



**Big Brothers
Big Sisters**
OF TORONTO

Fundraiser Ideas for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Toronto (BBBST)

The sky is the limit when it comes to different types of fundraisers you can host for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Toronto! Here's a list of ideas that fall into the following 4 categories: Personal Challenge, Workplace, Community and Virtual.

Personal Challenge Ideas

1. **Fitness Challenge:** Set a fitness goal like running a certain number of kilometers, completing 100 push-ups a day, or cycling a long-distance route. Ask friends and family to sponsor you per kilometer or for reaching your challenge goal. Donations go to BBBST's mentorship programs.
2. **Art or Creative Challenge:** Pledge to create one piece of art, write a poem, or play an instrument daily for a set period of time. Share your progress on social media and encourage followers to donate to your BBBST fundraiser as you complete the challenge.
3. **Social Media Detox Challenge:** Challenge yourself (or others) to stay off social media for a week or more. Ask friends and family to sponsor your efforts, with donations supporting BBBST. It's a creative way to get attention for the cause while committing to something positive.
4. **DIY Marathon:** If you're a runner, biker, or swimmer, create your own personal marathon. Challenge yourself to run or bike a certain distance and ask for sponsorship from your network, with all funds going toward supporting BBBST's programs.
5. **Learn a New Skill for Charity:** Commit to learning a new skill (e.g., playing the piano, knitting, or a new language) and ask for donations in exchange for updates on your progress. This challenge combines self-improvement with a great cause.
6. **Haircut for a Cause:** Pledge to shave your head, grow a beard, or dye your hair a bold color if you hit a fundraising target. These types of personal challenges can inspire donations, especially when done in a fun and public way.

Workplace Fundraising Ideas

1. **Casual Dress Day (Jeans Day):** Encourage employees to donate a small amount (e.g., \$5-\$10) to BBBST in exchange for the privilege of wearing casual clothes or jeans for a day or week. You can even make it a recurring event like "Casual Fridays for Charity."
2. **Lunch for a Cause:** Host a company-wide potluck, BBQ, or catered lunch where employees donate to join in. You could also invite local restaurants to donate food, with all proceeds going



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to BBBST. Alternatively, organize a “pay what you can” lunch, where participants contribute to the fundraiser.

3. **Office Raffle/Auction:** Organize an office raffle where prizes like extra vacation days, gift cards, or premium parking spots are up for grabs. Employees purchase raffle tickets, and all funds raised go to BBBST.
4. **Bake Sale or Snack Cart:** Host a bake sale in the office, with employees bringing homemade treats to sell, or set up a snack cart that moves around the office once a week. All sales proceeds go to BBBST. This is a great way to engage employees and satisfy those afternoon snack cravings!
5. **Charity Walk or Run:** Organize a charity walk or run within your company. Employees can be sponsored by friends, family, or colleagues based on how many kilometers they walk/run during lunch breaks or over a set period of time, with all funds going to BBBST.
6. **Office Bingo:** Host a fun bingo game during lunch breaks or over Zoom (for remote teams). Charge an entry fee, and offer small prizes or gift cards for the winners. All entry fees can be donated to BBBST.
7. **Departmental Challenge:** Create friendly competition between departments or teams to see who can raise the most money for BBBST. The winning team gets a prize, such as a pizza party, or public recognition within the company.
8. **Donation Matching:** Encourage your company to match employee donations to BBBST. This could double the impact of your fundraising efforts and encourage more employees to get involved.
9. **"Donate Your Coffee" Week:** Ask employees to forgo their daily coffee or takeout lunch for a week and donate the money they would have spent to BBBST instead. You can track the total amount raised and share how this small sacrifice makes a big difference.
10. **Skill-Swap Fundraiser:** Host a lunchtime skill-swap where employees teach each other something new (e.g., yoga, cooking, or tech tips) for a donation. Employees attend sessions in exchange for a small contribution to BBBST.
11. **Virtual Fitness Class Challenge:** For remote or hybrid teams, organize a series of virtual fitness classes such as yoga, Zumba, or meditation. Employees pay to join, with all proceeds going to BBBST. You could also make it a fitness challenge where employees are sponsored for completing certain goals, such as steps walked or time spent exercising.
12. **Silent Auction:** Host a silent auction within the office or online, featuring donated items or experiences like tickets to local events, handmade crafts, or services from local businesses. Employees can bid on items, with all proceeds going to BBBST.



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- 13. Talent Show or Open Mic Night:** Host an after-hours talent show where employees can showcase their talents (singing, comedy, poetry, etc.). Charge an entry fee or suggest donations for attendees, with all proceeds benefiting BBBST.
- 14. "Guess the Baby" Contest:** Collect baby photos from employees and set up a guessing game where coworkers try to match the baby photos with the right person. Charge an entry fee to participate, with proceeds going to BBBST. The person with the most correct guesses wins a prize.
- 15. Host a Workshop or Seminar:** Organize an educational workshop or professional development seminar, with experts from within or outside the company sharing knowledge on topics like leadership, well-being, or industry trends. Charge a participation fee, with all proceeds donated to BBBST.
- 16. Team Karaoke or Lip Sync Battle:** Host a lunchtime or after-work karaoke event or a lip sync battle where teams compete against each other. Charge an entry fee or collect donations from participants and spectators, with all funds going to BBBST.
- 17. Charity Gaming Tournament:** Organize a video game or board game tournament where employees pay to enter. Teams or individuals compete in a fun, friendly competition, and all entry fees go towards supporting BBBST.
- 18. Office Scavenger Hunt:** Create a scavenger hunt around the office or virtually for remote teams. Employees pay to participate, and the winner receives a small prize. All proceeds go to BBBST.

Community Event Ideas

- 1. Trivia Night for a Cause:** Organize a trivia night at a local community center, pub, or even online. Charge an entry fee, and offer prizes donated by local businesses. Make sure to highlight that all proceeds go towards BBBST's mentorship programs.
- 2. BBQ Fundraiser:** Host a backyard BBQ or a block party and invite neighbors and friends. Charge for food and drinks or request donations at the event. You could even add fun activities like games, raffles, or live music to attract more participants.
- 3. Silent Auction:** Gather donations from local businesses, such as restaurant gift certificates, spa treatments, or concert tickets. Host the auction in person or online, with all proceeds supporting BBBST's initiatives.
- 4. Walk/Run for Mentorship:** Organize a walk or run where participants get sponsored by family and friends. It could be a 5K run or a more casual family walk, with each participant committing to raise a certain amount of money for BBBST.



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5. **Movie Night Under the Stars:** Host an outdoor movie screening at a local park or in your backyard. Charge an entry fee or suggest donations. Provide popcorn, snacks, and drinks for purchase, with all funds going to BBBST.
6. **Talent Show:** Organize a community talent show, encouraging people of all ages to showcase their skills. Charge an entry fee or suggest donations for audience members and participants, with proceeds benefiting BBBST.
7. **Garage Sale for Good:** Encourage friends, family, and neighbors to donate items for a massive garage sale. All the funds raised can go directly to BBBST programs. This is a great way to involve the community and raise awareness for the cause.

Virtual Fundraiser Ideas

1. **Crowdfunding Campaign:** Create a crowdfunding page with a personal story explaining why you're fundraising for BBBST. Share how mentorship programs change children's lives and set a specific goal. Use email, social media, and text messaging to encourage friends and family to donate.
2. **Social Media Challenge:** Start a challenge that people can participate in on platforms like Instagram, Facebook, or TikTok. For example, the challenge could involve sharing a childhood photo with a message about the importance of mentorship and encouraging others to donate to BBBST.
3. **Virtual Auction:** Host an online auction where people can bid on items donated by local businesses or services offered by community members. This could be anything from virtual cooking classes to artwork. All proceeds go to BBBST.
4. **"Donate Your Birthday" Campaign:** Instead of receiving gifts, ask friends and family to donate to BBBST in honor of your birthday. Share your donation link via social media and emails, explaining how even a small contribution can make a big difference.
5. **Peer-to-Peer Fundraising:** Encourage others to create their own fundraising pages to support BBBST. Each person sets their own fundraising goal and asks their networks to contribute. BBBST could provide tips on how to make their campaigns successful.
6. **Online Raffle or Sweepstakes:** Sell tickets online for a chance to win donated items or experiences (e.g., a weekend getaway or a local restaurant gift card).