



Fundraising in the Workplace: Specifically for Retail Stores and Restaurants

50/50 Raffle:

Purchase a roll of raffle tickets and sell tickets to your coworkers and customers. When a ticket is purchased, rip off one end and give it to the donor. Make sure you have their name and contact information on the other half and place it in a container. When it comes time to draw a winner, simply draw a ticket from the bucket and announce the winner. The winner will receive half of the amount collected from the ticket sales and the other half will be donated to Autism Speaks. [Click here for more detailed information.](#)

Ask for a Matching Gift:

If your company offers a matching gift program, you can easily double your fundraising efforts. Because of its fundraising potential, encourage your colleagues to join you. Any donation—no matter how big or small—can now be doubled by your company! Ask your General Manager or your Human Resources Department for the proper forms.

Basket War:

Each department/unit within your business will be responsible for creating a basket as a team. Each team will pick a theme for their basket and collect items to include inside. The baskets will be raffled off, and whichever team's basket receives the most raffle tickets will win the competition. Prizes for the winning team could include pizza party, ice cream social, or dress down day. [Click here for more detailed information.](#)

Battle of the Bands:

Round up a group of bands willing to play for charity and ask them to publicize it to all of their fans. Find an appropriate space—your restaurant might even be the perfect venue. Ask the manager to contribute a portion of food and beverage sales if you bring a lot of people into the establishment. Sell most of your tickets in advance so you can accurately plan for the event. Make advanced ticket sales slightly cheaper than your door price to entice people to purchase tickets early. Secure a local celebrity, radio personality, or popular employee to serve as your emcee. Try to have a gift certificate or prize donated by a local business that you can give to the winning band. [Click here for more detailed information.](#)

Coloring Contests for Kids:

This fundraiser works well in restaurants because children love to color while they wait for their food. Advertise the contest to all of your customers with children. Use the Autism Speaks Puzzle Piece as a template that your participants can color and enter into the competition. The colorings will be displayed around the restaurant, a winner will be chosen at the end of the competition, and they will receive a prize such as a gift certificate to your restaurant. [Click here for more detailed information.](#)

Karaoke for a Cure:

Invite your co-workers, customers, and friends into your business for a fun night of karaoke. Charge your attendees a general admission fee, and also charge them \$1 per song to buy into the contest. You can also ask the audience to donate money to hear a boss, manager, or community leader sing. Don't forget to inspire and reward your performers. Ask local businesses to donate prizes for best performance, funniest performance, etc. Prizes can range from the extravagant, like an iPod, to a \$5 gift certificate from the local ice cream place. Even simple printed awards for best group performance can work! [Click here for more detailed information.](#)

Fundraising Day/Night/Weekend:

This is a great way to get your business's name out there! Choose a special day, night, or entire weekend for your fundraiser. Post fliers around your community and post an ad in your local newspaper to spread the word! When people come to eat at your restaurant or purchase an item from your store, a certain percentage of the proceeds will be donated to Autism Speaks. [Click here for more detailed information.](#)

Puzzle Piece Campaign:

Sell Autism Speaks puzzle pieces for \$1 to staff and customers and display them in a prominent location in your business to raise awareness. You can turn this fundraiser into a competition between departments and floors by encouraging each team to sell the most puzzle pieces. Have a prize for the team who raises the most awareness and money! [Click here for more detailed information.](#)

Raffle off Incentives for Employees:

Raffle off incentives to your coworkers such as a long lunch break, a half day off, or a good parking spot. Be creative with these incentives! Each employee gives a donation to enter into the raffle.

Silent Auction:

Host a silent auction in your place of business. Form a committee and ask them to solicit donations for auction items throughout their community. Advertise the auction to staff and customers by hanging fliers around your business and community and by placing an ad in your local newspaper. Package your auction items and invite your participants to bid away! [Click here for more detailed information.](#)

Contact your local Autism Speaks office for step-by-step instructions about how to host each of the fundraisers or if you want materials to display at your event such as brochures and Walk Now for Autism banners.