



## How to Host a Dance-A-Thon

A Dance-a-Thon is a perfect fundraiser for schools—from elementary school all the way up through college. Depending on the age of your students, your event can last just a few hours or through the entire night!

### **Format:**

Decide on the length and structure of your event. Some Dance-A-Thons are designed so that participants must dance continually throughout the event, but many will add entertainment components into the event to give participants a rest. These could include a talent show, step show, break dance show, swing dance lessons, salsa lessons, or karaoke!

If you're hosting an event for younger students, you might want to have your Dance-A-Thon run for four hours or so. If you're hosting your event for a college crowd, you just might want to have an all-night affair!

### **Music and Entertainment:**

The main expense for a fundraising Dance-a-Thon is the DJ, unless you can get someone to donate their services! It's best not to use live music with a band since you will want to have a variety of music and it's hard to do that with a live band. iPods are a budget-friendly alternative to a DJ, just be sure to use loud enough speakers for your space.

### **Food:**

To raise extra funds, sell food and drinks to your participants such as pizza, popcorn, candy, bags of chips, and even fast food brought in from a nearby eatery. Try to get your local pizza place to donate some pies, or your local deli to provide a sandwich tray for you. You could even have volunteers bring baked goods and hold a bake sale.

### **Fundraising:**

Your main profit will come from ticket sales and your concessions table. Additional profits can also come from having a raffle at the event, or from having a karaoke contest and shout outs where participants can pay a fee per song or shout out. Make sure to have slips of paper pre-printed so the shout outs can be submitted and easily read by the DJ. Here's an example...*"Here's a Shout Out from Kim to all her soccer team buddies: Wildcats Rule!"*

### **Publicity:**

To make sure your event is well attended, publicity is the key. Display and pass out lots of fliers and make announcements during assemblies, lunch periods, etc.

**Contact your local Autism Speaks office for autism-related materials to display at your event, such as brochures and Walk Now for Autism Speaks banners.**