazy (yet safe, of course). Try having them bob for apples or dance a jig, and then challenge their own friends and families to do the same. If they accept the challenge, they send the Sandra Schmirler Foundation a small donation. If they don't accept, the donation is even larger! Get your local media involved (newspaper, news channel) to spread the word.

Murder Mystery Dinner

Treat your guests to dinner and a show with a Murder Mystery Dinner fundraiser. This is an event that takes significant planning, but it's bound to be fun for volunteers and attendees.

Babysitting

Parents are always looking for reliable childcare. If you have the space and folks eager to babysit, then this is a great fundraiser. Though nights are a popular time that parents are looking for babysitters, think outside the box. Try offering babysitting services so that parents can shop for the holidays, for example.

Phone-a-thon

Phone-a-thons aren't just a fundraiser of the past. In fact, many colleges and universities still use this as one of their primary fundraising techniques. So, grab your phone book and get to work. You'll need ample phone lines and volunteers during this phone call blitz.

Board Game Tournament

Teams of people compete together during a board game tournament to raise money for the Sandra Schmirler Foundation. Ask local businesses or supporters to donate prizes for tournament winners. And, you can give "bonus points" to board game participants/teams that fundraise on their own for the Foundation.

Fantasy Football

Start a fantasy football team. Bets can be placed throughout the season, each one contributing to the Sandra Schmirler Foundation.

Chili Cookoff

Organize a team-based chili cook-off. Encourage local businesses to run their own chili cookoffs to support the Sandra Schmirler Foundation. Chili Cookoffs are a good fundraiser for a crisp, fall day. Don't forget to gather some small prizes for winners, such as a certificate or ribbon.

Croquet Tournament

Croquet may not be the most popular sport, but it's fun for people of all ages and skill levels. Encourage participants to wear their most fabulous croquet gear. If you don't have the equipment, you'll find rental options at your nearby party rental business.

Scavenger Hunt

A scavenger hunt can be done online (through pictures) or offline (in person). Create a list of items (or mix it up with riddles) needed to win the hunt. To spice it up, encourage participants to donate extra money to "unlock" special clues.

5K Run/Walk

There's nothing better than spending a spring or fall morning participating in a 5K or a charity walk. Runners/walkers will need to pay an entry fee, but you can also encourage participants to get sponsorships. Races and walks are all the rage right now, so jump on the bandwagon. This is a great fundraiser that brings your friends and family together with potential donors from your community.

Project Crowdfunding

Come up with a project that helps your community raise funds for the Sandra Schmirler Foundation for it with a crowdfunding page. Rely on your social media followers and email addresses to spread the word about your campaign.

Pancake Breakfast

Host a pancake fundraiser breakfast at your curling club during the Scotties Tournament of Hearts. Set your ticket price to cover food costs.

Holiday Gift Wrapping

Wrap presents to support the Sandra Schmirler Foundation! It's common for large stores such as Walmart and Costco to donate supplies for charity fundraising events. Write up a request and speak to a manager before fronting the cost for wrapping supplies.

Car Wash

Wash cars to raise money for the Sandra Schmirler Foundation. A location, access to water, and advertising are your biggest concerns here. Also, advertise a suggested donation (such as \$10 per car).

Bottle Deposit Donation

Does your community participate in a bottle redemption program? If so, encourage your friends and family to donate their bottle deposit refunds to the Sandra Schmirler Foundation. Instead of relying on your supporters to compile and hand in their bottle refunds every week or month, partner with the bottle redemption companies to collect on-site.

Giving Tree

This popular holiday fundraiser can be run year round. It's an interactive fundraiser and something that many donors look forward to year after year. Set the tree up in your club or another public area to maximize exposure.

Thermometer Fundraiser

Use a thermometer to track your fundraiser. Or, ask your town if you can set up a jumbo thermometer at a popular location such as a park or street corner. Use a thermometer in conjunction with another fundraiser, such as a penny drive or bottle donation collection.

Pocket Change Drive

Put coin collection jars in your club. Ask about setting them up in other locations like town hall, library, restaurants, and other businesses (with permission, of course). You'll be amazed at how quickly the change adds up. Your "container" can be anything from a cardboard box to a plastic container. Don't forget to add the Sandra Schmirler Foundation logo (Champions Start Small)!

Hot Cocoa Sale

Does your community host a holiday festival, winter farmer's market, or another event that brings people together? If so, help community members warm their tummies by selling hot coco. Borrow or rent an insulated beverage dispenser (or two) from a local restaurant or catering company that holds the hot water.