

EPN CHALLENGE GRANT FUNDRAISING IDEAS

Organize a purple pinkie project – possibly connected with a family fun event: millions of children in polio-endemic countries know that a freshly marked purple pinkie means freedom from the disease. When members of your community make a small contribution to Polio Plus, Have Rotarian volunteers mark their pinkies with the same dye used on National Immunization Days around the world (or use nail polish on the little finger). The purple pinkie will serve as a personal symbol of helping one child become free from polio forever.

Celebrate a big day: Rather than exchanging gifts for a special occasion, request that friends and family contribute to the EPN challenge.

Hold a raffle: Raffle off a car, seven-night cruise, or four tickets to a local event, such as a basketball game or concert. Also consider holding weekly raffles with prizes from area restaurants or businesses.

Skip a meal: Skip the meal at your club meeting and donate the cost to The Rotary Foundation to help eradicate polio

Host a Rotary night: Work with your local baseball league to host a Rotary night at a ball game. Both major and minor league teams have pitched in to help Rotary “strike out polio”. Auction off a chance to throw out the first pitch and set up a booth in the park with information on Rotary and the challenge grant.

Organize a walkathon, bike-a-thon or skate-a-thon: Have Rotarians, Rotary Fellowships, athletic groups and other community members solicit pledges for the distance they walk, pedal or skate.

Coordinate an online auction: Ask Rotarians, friends and family to search their homes for items they wish to give away, including clothing, jewelry, furniture and housewares. Collect the goods, and list them for auction on eBay. Enlist the help of Rotaract and Interact clubs to post photos of the items online.

Plan a special event: Dinners, festivals, picnics, wine tastings and sports competitions can all draw contributions from Rotarians and other community members.

Sell a product: CD’s cookbooks, ties, teddy bears and mugs are just a few of the items that have been sold to raise funds for Polio Plus.

Hold a white elephant auction: Ask club members to donate gifts or items they do not want or need. Auction these items at a club or district meeting to raise money for polio eradication.

Collect pennies for polio: Ask Rotarians, friends and families to place coin collection cans or boxes in local businesses, schools and homes. Donate the proceeds to the polio eradication effort.

Coordinate a movie night: Work with local cinemas to organize a movie night in which all or part of the proceeds from admission benefit Polio Plus. Publicize the event in the newspaper, on radio, and in all area Rotary clubs, and encourage everyone in the community to attend.

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Host a million dollar dinner: Arrange a dinner with a district governor, Rotary senior leader, or local celebrity. Invite guests who are able to make a significant gift to Rotary's polio eradication effort.

Invite your Club's Major Givers to initiate your club's own Challenge Grant: Donations might be sought from local businesses or individuals too busy to join volunteer organizations, but who want to make a difference.

Plan a fireside chat: Ask a club member to invite other Rotarians from the district to his or her home for an update on polio eradication and an opportunity to discuss major gifts. This event may be hosted by a Rotary officer or Major Donor.

Have a "rubber ducky" race in your own community: We'll post the logistics from Northbrook's annual race for use along the Des Plaines or Fox River.

Donate the proceeds of your Club's weekly "Happy Bucks, Announcement Bucks, shenanigans or whatever your club does, to the end polio challenge: Encourage weekly raffle winners to do the same – you might easily exceed the annual goal with a big win.

Work with your locals Interact club or high school service club to "pass the bucket" during the fall football games: Print out the End Polio Now emblem, sanctioned by Rotary, on your computer, attach it to a suitable container and pass along the rows at the game. Amazing how quickly the loose change adds up.

Reserve a community sign in your community for End Polio Now week: Inform drivers by about fundraising events and on-line www.rotary.org giving sites.

Have a bucket collection at major intersections of your community: Wise to get permission first. Wear your Rotary garb and carry a decorated EPN bucket. Add local places with high traffic too.

Invite your local officials to a breakfast with an EPN speaker on the program: Ask for their support, especially during October.

Request that a Proclamation be made for the community honoring EPN month, week and day: Start early to lay the groundwork on this – village meetings often occur only once a month, and you need to start well before September to get it done in time for October.

Collect donations at the local train station: Use your buckets and hand out Bill Gates informational flyers. You might not get a donation now, but a long train ride might entice someone to consider a donation.

Put a ballot box with an EPN logo at your next event to collect extra funds for polio eradication: Whether you're selling hot dogs or hot chocolate, the spare change can go into the box at the END of the counter!