

# Guild Project Ideas

Looking for a guild project idea? Consider these:

## Oscar Party

Throw an Oscar party! Make it a potluck or have guild members do the cooking. Other members could offer services like manicures and hairstyling for the evening. Charge a small fee and donate the proceeds to Children's. When guests arrive, provide them with an Oscar ballot. Collect a donation for each entry, with the winner keeping half of the pot; the other half is a donation to Children's Hospital. Get really creative and have attendees dress up as their favorite actor or actress and take Polaroid photos of each guest arriving. Display the photos and ask guests to guess who's who.

## Consignment Night

One person's thrift is another person's treasure! Invite guild members to a spring cleaning event. Members go through their closets and get rid of clothes, household items, toys and jewelry that they aren't wearing or using. Each guild member brings items with price tags to their next guild meeting or event. Proceeds benefit Children's. Remaining unsold items may be given to one of Children's Hospital thrift stores.

## Martini/Margarita Party

Host a party with different types of margaritas or martinis. Each guild member brings one small auction item, and a few guild members bring larger raffle items. Have tear tickets available for drinks and raffles (two separate tickets). Raise money from ticket sales, the auction and raffle proceeds.

## Non-Event

A non-event is a new concept in fundraising. Instead of taking months to plan a gala, auction or other event, invite friends to donate what they would have contributed to participate at or attend an event. Send invitations for a non-event to friends, family and neighbors with no date or location for the event! Guests RSVP with a donation in a return envelope provided.

## No-Bake Sale

Send out pretty invites with a teapot theme, including a bag of tea. Invite guests to put up their feet, enjoy a cup of tea and not bake a thing! Include a return envelope asking for a donation.

## Dinner Party

Host a dinner party for friends and ask each couple to write a check to Children's Hospital for the amount it would have cost them to go out for dinner.

## Restaurant Takeover

Join with a neighborhood restaurant or local store to take over the establishment. The guild guarantees a number of customers by preselling tickets or reservations, and a portion of proceeds or gratuities are donated to Children's Hospital.

## Wine Tasting

This event can be held at a winery, restaurant or in your home.

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- Invite local wine representatives or winemakers to come and share the art of winemaking.
- Ask winemakers to offer discounts on wines and to give a portion of their proceeds to Children's Hospital.
- Guests will enjoy wonderful food and will contribute by paying an entrance fee as they would to any winery.
- Invite each person to bring a bottle of wine in a brown paper bag. Guests then bid on the secret bottle of wine. A list of wines can also be provided to see what wines are being offered up for bid.
- Instead of Raise the Paddle, invite guests to Raise their Glass for Children's Hospital. Guests make a tax-deductible donation to Children's Hospital at different dollar levels.
- Invite a guest speaker to enjoy the festivities and speak about Children's Hospital.

## Cocktail Party

Invite friends to a one-of-a-kind party destination such as a local celebrity's home, Presidential Suite of a hotel or tour of a "hard to get into" place, etc. Everyone loves new experiences and once-in-a-lifetime opportunities. Guests can have a great time and feel they really get something back in return for their donation.

## Enhance your Current Project

- **Raffle Baskets** – Add a themed basket or holiday decoration for a raffle.
- **“Donation from the Heart”** – Include a Raise the Paddle event. In return, donors receive handmade ceramic hearts made by members' children.
- **Treasure Chest** – Sell \$25 raffle tickets for a mystery prize in a treasure chest. The person with the winning ticket opens the treasure box with a key and receives the gift inside. The prize could be a donated gift certificate for a restaurant, spa or hotel.
- **Centerpieces** – Centerpieces are not just for display! Sell or auction them to guests to raise additional funds.
- **Split the pot** – Sell raffle tickets for \$25, and split the money between the winner and Children's Hospital.

## Auction Ideas

If your guild is planning an auction, add a new twist while raising more money for Children's Hospital!

- **Centerpiece Auction** – Each table has a guest assigned to be an auctioneer. Give auctioneers a time frame to have a "mini-live" auction at their table to raise the bidding on the centerpiece. The table that raises the most dollars for their centerpiece wins a prize or special recognition.
- **Table Decoration Contest** – Each guild member is in charge of creating a theme, decorating a table and providing a centerpiece for that table. Centerpieces can be auctioned or raffled. This idea gives any event a great new look and sparks conversation — a wonderful way for members to spread the word about your guild and Children's Hospital!

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- **Restaurant Frenzy** – You and your guild procure 10 to 15 gift certificates from different restaurants. Instead of putting them in the silent auction, have a live “bidding frenzy” — the auctioneer sells each certificate at face value, and whoever puts their bid paddle or hand up first wins the certificate. This guarantees you sell the certificates at value and is a great way to get the crowd going!
- **Dessert Auction** – Why not tempt your guests’ palates with a dessert auction? Present a variety of desserts, equal to the total number of tables, on a display table. Ask each attendee to bid on a dessert for their table to enjoy after the meal. The table with the highest bid gets first choice at the dessert table. Desserts can range from the elegant to Twinkies — make it a competition to see who gets the best treat!

## Seasonal Events All Year Round

There is always a time of year for fundraising. Here are some suggestions for every month:

- **Super Bowl Party** – Each guest donates \$5 at the door. At the end of the game, draw names. Give the winner half the pot and send the other half to Children’s Hospital.
- **Undecorate Christmas Trees in January** – Charge a set price for the services of removing decorations from Christmas trees and removing trees from people’s houses.
- **Share Your Heart on Valentine’s Day** – Sell heart candies or cookies or decorate and sell Valentine’s cards.
- **Flower Sale** – Sell single flowers or bouquets at a large corporation. Sell flowers and cards to Children’s Hospital employees. Deliver on Valentine’s Day or May Day.
- **St. Patrick’s Day** – Sell green teddy bears or lucky clovers.
- **Easter Egg Sale** – Decorate Easter eggs and sell them to other members at a guild meeting or in the community.
- **Time for Spring Cleaning** – Have a rummage sale of goods your guild has collected.
- **Chocolate Sunday** – Pick a special place or business and sell donated chocolate desserts. Make it an event — include a silent auction or a fashion show and charge an entrance fee.
- **Christmas Yard Sale in July** – A great time to sell holiday items your guild has collected, before the holidays begin!
- **“Fun Run,” Walkathon or Bike Ride** – Ask neighbors and friends to make a pledge.
- **Fun with Kids** – Encourage your kids to do yard work, walk pets or manage a lemonade stand to raise money for Children’s Hospital.
- **Back to School Garage Sale** – Sell your children’s gently used clothing and toys.
- **Murder Mystery Party** – This is an easy game you can find at your local toy store or bookstore.
- **Oktoberfest** – Work with a local brewery and invite friends and family to celebrate. This is a fun annual fall event for couples’ guilds.
- **Gift Wrapping** – Wrap gifts at your local mall or bookstore. Charge a set price.
- **Light Hanging** – Offer the service of hanging Christmas lights.

## **Guild Project Ideas**

- **All-Guild Holiday Bazaar** – Call the Guild Association for dates in November.
- **Decorate Christmas Trees** – Sell decorated trees at a local auction during the holidays.
- **Ornament Exchange** – Ask everyone to bring an ornament to be sold or auctioned.
- **New Year's Eve Cocktail Party** – Start the year off right by doing a small fundraiser at your next New Year's party.