

The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital

Goes To School



An Idea Handbook





The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital Goes to School An Idea Handbook

Dear Friends,

The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital and its Children's Miracle Network program are excited to work with the wonderful students, teachers and staff in schools across Maine and northern New England on **The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital Goes to School** project.

Every day sick and injured children, from areas throughout Maine and northern New England, arrive at The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital in need of medical attention. It is generous groups such as yours that makes it possible for our medical staff to continue providing these children with the special care they need to help them get healthy, home, and back to school!

We understand that many schools are required to fundraise for their own needs, which makes us even more grateful for the schools' continued support. After all, every family, in every school, in every community, across Maine and northern New England, has been touched by a Barbara Bush Children's Hospital story at one point or another, whether it is a relative, a friend or a neighbor.

By working together we ensure that the professionals looking after our children have the best tools available and provides an opportunity for your students to learn the importance of supporting others and gives them a chance to earn community service hours. **Your school's donation will provide needed support for important medical research, vital medical equipment and educational and supportive health programs that have already produced life saving results for thousands of children** - this means things like incubators to house tiny infants, the Child Life program to make a patients life as normal and stress-free as possible in the hospital, and seed money for innovative new programs.

Every group involved with **The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital Goes to School** project will be helping children, within their own communities and beyond. On behalf of The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital and the many families that will benefit from your gifts, we would like to thank you for your support and compassion. Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us directly at 207-662-2243 or via email at GetInvolved@mmc.org.

Regards!



The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital Goes to School An Idea Handbook

BACKGROUND

Specializing in all areas of children's healthcare, The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital is committed to providing children and infants with care that's as unique as they are. As Maine's only full-service children's hospital, we offer everything from well-child visits to specialized medical and surgical treatment of complex illnesses and injuries.

But we can't do this without your help! Schools across Maine are choosing to participate in **The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital Goes to School** program by working together in classrooms, schools, and districts to raise needed funds for Maine's only Children's Hospital while learning important lessons about helping those in need.

GETTING STARTED

Listed below are some fundraising ideas that have worked well in the past – perhaps they can help you in your search for the perfect fundraising idea.

If your school doesn't currently take part in **The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital Goes to School** and you would like to get involved, this section can offer guidance on simple projects that might excite your staff and students, and motivate them to help sick and injured children from all across Maine and northern New England.

THEME DAYS

Theme Days require very little preparation on the organizer's behalf. If the school is varied in interest and age they can even be mixed up, offering different events to different groups... the options are endless. Students would pay a set amount to register for the event, which is determined by the event planner (\$1 - \$2 is suggested). This amount would cover a small prize(s) for the winners of the best, craziest, or funniest category. Depending on the age of the students involved, perhaps one of the following ideas would catch on!

- **Hat Day**
Students can wear their hats in class for the day. It could be as simple as a baseball bat or something a little more original, it would depend on what the students are interested in!
- **Face Painting/ Decal Day**
This will probably work for many age groups. Young children can have fun getting their faces painted and older students can go crazy with body decals. While face paints or decals are ideal, even washable markers or non-toxic craft paint can work.
- **Crazy Hair Day**
The "Bad Hair Day" will be a thing to look forward to as students and staff let their hair down! For the parent's sake, please, don't plan this event on school photo day!



The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital Goes to School An Idea Handbook

- **Pajamas Day**
Same concept as with the hats, however, we suggest some guidelines are put in place.
- **Celebrity Look-A-Like Contest**
Dress like the rich and famous, and charge for the show!
- **Twin Day**
Team up with a partner and see how identical you can become. There are no limits either... triplets, quadruplets, quintuplets, etc ... all are welcome!
- **School Color Day**
Students can only wear articles of clothing that reflect their school's colors. A fine is set for "undesirable" colors. The parade of school colors is fun and helps build great school spirit.
- **Lollipop Treat Day**
Organize a Lollipop Treat Day and sell inexpensive lollipops based in a Styrofoam block. As students pull out the lollipops, some have colored tips on the sticks that win inexpensive prizes. Note: this concept can be modified as a seasonal sale (i.e. Valentine's Day treats, Easter chocolates, Christmas Candy Canes, etc). One school used Hershey Kisses and used the tag *A Kiss will make it Better!*

COINS FOR KIDS (Coin Collections)

Coin jars have been the backbone of a number of great successes with regard to school fundraising. Schools can even put a different spin on a routine change collection; check out the following ideas to see how.

- **Kiss a ??? (Frog, Fish, Dog, Hamster, etc.)**
This project is known to work very well in junior high schools. The faculty gets to decide which creature will have to pucker up and several of the teachers then offer themselves up as potential victims. Each of these voluntary teachers gets a collection canister with their photo on it. The coin canisters are kept in a safe location, and the children bring in their change to vote for the teacher that should Kiss-A-???.
The event usually goes on for a week and the day before the final count a status report is made, not giving amounts but standing only (first, second and third place). This gives the students and teachers the opportunity to put a final push on for the most popular person. After the collections are finished, the winner is announced the entire school gets to see that teacher pucker up.
- **Heart Challenge**
A great activity to challenge younger students, this event requires teachers to have collection canisters in each classroom for one to two weeks. Every class/ team gets a different team color and paper hearts are made for each color. As each class raises a set amount of money (\$1, \$2 or \$5), one



The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital Goes to School An Idea Handbook

of their hearts gets placed in the front window of the school, the class that has the most hearts wins.

- **Taking the Pie for the Kids**

Students vote for a staff member that they would like to see with a whipped cream pie on his or her face by placing money in canisters. Each bucket holds the name of a different staff member who volunteered to receive the pie in the face. There should be a minimum amount raised to make it worth while for the teachers to be involved; however, if more than one teacher surpasses that minimum, perhaps they will be good sports and offer to take a pie for the kids as well. To have the honor of throwing the pie, an auction is held during lunch periods and the students with the highest bids throw the pies. There is nothing saying that the winning staff member doesn't get to have a pie to return to the auction winner.

- **Greatest Team (or Class) Challenge**

Put an end to the argument, find out which team is best or which class has the most school spirit... make the students and staff put their money where their mouths are! Prepare collection canisters with the team logos or group names clearly visible and allow voting to begin. Note – this can be any type of team: professional or school sports, debating groups, home room classes, etc.). Pennies, nickels, and dimes will all be points towards the best team; however, quarters are negative votes and you must be aware that some sabotage will take place with anti-votes occurring. This can be a great challenge for students in middle school and beyond.

- **Support your Team**

Students attend an inter school team event (sports, debate, etc.) and are charged a \$1 attendance fee. Those that don't attend are fined \$1.50! Note: adjust these amounts as organizer sees fit.

- **Ice Cream Scoops**

Every teacher gets their name on a paper ice cream cone that is put up in the cafeteria. Students can then purchase a paper ice cream scoop that they can put their name on and add it to their teacher's cone. The class with the most scoops can win something for the class to share (i.e. an ice cream party).

EVENTS

- **Student vs. Faculty Game (Basketball, Volleyball, Floor Hockey, etc)**

Pull together a couple of teams of students and faculty to play against each other during a common lunch period and ask for a donation for admission to the game.

- **Movie Time/ Night**

Host a Movie Time/ Night and charge admission. Popcorn, soft drinks and candy could be sold to raise some additional funds. Held on a Friday night, one school raised over \$1,300 after expenses!



The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital Goes to School An Idea Handbook

- **Free Throw Contest**

Participants pay a pre-determined amount (usually \$1 or \$2) to register for the event and they either get a set number of shots or they can shoot until they miss. The winners then receive cash prizes (a pre-set amount or a percentage of the registration fees). Some schools do a ranking for the participants and have a mystery number decided upon as the winning rank; this way a player ranked number 42 will have just as much incentive to participate as those ranked in the top five.

- **Talent Show**

The easiest thing about this activity is there is no trouble finding talent! This is an event that the entire school can enjoy, either as a volunteer or as part of the audience. Whether it is teachers demonstrating that they can do more than teach or students showing off their talent outside the classroom, everyone has fun. Talents can be anything from singing, to dancing, to magic, to baton twirling and everything in between. Some schools even set up a cantina or bake sale to collect funds and provide snacks for the event.

- **Young Entrepreneur's Challenge**

A great way to teach the basics of business and raise money for The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital is to form a company and donate company profits. This idea works great for an economics class, business club or junior achievement group. The class can be given an assignment of designing, manufacturing, marketing and selling a product. This product can be anything from bumper stickers to yo-yo's.

Steps to follow include:

1. Take a market survey to find out what products students would buy during school (Snacks, drinks, school supplies, pizza, popcorn, etc.)
2. Name your company
3. Elect officers and sell stock in the company
4. Decide on a selling price
5. Set a date to sell product
6. Advertise your product; let students know what your selling and that profits will support The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital
7. Students receive some free time in exchange for extra work outside classroom requirements

- **Singing Valentine's**

With the help of a teacher, musical students can provide performances and a little embarrassment for the day. All staff and students are invited to send singing Valentine's (anonymously) to others in school...during class time on Valentine's Day, of course to ensure you turn your Valentine's face nice and red to match the occasion. The cost for sending this little message would be set by the organizer (usually \$1 or \$2).



The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital Goes to School An Idea Handbook

- **Kiss-A-Gram**
Have students in an Art class develop a simple valentine card that can be reproduced easily. Attach two Hershey Kisses to the Card and sell it for a price determined by the organizer (usually \$1 or \$2). Members of a school group or club can deliver these cards (anonymously) on Valentine's Day.
- **Used Book Fair**
Send a letter home to parents inviting them to send in any books that they are not interested in keeping for a sale at the school. The fair could be held during lunchtime or after school so that parents could attend with younger children. The books would be sold for small amounts determined by the organizer and would encourage the children's interest in reading while helping raise money. Left over books could be donated to the school or local library. Note – this idea can be modified for toys, computer games, etc.
- **Miracle Hearts (Hands, Bears, Shamrocks, etc.)**
Children's Miracle Network "Miracle Balloons" have been around for years, but the balloon is not exclusive. Your school can show its support for sick children with a number of items that decorate the schools and raises money. These offers can include Helping Hands or Miracle Hearts, or some other paper décor that is easy to duplicate. Students then make their purchase, write their name and put it on display. Cost is predetermined by the organizer; this project sees great results in primary and elementary settings.

PLEDGE PROGRAMS

Many teachers are now trying to tie learning (hand-in-hand) with social responsibility. Although, the Walk-A-Thon has been around for years, recently a few of its relatives have popped up:

- **Jump-A-Thon** – 10 minutes of jumping rope
- **YO-YO-A-Thon** – see who can do the most repeats on the yo-yo in a set period of time
- **Read-A-Thon** – measure the number of books being read
- **Dance-A-Thon** – take 10 minutes to move groove and dance up a storm
- **MATH-A-THON** – this project gets students in grades 1-5 to do math problems, for each problem they get correct they collect a pledge. The class that raises the most money gets a small prize.



The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital Goes to School An Idea Handbook

CHALLENGE & INSPIRE YOUR SCHOOL

In the past, some principals and teachers have done crazy things to assist students in reaching their goals. These challenges help demonstrate the teachers and principal's full support and are a great way to reward students for reaching their goal, whether it is \$100 or \$1,000! According to schools that have undertaken such activities in the past, these challenges were also great for building school spirit and overall morale.

Here are a few of the deals principals and teachers have agreed to in the past as incentive for their students to reach and/or surpass their fundraising goals:

- A staff member switched places with the popular and much loved custodian for the day
- Principal or teacher shaved moustache/head or grew moustache/sideburns.
- Principal or teacher stayed on school roof for 15 minutes for every \$100 raised during one day
- Principal or teacher got a pie in the face or sprayed with silly string
- A staff member dressed in a crazy outfit picked by the class that raised the most money
- Principal or teacher dressed up as a popular singer to perform a hit song.
- A teacher switched places with a selected student in participating classes for a day

INSPIRATION

This is a list of ideas used in some schools to remind the student body that they are helping sick and injured children from across Maine and northern New England by fundraising for The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital.

- A bulletin board was created to display pictures of students and other children from the community who have been treated at The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital; this could also include the children and grandchildren of staff.
- During a school assembly, have a student who has been a patient at The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital, or an adult (from the school or community) who has had a child or grandchild treated at The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital share their experience.
- Have a local Doctor visit your school and talk about the role of The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital in your community
- Play a story about a child cared for at The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital in class or at an assembly. Patient stories can be found at www.YouTube.com/TheBBCH

SHARE YOUR IDEAS

Does your school have a successful fundraising program? Have you set a unique challenge or idea to rally your students? Have you created an inspirational idea to encourage their efforts? If so, we would love to hear from you. Please e-mail this information to GetInvolved@mmc.org