Stall Ideas: how to run your own

Community events such as fairs, carnivals, Christmas light switch-ons and school events are great opportunities to raise funds and awareness for Marie Curie by holding a stall. Fundraising Groups typically hold raffles or a tombola at these events but are frequently looking for ideas to stand out from other charities who might be running the same thing.

When choosing a stall, aim for activities that are:

- Quick and easy to take part in
- Suitable for all the family
- Low cost to run
- Visually appealing – make your stall colourful and eye catching
- Easy for volunteers to manage

Here are some creative stall fundraising ideas for your next community event:

Human Fruit Machine

How it works

Three volunteers each randomly reveal a piece of fruit from a box or bag. If all three fruits match, the participant wins a prize, just like a normal fruit machine. Charge a small set amount fee for a few goes, for example £1 for 3 attempts.



What you need

- Real or plastic fruit – greengrocers or supermarkets may be willing to donate
- A screen or backdrop
- Small prizes – why not ask local businesses or shops to donate prizes?

Volunteers

3-4 volunteers

Why it works

Fun, eye-catching and encourages audience participation. Costs are minimal and are only associated with the materials to make your stand look eye catching – cardboard boxes or wood are ideal for this.

Marie Curie is a registered charity in England and Wales (207994) and Scotland (SC038731).
Registered as a company limited by guarantee in England & Wales (507597).
Registered Office: One Embassy Gardens, 8 Viaduct Gardens, London, SW11 7BW.

Play Your Cards Right

How it works



Players guess whether each card is higher or lower than the previous one to reach the end of the row and win a prize. Charge a set amount for each go.

What you need

- Large playing cards – why not see if these can be donated?
- Table or display board
- Small prizes – why not ask local businesses or shops to donate prizes? Sweets and chocolates work well.

Volunteers

1-2 volunteers

Why it works

Simple to set up, inexpensive and popular with all ages. There may be small costs associated with materials for making the stand look eye catching with a sign/board, however you can easily use a table.

Craft Stall

How it works



Sell handmade items created by volunteers or donated by local craft groups. Set a price for each item and display your items on a stand. You could ask local groups or volunteers from the community to help. For example, local knit and natter groups may like to donate items they make.

Popular items

- Greetings cards
- Jewellery
- Decorations
- Knitted items
- Gift jars
- Seasonal crafts
- Please note, if you are planning on selling homemade food products, please speak to your Community Fundraiser about this so that we can check any health and safety regulations.

Volunteers

1-2 volunteers.

Why it works

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Provides a steady income stream and works well alongside another activity. Local businesses may be willing to donate materials for making items.

Hoopla

How it works

Participants throw hoops to land around prizes. The aim is the get the hoop over the prize to win. Charge a small fee for several attempts (for example £1 for 3 goes).

What you need

- Wooden hoops (some charities have used glowsticks)
- A variety of prizes – bottles, soft toys or sweets are good prizes for these activities. Ensure any bottles containing alcohol are not given to under 18s
- Display table or stand



Volunteers

2 volunteers.

Why it works

A traditional game that's easy to understand and fun for families. Costs are minimal and we recommend asking members of your community or businesses for donations. An idea could be to ask people for donations of unwanted Christmas presents at the start of the year.

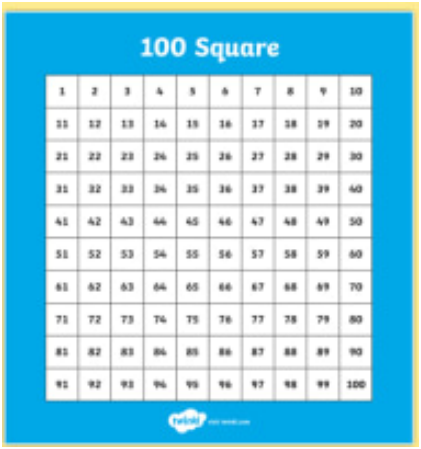
100 squares

How it works

Participants buy a numbered square. A random winner is selected once the sheet is full or at the end of the event. As well as numbers, the sheets can be used with names to name a cuddly toy.

What you need

- 100-square template
- One prize – donations could be higher depending on the type of event you are at and prize on offer
- Contact details sheet – these should be held securely



Volunteers
1-2 volunteers.

Why it works
Very low cost and easy to run alongside other activities. There are lots of free printable resources online for these templates and prizes can be donated.

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Bottle or Jam Jar stall

How it works

Participants buy tickets to try and win bottles or jars filled with treats, similar to a tombola. Label the jars and bottles with a raffle ticket number. If they get a winning ticket, they win the prize.

Prize ideas

- Sweets
- Biscuits
- Toys
- Wine (adults only)
- Preserves or treats



Volunteers
2 volunteers.

Why it works
Popular at community events and relies largely on donated items.

Guess the weight/number of

How it works
Participants pay to guess the number of items in a jar or the weight of an item. The closest guess wins. Why not make a daffodil jar?



What you need

- Jar or prize item
- Entry sheet
- Contact details form – at the end of the event, contact the winner and arrange for them to collect the prize

Volunteers
1-2 volunteers.

Why it works
Quick, simple and very easy to combine with another stall. No costs involved if your items are donated.

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