

Your fundraising journey starts here



**Your guide to
fundraising for
The Yard**



@theyardscotland

www.theyardscotland.org.uk/fundraising

Thank you for supporting The Yard

Every pound you raise helps us create safe, inclusive spaces where disabled children and young people can play, learn, and connect.

Hello – I'm Celine Sinclair, CEO of The Yard.

I want to personally thank you for being part of our journey. Since we first opened our doors, The Yard has been a place where families feel supported, children are free to be themselves, and lifelong friendships are made, but none of this would be possible without people like you.

Your support means we can continue to grow, reaching more families across Scotland with our unique blend of adventure play, care, and community. It helps us provide vital services, expand to new locations, and ensure every child who needs us has a place to belong.

Every pound you raise helps create life-changing opportunities for disabled children and young people at The Yard. Whatever activity you choose, you're making a huge difference

Thank you for standing with us.

Celine



We're here for you

We're here to support you as you fundraise. Every step of the way.

This guide is packed with useful tools, ideas, and inspiration, we hope you find it helpful.

If you need support, you can reach out to our fundraising team for advice and tips to help you reach your target.

Email:
fundraising@theyardscotland.org.uk
Call us: 0131 476 4506

Thank you for being part of #TeamYard!



About The Yard

There is quite literally nowhere else like The Yard in Scotland.

The Yard is a Scottish charity founded in 1986 to create a space for disabled children, young people, and their families to play, connect, and grow together.

While adventure play is at the heart of what we do, The Yard's impact goes far beyond play. We provide essential family support, respite, school services, and community-building opportunities through our centres in Edinburgh, Dundee, and Fife.

Each centre is a welcoming hub where families not only find practical support but a sense of belonging. Through play, guidance, and shared experiences, we create a community that celebrates each child's individuality and offers a foundation for families to thrive together.

The Yard has brought happiness back into my family. Words can't describe how nice it is to go somewhere and to not have anyone stare at you and your child. I feel like The Yard is my whole families lifeline, if we didn't have it we would be lost.

- Parent

Play is at the heart of everything we do

Every child deserves a space where they can experience the joy of play. We do this through:

Early Years Sessions

Play sessions for children aged 0-5 and their families.

Family Play Sessions

Inclusive, welcoming spaces where children aged 0-18 can play and connect.

Kinship Service

Dedicated support for kinship carers and their families.

School Sessions

Play sessions tailored for students from special schools, support bases, and mainstream schools.

Youth Groups

A place for young people to build friendships, gain life skills, and grow in confidence.

We're here for families every step of the way. That's why we offer:

Family Support

Support, advice and guidance to every family that comes to The Yard for as long as they need it.

Training & Awareness

Helping families and professionals build understanding and create truly inclusive spaces.

Outreach & Advocacy

Extending our support beyond our centres with respite services, advice, and ongoing guidance.

EDAN Hub

Offering workshops, professional guidance, and resources for Edinburgh families navigating disability and neurodivergence.



Inclusive Play

Stronger Families

Where your money goes

£96

could cover a family's membership for a full year.

Opening the doors to our centres across Scotland and giving families access to every service we offer.

could buy a heated massage chair.

Providing comfort and therapy for children with complex needs.

£192

could help pay our family workers for 20 hours of support.

Thanks to you our family workers can offer advice, resources, and a listening ear making sure every family feels supported.

£300

could fund an inclusive family event at one of our centres.

This could be a Christmas party or summer fair, giving families a chance to come together, have fun, and make special memories.

£1,000

could fund a youth club for a whole year.

A safe, welcoming space where young people can build friendships, gain confidence, and develop life skills.

£5,000

Do something amazing like Milo

Milo Trainor Moss, a primary school teacher from Edinburgh, lives with a brain injury and epilepsy. Despite his health challenges, Milo cycled 1,000 miles across northern Europe to raise funds for The Yard.

Milo explains:

"I've known about The Yard for years, but since becoming a teacher, their work has become even more meaningful to me. Despite my health challenges, it was about getting on with it and powering through. Arriving back at The Yard reminded me of how amazing it is."

Milo initially set out to raise £1,000, but thanks to the generosity of his supporters he raised **over £1,700** for The Yard.



“

**I will cycle 500 miles,
and I will cycle 500 more,
to raise money for The Yard!**

First things first

Looking for inspiration? Follow our top tips and get your fundraising off to a flying start.

1

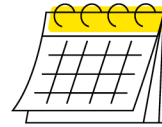
Decide on your fundraising event



The first step is decide what you want to do. You can use our A-Z but if you're still stuck for inspiration, do something you love! Think about what you enjoy, what you're good at and what you're passionate about. Don't forget to check out our challenge events on our website!

2

Set a date and venue



How much time do you need to organise or train for your event? Keep this in mind when fixing a date. What setting will work well for your event? Do you need permission? Consider number of attendees, facilities you may need (chairs/PA system), accessibility and price.

3

Register your event with us



Once you register your event with us we can send you free Yard merchandise and information to help with your event such as t-shirts, collection cans and buckets. If you haven't done so already please get in touch fundraising@theyardscotland.org.uk

4

Set a target



Online giving pages with a target raise 46% more – so it's worthwhile having a goal! Even if you're not fundraising online it will give people a reason to be generous – and also, keep you focused. We recommend **JustGiving**.

5

Shout all about it



Tell as many people as you can about your plans. Social media can be your best friend during your fundraising. Remember to tag **@TheYardScotland**, and don't forget to share photos after your event (20% of donations come in after an event has taken place!).

6

Don't forget Gift Aid

giftaid it

If your sponsors are UK taxpayers, make sure they tick the Gift Aid box when donating. 25% will be added to their donation at no extra cost to them! But remember – events where tickets are purchased ahead of time (like a raffle or tombola) aren't eligible for Gift Aid.

Meet Toby

5-year-old Toby is creative, full of energy, and always up for a bit of nonsense, but when he was 18 months old, his parents, Megan and Ian, started to worry. His speech wasn't developing, and everyday situations seemed overwhelming for him. People reassured them, saying, "He's a COVID child," or, "He'll catch up." but Megan knew he needed more support. They paid for private speech therapy and kept searching for answers.

When Megan met another mum who introduced her to The Yard, it was a huge turning point for the family. At their first visit, Toby pushed another child, and Megan rushed to apologise. The other mum simply smiled and said, "We don't apologise for our kids here." In that moment, the weight lifted. They had found their place.

Two years on, The Yard has become so much more than just a place to play. It has given them a community, a support system, and a space where Toby is truly accepted. "When we are there, it's the only time I stop worrying," says Megan. "We've found incredible friends, learned so much, and been supported beyond words. Most importantly, we've watched our children laugh, smile, and grow in confidence."



"I like The Yard, it is happy"

- Toby

Did you know?



Many disabled children and their families are excluded from local play spaces due to accessibility issues, lack of understanding of their needs, negative public attitudes, and limited play opportunities.



1 in 3

families with disabled children face extra costs of £300+ per month just to meet basic needs.



18%

of disabled children experience depression due to a lack of inclusive opportunities.

Fundraising A - Z

Raising money for charity can feel daunting, but there are lots of ways to get involved. Here are some ideas to get you started.

A

Afternoon tea



Who doesn't love a good cuppa! Invite friends and family to your house or local venue for an afternoon tea party. Guests can make a donation to attend!

B

Bake sale

Dust off your aprons and leave your friends, family and colleagues on a sugar high!



Coffee morning

Give people something they already love! People are more likely to chip in for something they enjoy – and who doesn't love a morning coffee? And cake, there should always be cake!

C

Dry for a month

Get sponsored to give up alcohol or something else of your choice for the month!

D

F

Film night



Host a movie night! Set up a projector at a venue or keep it cosy at home. Pick a theme, classic favorites, a blockbuster series, or your fave feel-good film and charge for entry. Don't forget to sell popcorn and snacks!

G

Game night

Swap movies for multiplayer mayhem! Fire up the console or dust off your board games. You can either charge for entrance or charge a fee per game, don't forget to sell snacks and drinks!

E

Expert skills

Are you a star baker, a pro photographer, or a DIY whiz? Put your talents to work! Offer your skills to friends and family or teach others (for a fee of course!)

H

Hair-raising fun

Cut it, shave it, wax it, or grow it out. Set a goal, let people donate to decide your style, and make every strand count!



International feast

I

Pick a country—Italian, Indian, Mexican... and theme your food, decor, and music to match. Serve up delicious dishes, and bring in the funds!

Jean-ius cause

J

Have colleagues donate to ditch the dress code and rock their favourite jeans for a day.

Karaoke

K

Whether you're a superstar or strictly shower-singer material, grab the mic and belt it out for charity! Grab your friends and donate to get them up on stage.

Loose change

L

Save up your spare change for a month, you'll be amazed at how fast it adds up!



Match it

M

Many companies have schemes in place to match employees fundraising efforts. Ask your employer if they will match a portion or all of the funds you raise!

Nearly new sale

N

Have a clear out AND fundraiser! Gather your unwanted items of clothing or other household items and hold a jumble sale, donating the profits.

Office Olympics

Let the games begin! From speed typing to rubber band archery, set up fun office challenges and have colleagues pay to compete. Reward the winners with bragging rights or a small prize.

O

Quiz night

Q

Host a pub quiz! Ask your local pub if they will let you host it there for a night, come up with some quiz questions and suggest an entrance fee.

Raffle

R

Collect prizes and sell tickets for a raffle! You can ask local companies if they would consider donating items to raffle off.

Picnic

P

Pack a basket, grab a blanket, and host a picnic. Charge for entry or homemade treats, and enjoy a day of good food, fresh air, and fundraising!





Share!



The best way to get the word out about your fundraising and ask for donations is by creating an online giving page and sharing it on your socials. Just Giving pages are easy pages to set up and link directly to the charity, and an easy way to donate as well!



Tournament

Host a tournament of your choice! Football, tennis, eating, bowling, board games...whatever you think your family and friends will enjoy most!



Unwanted items

Great for January after Christmas! Get your friends, family and colleagues to donate their unwanted gifts and sell them in a fundraising sale!

Veggie or Vegan



Are you the ultimate meat eater? Try seeing if your friends and family will sponsor you to go vegetarian for the month. Too easy? Go vegan!



Wine tasting

Host a wine and cheese night, charge for entry and and sip your way to fundraising success.



X marks the spot



Plan a treasure hunt and let the adventure begin! Charge an entry fee, set up clues, and watch teams race to find the prize. Fun and fundraising in one!



Yes day

Get sponsored to agree to everything for a day, just hope your friends, family, and colleagues go easy on you!



Zip and Zoom

Get sponsored to take the ultimate adrenaline ride! Soar through the air on a zip wire and raise funds while you're at it—just don't forget to catch some Zzzs afterward!



If you would like any more fundraising ideas and tips, or have any questions or concerns about your fundraising please email fundraising@theyardscotland.org.uk

www.theyardscotland.org.uk



Keep it legal and safe

We know your fundraising will be a big success! To help, we've put together some guidelines to ensure that everything is safe, legal, and most importantly, fun!

If you have any questions, just email us on fundraising@theyardscotland.org.uk

Venues



- Ensure you have permission from the owner. If it's a public area you'll need to get permission from the local council and notify the police.
- Ensure the venue is safe, suitable for your event and it is accessible for all, such as adequate/accessible toilets.

Risk assessment



- Carry out a risk assessment to consider what measures you need to put in to place to look after people and property. If you need any help let us know - fundraising@theyardscotland.org.uk
- If you are serving or selling food or drink, please visit www.food.gov.uk for the guidelines you need to follow.

Insurance



- We strongly recommend checking you have adequate insurance (e.g. public liability insurance) if you need it.
- Check that any vendors that may be coming to your event and the venue itself all have public liability insurance.

First Aid



- Ensure you have adequate emergency and first aid procedures for your type of event. You may need a first aider present or at least a well-stocked first aid box.

Children



- Ensure children are supervised and have parental consent. Do not allow unsupervised children under 16 to collect money from the public.

Money matters



- Keep money, data and fundraising equipment in a lockable box.
- Take care of your personal security when carrying money, aim to always do this in pairs.

Claiming Gift Aid

giftaid it

- You can claim Gift Aid on your own donations however you cannot claim Gift Aid on behalf of other people
- If you're using a paper sponsorship form, make sure that your sponsor has ticked the Gift Aid box if they're eligible. They will also need to provide their full name, address and postcode
- For online donations, JustGiving will handle the Gift Aid automatically.





Our branding

Please use The Yard branded fundraising materials to promote your event. You can find some sponsorship sheets and a printable poster at the end of this pack. You will need to let us know first if you intend to use any of your own generated promotional material to make sure you are doing so correctly.

If you'd like to use our logo – please get in touch with **comms@theyardscotland.org.uk**. We can take you through how and where you can use it.

Be clear when creating posters and other materials that you're "fundraising in aid of The Yard" so that it's clear that your event/activity is volunteer-led, and not organised by The Yard directly.

Collecting money

If your fundraising method is using a collection box, we can provide you with these.

If you'll be on private property, you must get permission first. This includes places like train stations, shops and any privately owned land. If you'll be on the street or another public property, you'll need to check what licence is needed from your local authority.



What happens after?

First things first – take a moment to celebrate!

Thanks to you, more children and families will have a safe, welcoming place to play, explore, and be themselves.

You're amazing!

Once you've treated yourself to a well-earned rest, here's how to send in your funds.

When to send your money

All money raised should be sent to us within one month of your event, but you can send it over anytime before that deadline.

If you've fundraised online

If you used JustGiving or another online platform that sends donations directly to us, you don't need to do a thing! Your donation will come straight to The Yard, and you can get back to celebrating.

If you've used a different platform, drop us a message so we can check if we've received it.

Sending money by cheque

All cheques should be made payable to The Yard Scotland and sent to: The Yard, 22 Eyre Place Lane, Edinburgh, EH3 5EH

Please don't send cash through the post.

Sending money by bank transfer

You can also send us a bank transfer using the below details. Please let us know when you send across a transfer and add a reference so we can track your donation.

Royal Bank Of Scotland
Account no: 18896179
Sort Code: 83-06-08

Dont forget to:

Send your completed sponsorship forms. This means we can collect Gift Aid on your donations, making them go even further.







THANK YOU!

A huge thank you from everyone at The Yard.
Your fundraising will help fund the vital work we do
to support disabled children, young people and their
families. We are incredibly grateful.

#teamyard
theyardscotland.org.uk
fundraising@theyardscotland.org.uk

 @theyardscotland
 @theyardscotland



Sponsorship Form

I'm fundraising for The Yard. Please sponsor me to support disabled children, young people and their families in Scotland.

Event name

Event date:

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Email:

Add 25% to your fundraising without paying a penny more. Help us maximise your fundraising by asking your sponsors if they are eligible to Gift Aid their donations. All they need to do is tick the box to confirm that they wish to do so.

Full name	Address and post code (We need your home address to claim gift aid (please print))	Donation amount (£)	Date Collected	Gift Aid?* Please tick



Please tick the Gift Aid box to confirm that you are a UK taxpayer and would like The Yard Scotland to reclaim tax on the donations you have made in the last four years and any future gifts you make. If you pay less income tax and/or capital gains tax than the amount claimed on all your donations in that tax year it is your responsibility to pay any difference. If your circumstances change, such as your name, address or tax status then please notify us so that we can update our records

Full name	Address and post code (We need your home address to claim gift aid (please print))	Donation amount (£)	Date Collected	Gift Aid?* Please tick

Please return your form to: **fundraising@theyardscotland.org.uk**

* By ticking the box headed 'Gift Aid', I confirm I am a UK taxpayer and I would like The Yard to treat this donation (which is my own money, and doesn't include money from fundraising or collected from others) and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past four years as Gift Aid donations, until I notify you otherwise. I understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year, it is my responsibility to pay any difference. I also understand that The Yard will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give.

giftaid it

The Yard will use your data to enable the administration of sponsorship and the claiming of Gift Aid (where applicable). We will keep your data secure, and never sell or share it with other organisations. For full details on how we manage your data please see our Privacy Policy at www.theyardscotland.org.uk/privacy-policy/ or contact us at info@theyardscotland.org.uk

Full name	Address and post code (We need your home address to claim gift aid (please print))	Donation amount (£)	Date Collected	Gift Aid?*
				Please tick

Paying in your fundraising

Please collect all sponsorship forms together and send to - The Yard, 22 Eyre Place Lane, Edinburgh, EH3 5EH or email to - fundraising@theyardscotland.org.uk

Send us a cheque

Please make cheques payable to Scotland Yard Adventure Centre and send to the above address.

Bank transfer

Royal Bank Of Scotland

Account no: 18896179

Sort Code: 83-06-08

Please use your name as the reference

The Yard will use your data to enable the administration of sponsorship and the claiming of Gift Aid (where applicable). We will keep your data secure, and never sell or share it with other organisations. For full details on how we manage your data please see our Privacy Policy at www.theyardscotland.org.uk/privacy-policy/ or contact us at info@theyardscotland.org.uk