

BUDDY BENCH: 6 LOW COST FUNDRAISING IDEAS

Are limited funds preventing your school from purchasing a Buddy Bench? Let The Bench Factory make your piggy bank squeal with delight. We've scoured the internet to find 6 low cost fundraising methods. Short on cash doesn't mean you have to be short on fun. Try one of these fundraisers today!

1. GARAGE SALE

How it works: Collect unwanted items from the students in a drop-off area at school. After a few weeks of collecting items from the students and their families, it's time to get pricing. Have volunteers put price stickers on the items and create advertising signage. All the proceeds from the garage sale will go toward the purchase of a Buddy Bench.

What you'll need:

- Volunteers
- Donations
- Price stickers & signage

\$ SAVING TIP: Hold it on the school playground – no venue is needed to hold the sale. Plus, attendees will see where the Buddy Bench will be placed, and how it will be utilized to make the school a better place.

2. CONCESSIONS AT PROFESSIONAL SPORTING EVENTS

How it works: Across America, there are NFL, NBA and MLB teams that allow non-profits & organizations, such as PTAs, to volunteer at concession stands. Check with your local professional sports teams to see if they offer such a program. Your organization will earn a percentage of your stand's sales.

What you'll need:

- Volunteers

\$ SAVING TIP: This requires zero start-up cash! All you need are parent volunteers.

3. PARTNER WITH A LOCAL RESTAURANT

How it works: Take a break from cooking and gather the kids for lunch or dinner at a local restaurant. From fast food to casual dining, restaurants will give your school a percentage (usually between 10 and 20%) of the sales from that entire day.

What you'll need:

- Volunteers
- Marketing materials (emails & flyers)

\$ SAVING TIP: Students can enter a design contest. The winner's design will be used on all marketing materials.

4. SILENT AUCTION

How it works: Form a volunteer committee – half will gather auction prizes (physical items or services), while the other half will organize the dinner. At the auction, display the prizes with a bid sheet next to each item. On each bid sheet write the item's retail value and its starting bid. Give attendees time to bid, then give a sense of urgency by closing out items one at a time. Close out the lowest average priced items first. For more information, read Tom Kelly's: 7 Tips on How to Organize and Run A Silent Auction.

What you'll need:

- Volunteers
- Prizes
- Bidding sheets
- Potluck style dinner
- Plates & silverware
- Tables & chairs

\$ SAVING TIP: Don't professionally cater the meal. Have PTA parents & kids develop the menu, cook and serve the meal in the school gym.

5. CARNIVAL

How it works: Assemble a committee of 6 to 8 people, and pick a theme. Decide when and where it will be located. Set an admission fee. Apply for permits, as some cities require them for events serving food or having rides. To kick-off your creative brainstorming session, here are some classic school carnival activities.

What you'll need:

- Volunteers
- Games
- Food
- Activities

\$ SAVING TIP: Have each grade level make a game for the carnival. Keep costs low with a bounce house, cake walk and scavenger hunt as other activity ideas.

6. TEACHER RAFFLE (Yes, we're raffling off teachers!)

How it works: During lunch, raffle tickets are sold to students to win a teacher for an afternoon. Each teacher is raffled off with a unique activity, from a trip to the zoo to a basketball game. The winners are announced during a live drawing over the school's PA system.

What you'll need:

- Teachers as raffle prizes
- Unique playdates (From a trip to the zoo, to a 1 on 1 basketball game.)
- Raffle tickets

\$ SAVING TIP: Think of activities that don't cost much, such as an hour basketball game against your gym teacher or pottery painting with your art teacher.