



November



December



August



September



International Women's Day

March



Fundraising Calender



Feburary



October



May

**Thank you!**

**By opening this Fundraising calendar for The Gingerbread Centre you have taken the first step to creating a future for vulnerable families in Staffordshire.**

**The Gingerbread Centre is a local charity that has been working across Stoke on Trent for 35 years to provide community support and accommodation to homeless vulnerable families across the city and throughout Staffordshire to help them regain their independence.**

**The Gingerbread Centre aims to raise money to provide a quality service for families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to achieve life-long independence.**

**There are a huge number of lone parents, children, teenagers and families in Staffordshire that need our services.**

**Once you have chosen to fundraise with The Gingerbread Centre we will provide you with all the information and resources you need to make your fundraising a success!**

**The Gingerbread Centre makes fundraising easy! Enclosed is your full years fundraising calendar packed with ideas and activities. All you need to do is pick and choose your favourites, speak to our community fundraiser about collection buckets and extra resources then get going!**

**Every penny YOU raise makes a real difference and without it we wouldn't be able to continue to support those who need us most.**

**Please get in touch when you have read through this pack. We are ready and waiting to support you to fundraise with us. We have so many ideas and suggestions to share with you.**

**We look forward to hearing from you soon.**



# IDEAS FOR JULY

**We are well into the summer now, so why not use the good weather spirits and do so awesome fundraising.**

## **Auction of promises**

Persuade friends and colleagues to donate their skills, expertise and services for auction. Lessons in sport, music, dancing or languages; home-baked cakes and meals; ironing and other household chores. Try persuading local restaurants, theatres and leisure centres to offer meals, tickets and other goodies.

## **Play heads or tails**

This is a really fun way to get every person at your party involved AND to make a really quick load of cash! You collect £1 from every guest in the room and get them to play human heads or tails by put-ting their hands on their heads or on their bums. You flip a coin and shout out if it is heads or tails. Those who got it wrong sit down and you repeat this until there is one winner who gets a prize! You double the price and double your cash!

## **Whodunit?**

Channel your inner Columbo or Jessica Fletcher by holding a murder mystery party on 28 July – the anniversary of the discovery of fingerprints. Friends and family will love getting into character as Professor Plum, Colonel Mustard or Mrs White just ask them for a small donation to play

## **Swing into action**

Hold a golf competition. Or if playing golf isn't your bag, you can always raise money by being a caddy, cleaning balls or finding them when they fail to hit the fairway.

## **Hit the catwalk.**

A fashion show can take many themes. For example, ask friends and family to donate old or unwanted clothes and hold a 'recycled' show. Persuade a few friends to indulge in the modelling career they've dreamed of and you're off.

# IDEAS FOR AUGUST

**This is the month for gathering your friends and colleagues together to celebrate and enjoy the summer. Here's to a happy summer.**

## Bowled over

There's no better time than summer to play a game of cricket with your friends. Why not hold a match in your local park and get each team to pay an entry fee?

## Music quiz

Get in the festival spirit and sort the rock gods from the try-hards with your very own music-themed quiz night. Ask for a donation from each team that takes part.

## Pimms party

Hold your very own garden or street party. This is a fantastic way to get to know your neighbours, build community spirit or just get together with friends and family. Have a big bash or a sophisticated soirée – it's up to you. Charge people for attending or ask for a minimum donation.

## Barn dance

'Take your partner by the hand...'

Don your neckties and cowboy hats and swing your pants to some good old country music. A glass or two of cider helps to get everyone tapping their toes and clicking their spurs. Charge an entry fee and you have a good will party as well

# IDEAS FOR SEPTEMBER

**There are loads of ways you can raise money for The Gingerbread Centre throughout the month of September.**

## **Bags Packed – Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September – Sainsbury Newcastle-under-Lyme**

Come and do your shopping in Sainsbury's Newcastle and we will pack your bags for you for a donation and the chance to meet Biscuit our very own Gingerbread Man.

## **Fresher's Week**

Have you got a jam-packed programme in mind for this year's fresher's? How about dedicating a night out for Gingerbread by donating the proceeds of ticket sales or hijacking your union bar to transform 'happy hour' into 'Gingerbread hour'?

## **London Fashion Week**

### **12<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> September 2014**

If London Fashion Week leaves you longing for a new wardrobe, why not organise a Swap 'n' Shop. Invite your friends around and ask them to bring in any unwanted clothes or accessories, and when someone sees something they like, just suggest a donation for them to take it away. At the end of the Swap 'n' Shop, you'll have a very nice kitty to donate.

Alternatively you could host a bigger Swap 'n' Shop in your local village hall, community hall, or a function room and invite the general public to Swap 'n' Shop. Organise some music and some craft stalls and you have got yourself a Swap 'n' Shop party which is bound to raise lots of money for the Gingerbread Centre.

## **National Cupcake Week**

### **15<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> September 2014**

Get your apron on for National Cupcake Week, which runs from 16 to 22 September 2013 if you have got an urge to bake and just 'knead' to satisfy that sweet tooth.

You can cook up all kinds of fun events to celebrate this tasty week! Put the kettle on and get baking. Why not invite friends round and entertain your guests with raffles, auctions, music and homemade cake. Everyone loves a treat with their cup of tea. Whip up a batch of cakes and treats and hold a cake stall at work, school or a local fair. Or host a British cake off competition and charge an entry fee.

So why not give it a go and bake something special this National Cupcake Week. You can send us your pictures and we will feature them on our website and Social media sites.

## **A bloody great fundraiser!**

Everyone's back from the holidays, the office is full, the pubs usual suspects are back in the seats. Why not confront your pet hate of your colleague or friend and stick a swear box in an office or social club to raise some money. And if people's worst crime is not swearing but doing something else that causes offence, then get them to pay for this misdemeanour.

# IDEAS FOR OCTOBER

**It's October and time to get in the spirit for some spooky fundraising. From trick or treating and chilling ghost stories to red-hot Curry Clubs, here are some fantastic ideas to get you fundraising this autumn.**

## **Pumpkin competition**

An individual/group pays £10 to enter and is given a pumpkin to take home & carve. Remember to advertise this in advance. Get a prize for free from local businesses. Get a local big name to judge. Display pumpkins on the day to attract attention and bucket shake around them.

## **Halloween extravaganza**

Charge £7 entry to the ultimate Halloween extravaganza complete with apple bobbing, fancy dress competition, ghoulish games. Hold an auction during the night to maximise profits. Get prizes for free and a funny friend to host. Sell cakes and a special Halloween cocktail behind the bar where the money goes to you.

## **National Curry Week 13<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> October 2014**

National Curry Week involves curry restaurants, caterers and curry lovers across the UK celebrating the dish with diners, record breaking attempts, raffles, auctions and all manner of events designed to help combat poverty.

Make yourself flavour of the month by cooking up your favourite curry during October. Serve up some delicious dishes to your colleagues and ask them to donate the money they would have spent on their lunch to help support the Gingerbread Centre.

Or buy a ticket to one of our curry celebration nights- details our on our website.

## **World Conker Championships**

### **12th October 2014**

Hold your own competition to coincide with World Conker Championships on the 13th October. Who in your office will be crowned the conker King? Get competitors to pay to enter and organise a sweepstake to get everyone involved.

## **RAG Mega Raids**

Mega Raids are a tried and tested way for RAG committees to raise big sums over one day. If you fancy getting together with your friends, and getting to know a new city on a huge day of fundraising, then get in touch with us. We will happily arrange all the permits that you need to turn a one day fundraiser into a huge success.

# IDEAS FOR NOVEMBER

**Winter is just round the corner. But with these great ideas for supporting The Gingerbread Centre, your fundraising efforts will be one thing which won't feel the chill. There's a lot of fun to be had in November.**

## Bonfire Party

This could be a small little gathering in your garden or you could organise a whole village event, however this would need careful planning and permission from the relevant authorities; and most importantly- risk assessment. If organising a larger event is not your thing, see if there are any local events which you can get involved in, either by taking a cut of the entrance fees or by organising a food tent within the event. As with any event, the key is maximisation, so be prepared and ensure that people who attend your event cannot turn up without seeing an opportunity to donate to you some way or another.

Bonfire Night is a notoriously chilly affair, so this would be the perfect opportunity to warm the cockles of spectators. Simple hot food like jacket potatoes, baked beans and sausage always go down a treat, as do soups and hot chocolate (with marshmallows and cream for an extra 50p). If you are planning on running your own event; ensure that you take your letter of authorisation with you to the firework suppliers. Tell them that you are running a Charity event as ask them if they can donate any fireworks.

## Guess the Guy's name!

Write his name on a piece of paper under his hat, people can donate £1 to guess his name. The person who guesses correctly wins a prize!

## Toffee and Treats!

Make and sell Toffee Apples and some chocolate and hundreds and thousands for that extra pizzazz! Try at new recipes using ginger and raise even more awareness of the Gingerbread Centre in Stoke on Trent. This theme could be continued by doing a spot of baking, or even better, to rope friends and family into helping you too.

## Make a Mini Me – Guy

Challenge your workmates to make a guy of themselves and hold a competition with an small entry fee for the best likeness, you could take photos and create a matching game on your website or in your workplace for visitors to play for a small fee.

## Road Safety Week – 16<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> 2014

Why not hold a theory test quiz and charge contestants for wrong answers, have a prize for the winner or make them road safety week champion.

# IDEAS FOR DECEMBER

**Christmas is almost here. And if you're looking for some festive fundraising ideas for the season of goodwill, we've got a sackful of suggestions to get you started.**

## **A wish which needs granting**

Christmas can be expensive at the best of times. But when you're a lone homeless parent, you feel the cost even more. So when you're out buying your Christmas gifts why not buy an extra toy for the children at the Gingerbread Centre.

## **All I want for Christmas is a song**

Whether it's Slade or Silent Night, we all have our favourite Christmas songs. So why not set up a makeshift jukebox. And if everyone donates £1 when they play a song, those hits will raise heap

## **Get knitting this winter**

Baby clothes, scarves, jumpers. Put your knitting needles to good use and start creating some woollen wonders that people will donate money to Gingerbread Centre for. Or donation your beautiful handmade clothes as a gift to the babies, toddlers and children living at the Gingerbread Centre this Christmas

## **Host a Christmas Quiz**

Everyone is in good spirits around Christmas, why not join everyone together and hold a Christmas quiz in your local.

## **Come dine with me**

During the season of great food create your own version of the popular TV show. You and a few friends all host a dinner party. At the end of each evening you all rate the food and the host's performance. Make a donation to take part

## **Put on a cracker of an evening**

How about enjoying an evening of cheese and mulled wine with your friends and colleagues? After all, there's really no better time for a little indulgence. And if you ask people to donate a minimum of £5 to come along, you'll be raising more than just your glasses

## **Best of the worst competition**

Enjoy a dress-down day like no other by asking everyone to wear their most embarrassing Christmas jumper to work. And if people want to be part of the festive frolics, suggest they donate £1 to join in. You could also hold a competition to pick the best of the worst jumper

# IDEAS FOR JANUARY 2015

The Christmas holidays are over and it's back to work and School. But never fear, despite the freezing temperatures outside, it's time to wave goodbye to the January blues as we're here to tell you about some wonderful dates to put in your brand new diary.

## New Year Resolution

Sponsored 'give it up'

It's not what you do, it's what you don't do. Why not give something up to raise a few bob? Chocolate, alcohol, Gossiping, Facebook...

## National Nothing Day - 16th January

Do nothing to raise money - Either pay £5 to enter a raffle for your chance to stay at home for the day or organise a Duvet Day at work or School, pay £1 and come to the office in your dressing gown and slippers – and bring your duvet too, of course.

## Blue Monday – 26<sup>th</sup> January

Blue Monday is a special day, for people to focus on doing good for each other. Little acts of kindness (or big ones, if you like).

It comes at a time when people might need a bit of cheering up: the gloomy, post-Christmas, back-to-work-and-school month of January. And of course, it had to be a Monday.

Blue Monday ideas should benefit others and will probably be something you wouldn't normally do. Simply donate to support a homeless family

## Chocolate Cake Day – 27<sup>th</sup> January

Hold a bake off at work, with a small entry free, who will be crowned the best baker.

## Chinese New Year -31st January

Why not organise a Chinese themed evening, with fireworks, Chinese food and party games. Ask for a donation to enjoy the party

# IDEAS FOR FEBRUARY 2015

**Everyone knows Valentine's Day falls in February, but that isn't the only occasion we're excited about this month.**

## Take me out

A Take me out social can be a brilliant fundraising event for students suffering from Valentine's Day blues and for all the singletons! Holding a Take Me Out event in your SU, local bar or club or Halls common room is a really good way of reaping in some donations!

## Valentine's Day

Nothing says Valentines quite like Cupid, so smell the "love in the air" and dress up! Dressing up will make you stand out from the crowd and keep you visible all day. If you are signed up to a street collection over Valentines then dressing up is a definite bonus - don't forget, you can't do a street collection without a valid permit from the local authority.

## British Yorkshire pudding Day – 1st February

Why not enjoy this most British of dishes while raising money for The Gingerbread Centre, by selling mini pudding at work? Or you could invite family and friends over for a roast dinner and ask them to chip in a few pounds to help the Gingerbread Centre Or host your own Yorkshire pudding competition and charge for an entry fee.

## Pancake Day – 17<sup>th</sup>

Pancakes are an integral part of Shrove Tuesday and a tradition has developed in many countries of races involving contestants running along a course carrying a frying pan containing a pancake, which must be tossed an agreed number of times during the race.

You need:

- ☑ A suitable venue such as a school playground, a playing-field or section of the local park. Anywhere where you can mark a course out that's about 100m long.
- ☑ Some course markers - rope or bunting to hold back the cheering crowds!
- ☑ Markers to show racers when they must toss their pancakes. Flags or painted traffic cones are good for this (3 tosses in 100 m is probably about right).
- ☑ A finish line - tape or bunting.
- ☑ A number of frying pans - beg or borrow - or ask people to bring their own
- ☑ Some pancakes - make plenty as in the cut-throat world of competitive racing tragic pancake accidents happen!

Charge contestants a small fee to enter and have plenty of your fundraising crew around with collecting tins, raffle tickets etc.

# IDEAS FOR MARCH 2015

**Spring is all about new beginnings, so why not try some fundraising ideas with a difference this March?**

## **International Women's Day – 8th**

International Women's Day - Women's rights have improved a lot over the past century, but still not enough and not everywhere. Here at the Gingerbread Centre we believe women should be able to live equally and have all the opportunities to achieve what they want. Why not help us raise awareness of the work the Gingerbread Centre do for the disadvantaged women in Staffordshire

## **British Pie Week - 2nd to 8th**

The standard for British cooking is high. And the proof is in the pie! Why not organise a pie competition with an entry fee, organise an auction for the winning pie and top it off with a raffle. Alternatively why not organise a pie eating contest, get a prize from a local business and charge people to enter.

## **Quote quiz**

Collect as many quotes from movies or song lyrics or advertisements you can, and test the trivia knowledge of friends and family. Charge entry to the quiz, with a prize for the winner.

## **A Pamper party**

Host an evening of indulgence for you and your friends. Slap on the facemasks, get the nails painted and enjoy a foot spa. Oh, and don't forget the chocolate! Ask for a donation to enjoy the pamper evening

## **St Patricks Day - 17th**

Host an Irish theme evening, with Irish music, Guinness, Irish stew. Or piggy back another St Patricks events and host a raffle, auction or sell food.

## **Go the Distance**

Get a school or club to cover a distance using pound coins. It could be a mile or it could be the length of a school hall or playing field. Whatever the distance covered, big money will be raised- money which will go a long way to help homeless families

# IDEAS FOR APRIL

**April is full of fantastic dates to create fundraising opportunities from!**

## **CRAZY DARES FOR APRIL FOOLS DAY!**

April fool's Day is an amazing time to pull off a stunt for some fundraising donations. Get people to donate on to your just giving fundraising page for something crazy or get a sponsorship form the Gingerbread fundraising team

## **Jazz Appreciation Month**

What a fantastic idea! A whole month dedicated to the celebration of jazz as something to treasure as part of our past, and present. This gives jazz-lovers a great excuse to participate in and organise jazz-related activities for the month, but it also gives them the chance to introduce this genre of music to those less familiar! The promotion of jazz will not only encourage people to appreciate the music but it is also a great way of joy and reducing tensions around the world. So why not ask or local pub or music venue if you can organise a jazz night or why don't or busk

## **Car Booty**

Selling all the junk that you don't need and going along to a car boot sale. There's an abundance of car boots taking place this time of year so cash in on this and make the most of your fundraising. Raid the roof-space, your room... Even ask neighbours on your street by writing a letter letting them know what you are doing for the Gingerbread Centre.

## **The Grand National**

Why don't you create your own sweepstake for the greatest jump race on the planet. There's 40 horses running— so you can project to fundraise £200 if you sell a strip for £5 each. See if you can get a donated prize for the winner— maybe a bottle of champagne or some chocolates!

## **EASTER EASTER EASTER!**

Easter is such a good time to fundraise! See if you can organise a pub quiz, an Easter fete or even doing some Easter errands for the local community.

## **How Many Easter Eggs in the Jar?**

Fill a jar with small candy eggs. Charge people to guess how many. Closest guess wins. Ask as many people as possible, the winner gets the jar of eggs and you get a warm fuzzy felling from donating to a great cause.

## **Make and Bake sale**

Employees make Easter cakes and biscuits (Hot-cross buns, simnel cake, chick-shaped biscuits, and carrot cake and sell them off for a suggested donation

# IDEAS FOR MAY

The month of May is jam packed of ideas to raise money for the Gingerbread centre.

## Eurovision Song Contest

Get into the spirit of the bizarre and brilliant Eurovision Song Contest by holding a karaoke competition, sponsoring workmates, friends and family to sing a tune of your choosing. Or how about having a sweepstake or asking people to donate their leftover euros from trips abroad? Or if you fancy doing something bigger, organise a Eurovision song contest party. Sample the food, drink and music of another country for an evening. Go French with some vin and fromage. Or maybe Italian with some pizza and pasta. Or if you're feeling really daring, discover the delicacies of a more exotic land.

## Job swap

Sponsor your manager to work in reception. Or how about auctioning off the boss's job for a day? People are sure to pay good money to enjoy the perks that come with being numero uno in the workplace.

## Spring cleaning

Sell Your Hours! Promote that you will do peoples chores for a donation. Anything from car washing to ironing clothes can be done for a nice donation. What is more, make sure you rope in any of those friends who can donate their time! Make a Facebook campaign or do a quick leaflet blast around your local Neighbourhood.

## Dress down day

People will pay top dollar not to have to wear their usual work clothes or uniform. They'll probably pay even more if they can wear the top of their favourite sports team or some kind of fancy dress. Have someone collect the donations and The Gingerbread Centre would be delighted to collect to money.

## National Vegetarian Week 18<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>

Can you give up meat for a whole week, even the Bacon Butty? Get your friends to sponsor you and give the proceeds to The Gingerbread Centre.

## English Wine Week 25 May - 2 June

A glass or two from a lovely bottle of wine can put the special touch to an evening with friends or family in the house or at a nice restaurant.

White, red, dry or sweet there's sure to be the perfect taste somewhere in those English wines to suit every fan out there - now's the time to find yours! Why not organise a wine and cheese evening with friends and ask for a donation to the party, or a wine tasting evening and charge an entry fee.

# IDEAS FOR JUNE

**June marks the start of summer – so why not get together in the Great British outdoors for some fun in the sun?**

## **And they're off!**

Get into the spirit for a month jam-packed with major sporting events by organising your own sweepstake with friends and colleagues. Take your pick from Wimbledon, the US Open or Royal Ascot, then just ask for £1 each to enter and donate half the proceeds to the Gingerbread Centre

## **Take a baked bean bath**

Get sponsored to take the plunge in a bath full of beans. Onlookers and supporters can also pay £1 to top up the bath with a can of beans over your head. To help get the cash flowing in, we recommend you use our super-duper sponsorship forms. Just contact our fundraising team and they'll pop some in the post for you.

## **Create an Apprentice Style Challenge**

You can do this amongst friends and to whatever amount you want, but you could give 10 friends £10 and 1 week to create as much money as possible with it. They have to guarantee a £10 return (so even if their idea flops you won't lose money!) The profit raised can go to supporting the Gingerbread Centre and you have fun! [www.justgiving.com](http://www.justgiving.com). It's a really easy way for people to sponsor you and add Gift Aid to their sponsorship.

## **Organise a local craft fair**

Sell handmade goods: home-baked cakes and pastries, jams, preserves and pickles, basket weaving, knitwear, tie dyeing and screen printing... to name quite a few.

## **National BBQ Week 28<sup>th</sup> May – 3<sup>rd</sup> June**

What a great way to celebrate the warmer days and lighter evenings with some al fresco dining! Most people will stick to chicken, burgers and sausages, but this is the time to be experimental! Seafood is great on the barbie wrapped in foils and covered with herbs and lemon juice to make them extra delicious. Let's not forget the dessert options too. How about barbecued pineapple or bananas with a huge dollop of ice cream! Then once you've got all your food sorted out remember to sort out drinks: a jug of sangria or Pimms and some non-alcoholic tropical drinks should do the trick!

All you need next is to plan a garden party, grab some friends and finally the most important aspect - the sun! ask for a donation to support homeless families.