

50 WAYS TO VOLUNTEER



Half the Sky  
Foundation  
半边天基金会

**Fundraising Ideas to Benefit  
Half the Sky!**

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## **Idea #1. Cocktail Party**

A cocktail party is a great event because it is appealing to both small and large groups and is a great way to mix different groups of friends, family and business associates. Determine your venue based on how many people you'd like to attend. The cocktail party may be in your home or in a restaurant, hotel or event facility. Select a date, Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights are the most popular. How about a theme? A theme can help with decorations, dress style and invitations.

Set a price of admission. A casual home party may be \$25 per guest while a fancier party in a special venue can be \$75 - \$150.

Send your invitation by mail, email and word of mouth to sell tickets. Ensure that several people are selling tickets. It helps to have key guests tell others that they will be at the party to encourage attendance.

Keep your food and drinks fun and simple! You don't need a full bar, a few select fun-themed cocktails are perfect. Ensure you do have plenty of food though! That's important when you're serving drinks!

If you are hosting the party in a hall or a private home consider hiring a professional bartender or recruiting volunteers to tend to the bar in shifts. In addition to wine, liquor and mixers, ensure you have plenty of glassware for wine and mixed drinks. You'll also need cocktail napkins, cork screws, shakers, cutting boards for fruit, olives and toothpicks for martinis, and plenty of clean hand towels. Plan for garbage as well.

Coffee at the end of the evening is a great bonus. Ensure all guests are safe and keep the local taxi number on hand if you have any doubts - safety is always the most important consideration in this case.

A cocktail party is a great opportunity for a silent auction and a drawing as well!

After the event send a check with the proceeds to Half the Sky and don't forget to email a photo showing off the festivities!

## **Idea #2. Community Breakfast or Lunch**

A Community Breakfast or Lunch is a wonderful opportunity to share the story of Half the Sky with hundreds of people in just an hour of time. Committee members invite guest to attend a free event to learn more about Half the Sky.

If you would like to host a Community Breakfast or Lunch please [CONTACT US](#) to talk about the event. We will provide the tools, templates and guidance to help ensure your event planning goes smoothly and easily. We are here to help with materials and expertise so let's get started!

### **Idea #3. Walk-A-Thon**

CLICK [HERE](#) FOR FULL INSTRUCTION ON HOW TO RAISE MONEY FOR HALF THE SKY WHILE WALKING IN THE PARK OR TO THE TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN

### **Idea #4. No Gala Gala**

Are you overloaded with things to do and people to see? Is your social calendar booked out for months to come? Perfect! Plan a No Gala Gala.

Send out fancy invitations telling people about the fantastic event they don't need to attend. The reception that will NOT start at 6:00. The Dinner they will NOT have to sit through at 7:00. The auction they do not have to raise their paddles for at 8:00.

On the invitation include: "Please R.S.V.P for this No Gala Gala by mailing your tax deductible gift today to support Half the Sky." You can ask for a suggested "ticket price" or ask people for a "ticket" donation by a specific RSVP date.

Have the checks make to Half the Sky and send them in. We'll send thank you letters to all of your non-attendees!

### **Idea #5. Auction a Day Off or Preferred Parking Spot**

Auction off a day off! Or a preferred parking spot. Or another company perk! Hold an online auction or a silent auction and top bidder receives the prize. You can hold an online auction through eBay and promote the auction with emails to everyone in your company or group. Or place a silent auction bid sheet (we can give you a sample) in a designated spot.

Determine when the bidding will end and promote the auction to everyone in your company or group. Encourage friendly competition and remind people that not only are they bidding on the perk but they are also supporting Half the Sky.

Send your contributions by check to Half the Sky and email a photo of the lucky winner enjoying their prize.

### **Idea #6. Lunch with the President**

Auction off lunch with the President or CEO of your company! Or a local celebrity, author, artist or business leader. Hold an online auction or a silent auction and top bidder receives the prize.

You can hold an online auction through eBay and promote the auction with emails to everyone in your company or group. Or place a silent auction bid sheet (we can give you a sample) in a designated spot. Determine when the bidding will end and promote the auction to everyone in your company or group.

Send your contributions by check to Half the Sky and email a photo of the lunch winner enjoying their prize.

## **Idea #7. Bike-A-Thon**

CLICK [HERE](#) FOR FULL INSTRUCTION ON HOW TO RAISE MONEY FOR HALF THE SKY WHILE PUTTING YOUR BIKING SKILLS TO THE TEST

## **Idea #8. Cooking Contest**

Award Winning Chili, Best Apple Pie or Spiciest Chicken Wings? Post flyers, send emails and invite all the cooks you know to the "Community Cook-Off".

Pick a date and a great location then charge an entrance fee to all the chefs who want to strut their stuff. Organize judges (who've paid for the privilege!) to taste and judge the cook-off creations or sell "tasting tickets" to everyone who wants to attend.

Award prizes for "Spiciest" "Most Delicious" or "Best Presentation". Have fun with your awards and give lots of recognition to the Chefs.

You can raise money by charging an entrance fee for Chefs, selling tasting tickets to attendees and charging for the privilege of being a judge.

Determine if the food should be prepared off site and brought to the tasting or, if you are doing something with BBQ, have plenty of space for the cooking to take place.

Ensure you have fun and fair rules for the entries. Create a judging card for the tasting. Have award ready to recognize the category winners. These could be trophies, certificates or a fun gift such as a cooking utensil.

On the day of the event ensure there is plenty of friendly competition. Encourage chefs to decorate their tables or booths and come up with creative names for their entries. Most importantly, taste all the entries, take lots of pictures, and have fun!

Send your contributions by check to Half the Sky and email a photo of your cook-off, bake-off or taste-off.

## **Idea #9. Meaningful Gifts**

Birthdays, anniversaries, weddings and other special occasions are a wonderful time to share your love for Half the Sky with those close to you. In lieu of gifts for these special occasions ask people to make a charitable gift to Half the Sky. This meaningful giving is a very special way to help Half the Sky and a great way to share our work with others.

We will gladly send a Thank You letter for all donations received in your honor. Send checks to Half the Sky and email a picture from your event. Happy Celebrations!

## **Idea #10. Run a Marathon!**

CLICK [HERE](#) FOR FULL INSTRUCTION ON HOW TO RAISE MONEY FOR HALF THE SKY WHILE PUTTING YOUR RUNNING SKILLS TO THE TEST

## **Idea #11. Popcorn, Donuts, and Other Great Snack Sales**

Cotton Candy, kettle corn, pretzels too! All great snacks are welcome here! Find a location - special events, fairs, school open houses, concerts, farmers markets, etc. are a great venue because they provide lots of foot traffic.

Prepare your supplies such as tables, chairs, awning or tent, decorations, garbage cans, banners and signs and any snack preparation and storage equipment you need.

Plan on how you will take money and make change - be ready with extra coins and lots of small bills and a secure cashbox. Advertise in advance to encourage people to come to the snack sale. Consider having a weekly or monthly sale and fundraising on an ongoing basis!

On the day of your snack sale display the goodies nicely. Make sure you have plates, napkins, forks, zip bags, plastic wrap, etc. to package the goodies to-go. Also think about selling beverages to go along with the snacks! Send your proceeds by check to Half the Sky and email a photo of the sale.

## **Idea #12. Coin Drive**

Create some colorful coin cans with the Half the Sky logo and our mission. Place the coin cans at local businesses.

This is a great fundraiser for schools too! Recruit your school to place a coin can in each class and hold a contest for most money raised. Have a prize for the winning classroom!

Remember to keep track of where you've placed the coin cans and to thank the business owners of the stores and restaurants where the cans are placed.

Collect the money regularly, roll it and send the proceeds by check to Half the Sky and email a photo of your project!

## **Idea #13. Garage Sale**

Declutter your life and support Half the Sky! Schedule your garage sale in advance. Advertise online, in the newspaper and plan to hang signs on busy streets near your home directing traffic to your sale.

Invite your neighbors to join you to make the sale bigger and more fun and raise even more money. Invite friend to bring items they'd like to donate to the sale to you before the big day.

Give boxes to everyone in your family and go through closets and drawers in every room to determine what's going into the sale. Make sure the items you plan to sell are clean and in good shape to receive the maximum value. Hang clothes on hangers to display.

Sort items by price for easy labeling and then identify with different color dots (example: green dots are \$1, red dots are \$2, white dots are \$5, etc.) Pricing your items in advance makes it easier for shoppers and for you on the day of the sale.

On the day of the sale, display everything on tables or tarps on the ground and arrange items as nicely as possible. Presentation makes a difference! Strategically place some enticing items near the front.

Create a big sign letting people know that proceeds from your sale are going to support orphaned children in China through Half the Sky.

Have fun, tell stories about the items you are selling and chat about Half the Sky with your shoppers.

Be prepared with a cash box and at least one person to be in charge of it at all times. Make sure to have tons of small bills and quarters for change. Ask for small bills when people pay. Consider having some extra bags handy to give to people who are buying multiple items.

At the end of the day consider lowering the prices to clear things out and plan to take what is left to a charity which takes such donations.

Send your proceeds by check to Half the Sky and email a photo of your garage sale team!

## **Idea #14. Wine Tasting**

Determine a date and location for your wine tasting event. Determine the price of your tickets and create a fun invite for your wine-loving guests. Use printed invitations, email and personal follow-up to ensure people attend.

In addition to the "ticket price", each guest should bring one bottle of wine. When guests arrive, "check-in" their bottle: assign each bottle a number and write down the number and name of the wine on a check-in sheet. Place the bottle of wine into a "brown bag" and label the bag with the assigned number to create a blind taste test.

Place wines on a table with a rating sheet with a scale of 1-10 for taste, smoothness, etc. in front of each wine.

Provide a wine glass for each guest and ask everyone to taste at least 5 wines and rate them. At the end of the evening or the next day report the results to all guests. This is a great monthly event.

Don't forget to provide food and non-alcoholic beverages! Send proceeds from tickets in a check to Half the Sky and send in photos from your wine tasting party!

## **Idea #15. Benefit Performance or Show**

Do you belong to a band, play an instrument, create pieces of art, sing, dance or have some other talent you'd like to display to benefit Half the Sky? Performers and artists can organize a special performance or show or designate a portion of the proceeds from an existing performance or show to benefit Half the Sky.

Sell tickets and let guests know that the proceeds from tickets are for your favorite charity. During the performance or show take a moment to let people know why Half the Sky is near to your heart. Help us reach out into your community to find new supporters! By putting on a benefit concert or show you are showing your community that you care about Half the Sky and helping educate people about our work.

Advertise with flyers, newspaper listings and even radio ads. Send emails to your friends and fans to promote the event. Many times media outlets will sponsor promotional ads and run them at no cost if they know the event is to benefit a great cause.

Give people the opportunity to learn more about Half the Sky with brochures and a sign-up sheet for people to get more information.

Send your contributions by check to Half the Sky along with pictures from the event. Break a leg!

## **Idea #16. Shave Your Head**

Do you have a great head of hair? Shave your head for Half the Sky! Set a goal and ask everyone you know to contribute a gift to help you reach your goal. When you hit your goal you can also "auction" the opportunity for one of your friends to do the honors with the clippers.

One of our loyal volunteers raised over \$2000 for Half the Sky when he cut off his 3 foot long dreadlocks!! Collect the contributions and send them to Half the Sky along with your "before" and "after" pictures!

## **Idea #17. Car Wash**

Gather your friends and pick a date (good weather is helpful!) for your car wash. Find a location that has plenty of space, access to water, and good visibility for drivers coming by. Consider partnering with a local carwash - they provide the facility, you do the work!

Set the price. Begin by pre-selling car wash tickets to friends, family, co-workers - anyone who has a car. Promote the car wash with flyers at local businesses and emails to everyone you know.

Create some BIG signs to promote your car wash on busy street corners and in front of your location. Include your price and that you are raising money for Half the Sky!

On the big day, set up early with all necessary supplies including hoses, soap, sponges, towels and squeegees. Bring extra chairs and sun umbrellas for resting between car washes. Put at least one person always in charge of collecting money, making change and ensuring your payments are kept safe.

Wash the cars and have fun! Chat with the drivers about Half the Sky while they wait.

Send your proceeds by check to Half the Sky and email a photo of the event!

## **Idea #18. Dog Wash**

Gather your friends and pick a date (good weather is helpful!) for your dog wash. Find a location that has plenty of space, access to water, and safe for animals.

Set the price. Begin by pre-selling dog wash tickets to friends, family, co-workers - anyone who has a dog. Promote the dog wash with flyers at local businesses and emails to everyone you know.

Create some BIG signs to promote your dog wash on busy street corners and in front of your location. Include your price and that you are raising money for Half the Sky!

On the big day, set up early with all necessary supplies including hoses, soap, kiddie pools, towels and buckets. Bring extra chairs and sun umbrellas for resting between dog washes. Put at least one person always in charge of collecting money, making change and ensuring your payments are kept safe.

Most importantly, have fun! Chat with the dog owners about Half the Sky while they wait.

Send your proceeds by check to Half the Sky and email a photo of the event!

## **Idea #19. Skip-A-Thon**

CLICK [HERE](#) FOR FULL INSTRUCTION ON HOW TO RAISE MONEY FOR HALF THE SKY WHILE PUTTING YOUR BEST SKIPPING SKILLS TO THE TEST (Great for kids!)

## **Idea #20. Bake Sale**

Gather your local bakers (the more the better!) and pick a date. Find a location - special events, fairs, school open houses, concerts, farmers markets, etc. are a great venue because they provide lots of foot traffic.

Prepare your supplies such as tables, chairs, awning or tent, decorations, garbage cans, banners and signs. Advertise in advance to encourage people to come to the bake sale.

Plan on how you will take money and make change - be ready with extra coins and lots of small bills and a secure cashbox.

On the day of your bake sale display the goodies nicely. Consider setting baked goods together by price so that shopping is easier. Otherwise place small price signs on the goodies.

Make sure you have plates, napkins, forks, zip bags, plastic wrap, etc. to package the goodies to-go.

Also think about selling water, milk, spiced cider and coffee to go along with the treats! Send your proceeds by check to Half the Sky and email a photo of the event!

## **Idea #21. Ice Cream Social**

I scream, you scream, we all scream for Ice Cream! Pick a date and a location for your Ice Cream Social. Keep in mind that eating ice cream can be a messy business so consider a backyard or a park where spills won't be a problem. Send invitations to sell tickets to the event.

Call your local markets and ask for gift certificate donations you can use toward purchasing the ice cream and toppings as well as bowls and spoons. If several stores donate \$25-\$50 you can put on an ice cream social with no cost! Make sure to have enough ice cream so that all guests can get their fill.

On the day of the ice cream social set up tables and chairs for eating and a table or two for serving the ice cream (depending on how big your crowd is). Cover the tables with plastic table cloths or paper for easy clean up. Prepare your ice cream scoops, water for rinsing, wet towels for sticky fingers, and anything else you need for serving up the ice cream creations. Think about fun decorations and music to set a fun party atmosphere.

Consider if you would like to make the ice creams creations to-order or if you would like to scoop the ice cream but allow guests to put on their own toppings.

At the end of the ice cream social be prepared with wet-wipes (or hoses!) to clean up the guests.

Send your proceeds by check to Half the Sky along with photos of the ice cream eating festivities.

## **Idea #22. Recycle**

If you live in a state that has a redemption value on bottles and cans you can raise money for Half the Sky the green way! Ask friends and neighbors to put aside their bottles and cans until a designated collection day. Pick up your collections on the designated day and take them to a can recycling facility to turn bottles and cans into cash!

You can also recycle ink cartridges at participating office supply stores, recycle cell phones and other electronics at participating facilities. Google for a recycling program near you.

Send your contributions by check to Half the Sky and email a photo of your recycling fun!

## **Idea #23. Gala and Auction**

If you love to dress up, enjoy great dinners and drinks, and love the excitement of an auction the Gala and Auction event is for you! Gather your committee and make a plan, then [CONTACT US](#) to discuss your Gala and Auction and we'll provide the tools, templates and guidance to help ensure your event planning goes smoothly and easily. We are here to help you with materials and expertise so let's get started!

## **Idea #24. Movie Night**

Invite your friends to a movie night in the back yard! Pick your date and send fun invitations to sell tickets in advance to a movie night to benefit Half the Sky.

Hang a white sheet (or borrow a projector screen!) in the back yard. If you have a white garage door or a white wall with plenty of space for sitting in front of it that works great too!

Put out blankets and chairs. Use a computer and a projector to play your favorite DVD. Sell popcorn, candy, sodas and even cocktails to the movie-goers! (Let guests know in advance to bring money for your concession stand.)

Send your proceeds by check to Half the Sky and email a photo of the event!

## **Idea #25. Golf Tournament**

Love to golf and know lots of others who do too? Perfect! Golf tournaments can be as simple as selling players spots and foursomes and showing up on the course to big, complicated events with tournament packages, tee-sponsors, player gifts, and a dinner and auction at the end. [CONTACT US](#) to discuss your golf tournament idea and we can provide some of the event planning tools to make your event fun and run smoothly for everyone!

## **Idea #26. Swim-A-Thon**

CLICK [HERE](#) FOR FULL INSTRUCTION ON HOW TO RAISE MONEY FOR HALF THE SKY WHILE PUTTING YOUR SWIMMING SKILLS TO THE TEST

## **Idea #27. Cutest Baby Contest**

Nothing is more fun than looking at baby pictures! Well, maybe showing off your baby pictures is a little more fun... Hold a cutest baby contest and charge an entry fee to submit a picture into the contest.

As part of the fundraising effort you can also encourage the parents of the children to solicit donations from family, friends, neighbors, etc. to support Half the Sky.

Consider having different age categories and also awards for best smile, biggest eyes, funniest hair, etc. The more prizes the better! Each child can receive a goody bag and certificate for participating. Try to get everything donated for the goody bags and prizes.

You can have photos and ballot boxes set up for several weeks or you can hold the contest online and let people vote online or by email. You can even consider charging for "voting tickets" to add to the fun.

At the end of the contest give our awards and lots of recognition to all the cute babies and kids!

Collect the contributions and send them to Half the Sky along with pictures of the contest!

## **Idea #28. Coin Wars**

Organize a coin can event with a twist! This is a great project for schools, college campuses, banks and businesses with many employees within one building or location.

Recruit participants and place a coin can on their desk or in a designated area. Participants drop change in jars to compete against other departments, classes, bank branches or colleagues.

Pennies are worth positive points; silver coins and cash are worth negative points. "Sabotage" the other jars by dropping silver in them.

At the end of the Coin Wars Collect the money, roll it and send the proceeds by check to Half the Sky and email a photo of your Coin Wars!

## **Idea #29. Email Campaign**

Organizing an email campaign is a great way to fundraise for Half the Sky without ever stepping away from your computer! Ask everyone you know to support your fundraising efforts for Half the Sky and watch the donations add up!

Set a goal and a time-line and start asking!

Set-up a personal fundraising page with Half the Sky (coming soon!) and email everyone you know to ask for a donation.

Use Facebook, Twitter and email, and other communication tools to ask everyone and rally people behind your goal.

Send out regular emails to everyone you've asked letting them know how you are doing toward your goal. Thank those who already gave and remind those who haven't that it's not too late!

With our online fundraising tool you don't need to collect donations or handle money, just email and ask and we'll do the rest. Just in case someone prefers to give you cash or a check, however, keep an envelope handy and send in all donations when you are finished with your campaign! We'll thank all your donors but it is a great idea to send out a personal email to everyone who gave to show your personal gratitude.

## **Idea #30. Trick or Treat for Change**

Pass out flyers to all your neighbors that on Halloween night the goblins and witches will be Trick or Treating for Change to Support Half the Sky.

On Halloween head out with a special container decorated for half the Sky to collect coins instead of candy. One volunteer used Chinese to-go boxes with a slit cut out for dropping in donations!

Roll your change and send the proceeds by check to Half the Sky and email a photo of your little ghosts and other spooky creatures!

## **Idea #31. Poker Night**

Poker nights can be great fun but do check for any legal restrictions or requirements in your state before you begin! To start your planning select a venue that will be big enough to hold card tables and chairs for all your guests along with some food and drink tables. Select a date - Fridays and Saturdays are often a good choice for a long night out.

Determine how you will charge for your event. You can sell tickets at a set price or "buy-in". Some tournaments chose to have players gather pledges similar to walkathons. The more pledge money they get the more chips they will have to play with.

Decide if you would like to have players deal the cards, have volunteer dealers, or hire professional dealers.

Promote the event with invitations, emails, flyers and word-of-mouth. Consider giving players a "free" spot if they fill their poker table with paying players.

Organize the game by tables and reorganize as each table loses players. Use a big and small blinds to make the tournament move along.

You may want to allow a limited second "buy-in" for players who are eliminated early.

Ask for donations of prizes for the top three winners. Depending on how much the "buy-in" fee is you could have small, fun prizes or big, exciting prizes. It's fun to have a prize for the first person to be eliminated too!

Set up food, drinks and social activities for players to enjoy after they are eliminated. This is a great opportunity to set-up a silent auction as well!

This is a great event for 8 - 240 players! After the event send the proceeds by check to Half the Sky and email a photo of the poker festivities!

## **Idea #32. Donation Drawing or 50/50**

Sell drawing tickets to everyone you know. The drawing prize? 50% of the ticket sales! This is a win-win fundraising project. The 50/50 drawing can stand on its own or be a great addition to another event. The secret to success is to ask everyone you know to purchase drawing tickets.

Send your proceeds by check to Half the Sky and email a photo of the winner and organizer!

## **Idea #33. Peppermint Bark**

Sell Peppermint Bark (We have a great recipe thanks to our NY volunteer Sarah!) during the holidays. Chocolates at Valentine's Day and Mother's Day is great too! Tell everyone you'll be selling goodies for a holiday or special occasion. Determine if you'll be delivering the goodies or if people need to pick them up from you. Take orders and collect payment. Make sure you track carefully who has ordered and who has paid.

Pack cookies/peppermint bark/fudge/etc. into clear cello bags in the box and close with twist tie. Once creative idea is to place the goodies into Chinese food take-out containers. Create a label with the HTS logo and print onto standard labels. Tie a red satin ribbon to the handle. Include an information card with the logo and contact information for Half the Sky.

Send your proceeds by check to Half the Sky and email a photo of your delicious treat. Feel free to email your recipes to share with other volunteers as well!

### **Idea #34. Gift Wrapping**

Spread some holiday cheer while helping Half the Sky! Many businesses like Barnes and Noble allow non-profits to wrap gifts in their store. The business usually provides all of the wrapping materials.

Volunteers just sign-up for a gift wrapping shift or two; the shifts are usually for 2 hours.

Prepare a fun collection container for donations and a HTS sign which

can be downloaded from our website. Have fun and chat while you wrap, tell people about why your are there!

Send your contributions by check to Half the Sky and email a photo of your wrapping fun.

### **Idea #35. Putting Contest**

This is a fun event for office settings! Promote the contest in advance and sell tickets for chances to putt. Solicit donations for prizes for hole-in-one shots. Ask your company if they will provide logo'd corporate shwag for the prizes. Tickets could be \$1 per putt for small prizes or up to \$20 - \$50 for really great prizes.

Add a drawing for an added twist! Enter all hole-in-one winners into a drawing to win a big prize.

Send your proceeds by check to Half the Sky and email a photo of the contest!

### **Idea #36. Valentine's Day Deliveries**

This is a great project for high school and college campuses as well as large business offices. Plan a flower or candy deliver for Valentine's day. Negotiate a donation or a discount for flowers or candy from a store and then set your price. You can deliver a single rose, a small box of chocolates or charge a premium for bunches of flowers or larger boxes of chocolates. Advertise in advance with flyers and emails. Take orders for deliveries and track receipt of payments.

On Valentine's Day (or your selected delivery day) check for any last minute orders and then plan your deliveries by building or floor level. Creating the plan is important so that you can maximize your delivery speed.

Make sure that the deliveries are labeled with the recipients name and that you have a master copy of the delivery list to cross reference who has received their deliveries and who has not.

It is a great idea to label the flower wrapper or the candy box with a Half the Sky label so that people are reminded of the double benefit of the gift!

Have fun with your deliveries! Remind people that this is all for Half the Sky and let them know you hope they enjoy the gift!

After the special day send your proceeds by check to Half the Sky and email us a photo of yourself or your delivery team!

## **Idea #37. Just ASK!**

You'll be surprised at how easy it is to JUST ASK! That's right! Ask everyone you know to support your fundraising efforts for Half the Sky and watch the donations add up!

Set a goal and a time-line and start asking!

Set-up a personal fundraising page with Half the Sky (coming soon!) and email everyone you know to ask for a donation. Print out our Half the Sky information sheet (CLICK [HERE](#)) and carry it with you along with a large envelope to collect donations where ever you go.

Use Facebook, Twitter and email, letters and other communication tools to ask everyone and rally people behind your goal.

Here is an example of how to Raise \$1000 in 10 Days (Just One Example!):

Day 1 Sponsor yourself \$50: \$50

Day 2 Ask two family members to sponsor you \$50: \$150

Day 3 Ask five friends to contribute \$30: \$300

Day 4 Ask five co-workers to contribute \$30: \$450

Day 5 Ask five neighbors to contribute \$20: \$550

Day 6 Ask five people from your social or sports group to contribute \$30: \$700

Day 7 Ask your boss for a company contribution of \$100: \$800

Day 8 Ask five local merchants to sponsor you \$20: \$900

Day 9 Ask a business you frequent (doctor, dentist, health club) for \$100: \$1,000

Day 10 Thank everyone who supported you by sending out thank you e-mails, letters, or cards

Have fun and send in your donations to Half the Sky. We'll even write Thank You letters to all your donors!

## **Idea #38. Fortune Cookies**

Fortune cookies with a personal fortune are a treat. When they come in a great Half the Sky box and benefit our work they are even better! Tell everyone you'll be selling home made fortune cookies with personalized fortunes. (We can send you a recipe if you need one thanks to Sandi in Calgary!)

Determine if you'll be delivering the cookies or if people need to pick them up from you. Take orders and collect payment. Make sure you track carefully who has ordered and who has paid.

Pack cookies into clear cello bags in the box and close with twist tie. Place the goodies into Chinese food take-out containers. Create a label with the HTS logo and print onto standard labels. Tie a red satin ribbon to the handle. Include an information card with the logo and contact information for Half the Sky.

Send your proceeds by check to Half the Sky and email a photo of your delicious treat. Feel free to email your recipes to share with other volunteers as well!

## **Idea #39. eBay Auction**

Are there treasures and collectables hiding in your home? A collection of coins or baseball cards hidden away in the back of a closet? A collection of vintage western hats taking up space in the garage? Perfect! You can list items directly on eBay/MissionFish to benefit Half the Sky. Items can be listed at any time of the year. After the item sells, eBay/MissionFish collects your donation and sends the funds directly to Half the Sky. If you are an experienced eBay'er then this is perfect for you. If not, don't worry! We have volunteers ready to help you through the process. Here are 6 simple steps to follow if you would like to make a donation at any time of the year and work directly with eBay/MissionFish:

1. Visit [www.eBay.com](http://www.eBay.com)
2. Get registered as a seller.
3. Write an item title and description.
4. List your item and select "Half the Sky Foundation" in the eBay Giving Works section
5. Complete your transaction
6. eBay/MissionFish will provide you with a receipt for your donation.

[CONTACT US](#) if you would like help organizing an online auction to benefit Half the Sky.

## **Idea #40. Dance-A-Thon**

CLICK [HERE](#) FOR FULL INSTRUCTION ON HOW TO RAISE MONEY FOR HALF THE SKY WHILE PUTTING YOUR DANCING SKILLS TO THE TEST

## **Idea #41. Blue Jeans Days**

Do you wear a uniform to school or work in a business environment where jeans are a No-No? This is a great fundraiser for your team! For a donation to Half the Sky (\$5-\$10) participants get to wear blue jeans for the day. Create a sticker or name tag that participants wear to explain that they are wearing blue jeans for Half the Sky.

This is a great fundraiser to hold ever Friday for a month or over the course of several Blue Jean Days.

Send your proceeds by check to Half the Sky and email a photo of your jean-wearing team.

## **Idea #42. Restaurant Days**

Ask your favorite restaurants to host a Half the Sky Restaurant Day! A portion of the day's proceed from the restaurant will go to benefit Half the Sky.

Promote the event with emails, flyers and online posts. Ask your local paper, radio and TV stations to donate some advertisements to announce the Restaurant Day.

This simple fundraising event works well with restaurants, bars, bakeries, and even small retail stores!

Provide the restaurant or business with Half the Sky's mailing information and ask them to send the proceeds directly to us. Please [CONTACT US](#) to let us know the donation is on its way!

## **Idea #43. Pancake Breakfast**

A Pancake Breakfast can be a fun way to bring together the community to support Half the Sky. You'll need lots of promotion and advanced ticket sales so start planning at least a month or more in advance.

A key element to a successful Pancake Breakfast is a team that knows how to put one on! Putting together a committee that knows how to shop for and prepare the food is a critical element. Finding a facility with a good kitchen that your local health department will find acceptable for food preparation is also key. A facility with tables and chairs already available is also a big plus! Venues such as a school, church or synagogue, lodge, grange or fire house can be considered. Be sure to check with your local health department for all rules before embarking on this fundraiser and ensure you have any necessary permits.

Make sure you have plates, napkins, forks, salt, pepper, coffee fixin's, etc. for the meal.

Secure donations for the food, coffee and other beverages and plates, cups and forks from local grocery stores and markets if you can to help reduce costs.

Also plan on selling water, milk, juice and coffee to raise more money.

Plan on how you will take money and make change - be ready with lots of small bills and a secure cashbox manned by a volunteer at all times. Price the breakfast so that you would have to worry about coins.

Consider hosting your Pancake Breakfast in conjunction with another big event such as a parade, festival or fair.

Plan for table cloths, decorations and other fun elements to give your Pancake Breakfast personality! Have upbeat music, either live or recorded, to set a great mood.

After the breakfast send your proceeds by check to Half the Sky and email a photo of the event!

## **Idea #44. Spaghetti Dinner**

A Spaghetti Dinner can be a fun way to bring together the community to support Half the Sky. You'll need lots of promotion and advanced ticket sales so start planning at least a month or more in advance.

A key element to a successful Spaghetti Dinner is a team that knows how to put one on! Putting together a committee that knows how to shop for and prepare the food is a critical element. Finding a facility with a good kitchen that your local health department will find acceptable for food preparation is also key. A facility with tables and chairs already available is also a big plus! Venues such as a school, church or synagogue, lodge, grange or fire house can be considered. Be sure to check with your local health department for all rules before embarking on this fundraiser and ensure you have any necessary permits.

Make sure you have plates, napkins, forks, salt, pepper, etc. for the meal.

Create your menu and secure donations for the food, beverages and plates, cups and forks from local grocery stores and markets if you can to help reduce costs.

Also plan on selling water, soft drinks and coffee to raise more money. Consider getting a special permit to serve wine and sell that as well!

Plan on how you will take money and make change - be ready with lots of small bills and a secure cashbox manned by a volunteer at all times. Price the dinner so that you would have to worry about coins.

Consider hosting your Spaghetti Dinner in conjunction with another big event such as a parade, festival or fair.

Plan for table cloths, decorations and other fun elements to give your dinner personality! Have upbeat music, either live or recorded, to set a great mood.

After the dinner send your proceeds by check to Half the Sky and email a photo of the event!

## **Idea #45. Sports Tournament - From Bowling to Basketball to Badminton**

A sports tournament allows you to combine your love for a sport with your love for Half the Sky! Identify a sports facility that is appropriate for your event. Consider different options such as a school gym, a bowling alley, fitness center, hockey rink, tennis club, public park or outdoor facility.

After you've set your date and determined the cost to play in your tournament start recruiting the teams. You may want to have one entry fee for individuals and a slightly discounted fee for an entire team.

Raise money by selling snacks and refreshments the day of the tournament. Set-up a photo area and sell team photos. Ask a local tee-shirt shop to donate tee-shirts with your event logo and sell those as well. You can even incorporate a 50/50 drawing!

Another way to raise money is to print flyers with the tournament schedule, photos, player's names, etc. and sell ad space to local businesses.

Plan for trophies and extra recognition for the winners to add to the fun. This can become a great annual event!

After the tournament day send your proceeds by check to Half the Sky and email us a photo of the winning team with the coordinators!

## **Idea #46. Book Sale**

A book sale is a great way to clean out your shelves and your garage and support Half the Sky. Advertise online, in the newspaper and plan to hang signs on busy streets near your home directing traffic to your sale.

Invite your neighbors to join you to make the sale bigger and more fun and raise even more money. Invite friend to bring books they'd like to donate to the sale to you before the big day.

Sort books into different price categories and then identify the prices with different color dots (example: green dots are \$1, red dots are \$2, white dots are \$5, etc.) Pricing your items in advance makes it easier for shoppers and for you on the day of the sale. Consider offering a discount for larger purchases - buy 2 books get 1 free, etc.

On the day of the sale, display books as neatly as possible. Make it easy for people to find what they are looking for. Consider sorting by genre or author.

Create a big sign letting people know that proceeds from your sale are going to support orphaned children in China through Half the Sky.

Have fun, make recommendations and chat about Half the Sky with your shoppers.

Be prepared with a cash box and at least one person to be in charge of it at all times. Make sure to have tons of small bills for change; avoid coins if you can. Ask for small bills when people pay. Consider having some extra bags handy to give to people who are buying multiple items.

At the end of the day consider lowering the prices to clear things out and plan to take what is left to a charity which takes such donations.

Send your proceeds by check to Half the Sky and email a photo of your book sale team!

## **Idea #47. Kids' Night Out**

Plan a "Kid's Night Out" (really a parent's night off!) for a fun and logistically simple fundraising event. Recruit baby sitters and a few adult volunteers to plan and organize an evening of fun, games and snacks for kids. Plan the event for 4-5 hours...enough time for Mom and Dad to catch dinner and a movie. Schedule it for a Friday or Saturday night so as not to interfere with school and strict bed times.

Ask each volunteer to be responsible for bringing one activity. For example one person can bring face painting supplies, another can bring popcorn, a popper and bags, several more can bring various board games, and another can bring art supplies for a specific art project. Think about incorporating Chinese games, arts and crafts into the activities to connect the event with Half the Sky.

Plan on at least one experienced baby sitter or adult for every 5 kids.

Ask a local pizza place to donate pizzas and sodas for the kids. Avoid too many sugary treats so that kids to bounce off the walls.

Determine the ticket price. Consider the cost of a babysitter and pizza for an evening to set the ticket price.

Pre-sell tickets to the Kids' Night Out in advance. Schools, clubs, churches and youth sports teams are a great place to start with the ticket sales. It helps if some of the families already know each other! You may also want to partner with another evening event to offer the Kids' Night Out to the parents attending the other function.

Try to pre-collect all ticket payments so that you do not have to collect money on the evening of the event.

Set up a great "Party" atmosphere with decorations, music and lots of fun energy. Have fun with the kids and send them home talking about what a great "Night Out" they had without their parents!

Send the proceeds to Half the Sky and email a photo of the Big Night!

## **Idea #48. Back Yard BBQ**

Are you looking forward to summer? Getting together with family and neighbors for a great back yard BBQ? Turn a delicious summer tradition into a meaningful get together and support Half the Sky with a back yard BBQ with friends.

Invite your friends and neighbors for a BBQ and let them know that it's a fundraiser for Half the Sky. Ask them to "buy" a ticket or make a donation for each guest attending the BBQ. You may even want to "sell" drinks and cocktails too!

You may want to host the event yourself or ask your local market or butcher to donate the meat and fish for the event.

This is a simple fundraiser that combines a perfect outdoor evening with friends with a meaningful reason to get together and enjoy the summer.

Send the donations to Half the Sky by check and email a photo of the grillin' action.

## **Idea #49. Bartend for Babies**

Ask your favorite bar or watering hole to have a Half the Sky happy hour. Recruit local "celebrities" to bartend for a couple of hours and collect "tips" to benefit Half the Sky. Place signs and "tip" jars on the bar and encourage the celebrity bartenders to work their magic with the crowd.

Advertise the event in advance to encourage people to come in for happy hour. Let people know that they should come in with cash or checks to "tip" the bartenders.

This is an easy, fun evening that can be very successful if people know why they are there and special guests who are likely to make a large donation are invited.

At the end of the evening give a big round of applause for the bartenders!

Send donations to Half the Sky by check and email a photo of the bartenders mixin' it up!

## **Idea #50. Ducky Derby**

A Ducky Derby is a great twist on a traditional raffle! Race rubber ducks down a local waterway, preferably one with a good current, and raise money for Half the Sky!

This event is simple, fun and makes for a great family outing. Sell numbered tickets that match numbered rubber ducks. The ticket serves as a "stub" to claim the winning ducks at the end of the event.

Determine the price of each duck. Depending on the prizes involved, tickets should be priced between \$5-\$10 each. Plan on selling a lot of ducks to make the race fun and ensure a great turn out. The most successful ducky derbies range between 3,000 to 10,000 racing ducks!

On the day of the Ducky Derby, large plastic bags full of the racing rubber ducks are simultaneously emptied into the water at the start line. The winning duck is the one that floats to the finish line first. It's fun to have prizes for 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th place as well. You can even award a prize for a last place.

Increase your fundraising by selling snacks and beverages. Consider organizing other activities such as face painting, a bouncy house or other carnival games and sell tickets for those activities. You can even sell booths to vendors!

For more details on how to organize a Ducky Derby, [CONTACT US](#) to discuss your ideas and we can provide some of the event planning tools to make your event fun, successful and run smoothly for everyone!