



Fundraising ideas

**Wednesday
23 September 2026**

City Giving Day is your chance to celebrate the difference your organisation makes.

For one day each year, businesses across the City come together to showcase their charitable giving, fundraising, volunteering and community impact, demonstrating the power of collective action to employees, clients, suppliers and the wider public.

Whether you're a City Giving Day veteran or taking part for the first time, there are loads ways to get involved.

This booklet is packed with fundraising ideas to help you engage colleagues, raise vital funds and create a buzz across your workplace. From quick and simple activities to larger team challenges, there's something for every organisation, whatever your size, budget or fundraising experience.

Planning something different? We'd love to hear about it. Share your activities by tagging us on social media or emailing cgd@thelordmayorsappeal.org.

Together, let's make City Giving Day 2026 bigger, bolder and more impactful than ever before and don't forget to share your photos!

#CGD #GoRed #CityGivingDay



Quick & Easy

Simple ideas that are quick to organise and easy to join

Wear red / dress down day

Encourage your colleagues to wear something red and make a donation. Give a prize to the best dressed individual, team or both!



Donate the cost of your commute

If colleagues are working from home on City Giving Day, ask them to donate the cost of their commute



How many sweets?

Charge for guesses on how many sweets are in a jar, the closest guess wins the jar.



Donate your coffee money

Ask colleagues to donate the cost of their morning coffee.



Decorate your office red

and then share the photos on social media using #CGD #GoRed. Prize for the best entry



Guess the pet

Ask colleagues for photos of their pets and challenge everyone to identify the owner. Prize for the winner.



Fun & Social

Activities to bring colleagues together and create a buzz.

Bake Off

A City Giving Day favourite. Who will be crowned your "Star Baker"? Sell the cakes for a donation when judging has finished.



Red-themed afternoon tea

Host an afternoon tea featuring red cakes, biscuits and other treats. It's a simple way to bring colleagues together while raising funds.



Lunchtime karaoke

Host a lunchtime karaoke session and ask participants to donate for each song they sing.



Sponsored silence

Sponsor your chattiest colleagues to keep quiet for an hour, a morning or all day!



Come dine with me

Ask your colleagues to bring in a dish that represents their cultural heritage. Ask for donations to try the different foods.



Baby photo competition

Ask your colleagues to bring in a photo of themselves as a baby, then charge colleagues to guess who's who.



Team Challenges

Perfect for encouraging teamwork and friendly competition

Battle of the Departments

Challenge teams or departments to compete for the highest fundraising total, best participation rate or most creative activity. Award a trophy or prize to the winners.



Challenge your CEO

Set a fundraising target and once it's reached, ask your CEO or leadership team to complete a fun challenge chosen by colleagues.



Minute to win it

Set colleagues a series of quick-fire challenges and award points throughout the day. .



Organise a board game tournament

Ask colleagues to bring in their favourite board games. Players donate to take part.



£20 Entrepreneur Challenge

Give teams £20 and challenge them to come up with creative ways to raise as much money as possible. Award a prize to the team that achieves the highest fundraising total.



Organise an office sports day

Paper plane javelin, desk chair sprint, three-legged race - who will win the gold medal? Raise funds by charging your colleagues to enter.



Fundraising Favourites

Tried-and-tested ideas guaranteed to get colleagues involved

Auction of promises

Ask your colleagues to offer up a skill or service and then bid on what you want.



Book sale

Ask your colleagues to donate their unwanted books and hold an office book sale.



Golden Ticket

Hide winning tickets around the office and sell clues or entries for the chance to win prizes.



Step Challenge

Compete individually or in teams to see who can walk the furthest during the day.



Organise a scavenger hunt

Come up with a list of things that people have to find around the office or your building. Donate to take part.



Recipe book

Ask your colleagues to share their signature dish recipes - collate them into a recipe book and sell it for a donation

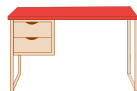


Games & Competitions

Fun challenges that get everyone involved.

Lucky Desk Draw

Give every desk or workspace a number and select a winning desk at random. Colleagues make a donation to enter, with the winner receiving a small prize.



Heads or Tails

A simple elimination game where participants chose heads or tails each round. Just pick a theme for the questions. Donate to enter, last person standing wins a prize



Paper Plane Challenge

Design, build and fly paper planes to see whose travels the furthest.



Mystery Box Challenge

Challenge colleagues to identify the hidden item inside a mystery box. Charge for entries. Winners gets a prize.



Office Olympics

Organise a series of fun office-themed challenges and competitions, with colleagues competing individually or in teams for medals, prizes and workplace glory.



Guess the logo

Challenge colleagues to identify companies from partially hidden, altered or vintage logos. Charge for entries and award a prize to the top scorer.



Top tips for a successful fundraising day!

Promote early and often - Build excitement before the day through emails, Teams messages, posters and social media.

Connect to the cause - Help colleagues understand the difference their fundraising will make by sharing stories and information about your chosen charity.

Make donating easy - Set up a JustGiving page to collect donations in one place and share it using a QR code. Funds go directly to your chosen charity no cash handling or counting required.

Get leaders involved - Support from senior leaders can help drive participation, boost morale and encourage others to get involved.

Set a fundraising goal - Having a clear target gives colleagues something to work towards and helps maintain momentum throughout the day.

Add a competitive element - Leaderboards, prizes and team challenges can encourage friendly competition and increase fundraising totals.

Share your activities - Take photos and videos throughout the day and share them on social media using #CGD #GoRed #CityGivingDay to showcase your impact.

Keep it fun! - Choose activities that are simple, inclusive and enjoyable to ensure as many colleagues as possible take part.