Business Donation Request Fundraiser Source List

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Recommended Auction Resources

How To Get More Business Donations & Raise More Money

Many national companies prefer to use a single point of contact to help streamline their donation request fulfillment process. Clearinghouses fulfill this function by helping match schools and nonprofit organizations with businesses that want to help.

Most clearinghouses offer both a free service platform and a paid one. My suggestion is to try the free platform and see if you like it.

If you do, then it’s well worth the extra fee to use the paid platform. Why? Because it provides even more business donation matches for your group and therefore helps you raise a lot more money.

The best one - and the easiest to use - is called Donation Match.

**Donation Match** - Find hundreds of donated items for fundraising auctions, raffles, gift bags, or giveaways with just a few clicks. Use their custom application to reach multiple companies and brands who value your event audiences, all in one place. This is as easy peasy at it gets!

**Bidding For Good** – Primarily does online auctions for nonprofit groups, but also has donated items from businesses that they can add to your auction. This is an easy way to raise money online as long as you have enough active supporters willing to make enough bids online.

**Good360** – This is a good source for surplus products from businesses. NOTE: These product donations cannot be auctioned off to raise funds. These products also cannot be sold, traded or bartered or be given as gifts to volunteers or sold in thrift shops. All product donations MUST be given to the needy, ill, and youth that you serve in your community. Groups must also pay administrative fees and shipping charges.

**Red Apple Auctions** – Sherry Truhlar is a professional benefit auctioneer who offers some great “how to” training on easy ways to double or triple the results from both your live auction and your silent auction.

At a minimum, you should get on her email list to receive all her latest tips. Sherry also offers some great training – available online or delivered on DVDs – that provide profitable advice on all aspects of auction fundraising.
Want to raise more money at your next fundraising auction? These charity benefit auction training courses provide everything you’ll need to double or triple your auction results.

Whether you are an auction novice or an experienced veteran, these 12 training courses created by charity benefit expert and professional auctioneer Sherry Truhlar deliver the goods.

They are packed with extra profit tips and best practice examples drawn from hundreds of charity auctions across the country. The auction training course topics are:

- Easy First Auctions
- Simple Auction Checkout
- Silent Auction Marketing Savvy
- Volunteer Management
- Cool Class Projects
- Creative School Auction Themes, Centerpieces, and Décor
- Lucrative Live Auctions
- Fabulous Fund a Need Secrets
- Games for Auctions
- Marketing Your Auction
- Rockin’ Raffles for Auctions
- Sold out Event Sponsorships

Each auction training course includes a live webinar where you can ask questions, training DVDs shipped directly to you, plus all the accompanying training materials, worksheets, spreadsheets, and documents. Everything in these courses is geared toward showing you exactly what to do to double or triple your previous auction results.

**About Sherry Truhlar:**
Benefit auctioneer Sherry Truhlar's entertaining stories and advice are often picked up by publications (e.g. Town & Country, The Washington Post Magazine, AUCTIONEER, The Eleusis, The Virginia Auctioneer) and television (e.g. E! Style, TLC) where she inspires and teaches volunteers how to hit new fundraising records in their auction galas.

She is thought to be the only auctioneer who has achieved a Certified Meeting Professional (CMP) designation and is also a graduate of the Certified Auctioneers Institute (CAI). She holds a professional certificate in event management from George Washington University, the Benefit Auctioneer Specialist (BAS) designation from the National Auctioneers Association, an MA degree from the University of Wollongong (Australia), and BA and BS degrees from Emporia State University.

**Auction Success - Training Courses**

**Easy First Auctions** - How to profitably launch a benefit auction that avoids volunteer burnout. Ticket pricing strategies, and easy procurement approaches for first-year events. Identify areas to reduce or eliminate auction expenses, and learn where to splurge. Samples of donation forms, committee structures, volunteer roles appropriate for “start-up” auctions, and sample timelines from three different styles of events.

**Creative School Auction Themes, Centerpieces, and Décor** - Simple to sophisticated designs, ideas, & activities that make ANY size auction memorable and profitable. From the nation’s most popular themes to the easiest to produce ... from the most clever to the most underused. Also included will be the secrets that make your table decor and centerpieces PROFIT activities.

**Silent Auction Marketing Savvy** – Covers important topics such as how many items should you have, the ideal bidding increment, how to integrate mobile bidding, how to use auction software to raise more money, the best way to write item descriptions, how to slip incremental gains into your silent auction to garner a few hundred to a few thousand extra dollars, and many more marketing tips.

**Cool Class Projects** - 100+ kid-created items that sell for top dollar in benefit auctions – Learn how schools (and some forward-thinking nonprofits) use children to create items that sell for big bucks. For older kids - 6th, 7th, and 8th grade - Sherry shows projects ideal for their age. These are truly masterpieces! And these are the kinds of projects that parents buy for big bucks.

**Simple Auction Checkout** - How to run a manual auction checkout. Whether or not you own software, flawless checkout REQUIRES organization. Learn how to run your checkout by looking at real-life registration and checkout teams in action. Supplemental materials abound — including a bid sheet that tallies bid increments for you.

**Volunteer Management** - Recruiting, inspiring, and efficiently working with auction volunteers. Where to find volunteers, how to ask for help in ways that inspires others to commit, job descriptions, how to run efficient meetings, plus tips on organizing your volunteers. I’ll share the strategies I’ve seen employed by some of the most well-organized auction galas.
Games for Auctions - Income-boosting activities that involve guests or freshen up tired events. Learn 15+ activities incorporated into auctions large and small that get guests involved ... and these are guests who might not otherwise donate! Do you have a tony event? Not all games are “low end.” Discover some higher-priced activities appropriate for upscale events that pay off big-time!

Sold out Event Sponsorships - Using creative benefits and outside-the-box strategies to close sponsorship deals. Old school sponsorships versus new school approach, plus how to identify, locate, and meet new sponsors. How to make your website “sponsorship ready” so companies are naturally attracted to your event. How to be prepared for your sponsorship meeting and how to WOW them!

Marketing Your Auction - Implementing your online strategy (e.g. email, social media, websites, etc.) to drive revenue event-wide. Sell more tickets, raffles, sponsorships, raise bids and more! The best ways to promote your event, items, and offers. Why not knowing how to promote an auction is the #1 problem with most nonprofit auctions. Successful auction marketing campaigns that you can copy.

Lucrative Live Auctions - A from-the-trenches guide to better vocal auctions. What to sell in a live auction (top 5 categories). Procurement tips, the right number of items for your live auction, how to improve bidder interaction, the right time to hold your live auction, and getting guests (even loud ones) to pay attention and bid. Plus, how to market the live items for maximum sales.

Fabulous Fund A Need Secrets - How to double your benefit auction revenues in 15 minutes. Fund a Needs, aka Paddle Raises, are virtually a “must” at today’s galas, oftentimes raising more money than the auction itself. Learn how to inspire giving through the latest techniques using this tool. My formula for writing a compelling “ask” plus psychological trigger phrases to flip on your guests’ “must donate” switch.

Rockin’ Raffles for Auctions - How to select, structure, and sell the most profitable raffles for your gala for the least amount of work. If raffles are legal in your city, offer one! It can attract donors unlikely to give in other ways. However, you’ll want to select and price your raffle so it’s easy to oversee. Plus, you’ll receive my four Raffle Boosters™ that help you sell more tickets, more easily, for more money.
Fundraising Auction Donation Sources

This is an extensive list of sources for fundraising auction donations from national or regional companies with links to the online donation request information for each business. These donation sources provide items ranging from $25 gift cards all the way up to cruise ship vacations.

This list will save you hours of time compared to finding all these fundraising auction item sources on your own. When requesting items for your charity auction, be prepared to provide your non-profit 501(c)(3) number.

You should request item donations at least six weeks ahead of time, but some businesses want to hear from you at least 90 days before your event.

Many companies also limit their donations in various ways, so it's best to apply as early as possible. Links are to each company’s donation page.

Remember that when requesting any kind of donation, you should always explain "what's in it for them".

For the company, this would mean explaining the publicity & promotional opportunities their donation provides, the demographics of your event, estimated attendance, amounts raised in previous years, and how the funds that are raised this year will be used.

Donations From Pro Sports Teams

**Major League Baseball** (MLB) - Select your local team, click on "Community" tab, then select "Fundraising & Giving", then select "In-Kind Donation Requests".

**National Basketball Association** (NBA) - Select your local team, click on "Community" tab, then click on "Donation Requests".

**National Football League** (NFL) - Pick your team from the logo list across the top, then click on the "Community" tab, then click on "Donations", then select "Merchandise".

**National Hockey League** (NHL) - Select your local hockey team, click on "Community" tab, then click on "Donations".

**Fundraising Note**: Most pro sports teams also provide non-profit groups some nice fundraising opportunities on game days through working the concession stands or by serving as vendor salespeople in the stands.
Donations from Airlines

AirTran - Donation request link. AirTran certificates are valid only on AirTran-operated flights (not Southwest flights).
JetBlue - JetBlue proudly supports non-profit organizations in the cities that we serve.
Hawaiian Airlines - Send raffle prize or auction donation request via US mail or fax.
KLM Airways - KLM sponsors projects which are related to art & culture, environment and education.
Southwest Airlines - Very narrow charity focus. No schools. See list of qualifying organizations.
US AIR - Limited to non-profit groups in or around their hub cities of Charlotte, Philadelphia, Phoenix, or Washington D.C.

Donations From Grocery Stores & Convenience Stores

Albertsons - Focuses primarily on hunger relief, youth & education, and organizations with whom they have established partnerships.
Casey’s General Store - Provides food, coupons or gift certificates. Supports non-profit groups in communities where they have stores (14 states).
Kroger - Assists local non-profit organizations, schools and churches working in their focus areas.
Publix - Focus areas: youth, education - specifically literacy, and the plight of the homeless and hungry.
Stop & Shop - Focus areas: Healthy living, hunger relief, and kids (K-12).
SuperValu - Focuses on communities with their stores, hunger relief, health, environment.
Whole Foods - Focuses on communities with their stores, hunger relief, and holds 5% Days to support local nonprofit or educational organizations.

Donations From Retail Clothing Stores

American Eagle - Donates a limited number of $25 gift cards to high school and college sponsored events.
Dick's Sporting Goods - DICK’S Sporting Goods Community Program supports thousands of youth sports and outdoor recreation organizations in communities surrounding our stores.
Gander Mountain - Supports non-profit organizations in communities where it does business. Written requests only.
J. Crew - Please direct all charitable inquiries to charitabledonations@jcrew.com. We always try our best to support good causes when we can but due to the volume of requests we receive, we cannot accommodate all of them.
Macy's & Bloomingdales - Offers the My Macy's District Grants Program and the My Macy's District Event Sponsorships Program.
L.L. Bean - Focuses on Conservation/Outdoor Recreation, Health & Human Services, Culture & Arts (Maine only), and Education (Maine only).
Lands End - Please send all questions or comments regarding donations or sponsorships to donate@landsend.com.
Sears/KMART - Our community support is focused on four areas: health, military, homes and education.

Donations From Toy Companies

American Girl - Focuses on assisting fundraisers benefiting children 12 and under.
Build A Bear - Donation priority given to schools and 501(c)(3) charities that help children, families and animals.

Donations From Restaurant Chains

Applebees - North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Oklahoma and Arkansas.
Applebees - For restaurants in California.
Ben & Jerry's - Provides several printable coupons good for a free pint of ice cream for your fundraiser event (schools and non-profits).
Benihana - Provides a restaurant gift certificate to a limited number of non-profit organizations.
Cheesecake Factory - Provides $25 gift cards to schools and non-profit organizations. Send your donation request letter to the attention of the General Manager at the restaurant closest to you.
Cracker Barrel - Donates gift cards to nonprofit groups for fundraising purposes. They have a list of criteria your request letter must include, then mail or drop off the request at your local Cracker Barrel.
Landry's Inc - Donates a $25 gift card to 501c(3) charities that benefit the local communities of our restaurants. Own's 40 different restaurant chains with 450 locations including Landry's Seafood, Chart House, Saltgrass Steak House, Bubba Gump Shrimp Co., Claim Jumper, Morton's Steakhouse, McCormick & Schmick's, Mastro's Restaurants and the Rainforest Cafe.
Olive Garden - Donates to charitable causes that benefit the community. Donation requests can be submitted in writing to the general manager of your local Olive Garden.
Panera Bread - Regularly makes in-kind donations to local community events and fundraisers.
Paradise Bakery & Café – $100 gift certificate for a dozen cookies per month for a year (AZ, CO, IN, MA, NE, TX, UT only).
P. F. Chang's - Supports charitable organizations in our restaurants’ local
communities. Contact the Operating Partner or any manager at your local P.F. Chang’s to inquire about charitable giving availability.

Starbucks - Has several different community service offerings.
Tim Hortons - Canada only. Offers donated products for charity events in communities where they operate.

**Donations From Retailers**

Barnes & Noble - Supports K-12 schools and not-for-profit arts and literacy organizations in the communities they serve.
BJ's Wholesale Club - Offers an in-kind donation of product(s) or gift cards to non-profit groups in communities they serve.
Black & Decker - Uses SponsorWise for submission of non-profit donation requests and sponsorship requests.
Books A Million - Donates books, games, or puzzles to support local schools, churches, organizations and charities in the communities they serve.
Brooks Brothers - Supports local non-profit organizations within the communities they serve.
Canvas On Demand - Donates a $100 gift certificate for fundraising auctions to 1,000 non-profit organizations each year.
Costco - Supports local non-profit groups with donated items in $25 to $50 range. Fill out form and take to your local store.
Home Depot - Local 501(c)(3) organizations should ask their store manager for a $25 off coupon.
JoAnn Fabrics - Donation requests from local non-profits focused on heart health, kid's health, arts and education.
Michaels - Supports 501(c)(3) organizations with a strong focus on families and children. Submit by email.
Minted.com - Supports non-profit organizations with gift certificates.
QVC - Submit your donation request by either mail or email.
Radio Shack - Submit your donation request or sponsorship request only through their online form.
REI - Supports some local nonprofit partners that focus on both environmental conservation and promoting active volunteerism.
Saks - Supports local nonprofits in the communities where they operate that focus on arts & culture, community outreach, education, health, diversity, and youth mentoring.
Sports Authority - Supports only 501(c)(3) organizations promoting health and fitness through sports activities. Submit donation request to donations@sportsauthority.com
Staples - Donates $25 We Care gift cards through store managers to local non-profit groups focused on education or job skills.
Total Wine - Donates auction items, raffle items, and offers wine discounts to local non-profit groups.
Walgreens - Local non-profit groups requesting auction items, merchandise or gift cards (not exceeding $20) should contact their Walgreen district office directly.

Product Donations

Benchmade Knives - Apply by mail for a product donation for your non-profit fundraising event.
Green Mountain Coffee - Donates coffee samples or Keurig coffee cartridges to schools and 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations for fundraisers.
Karen Foster Design - (Scrapbooking) - Donations are limited to one donation per 501(c)(3) organization per calendar year and only for events with 100+ participants.
Nike - Nike product donation request form.
Otter Box - Product donation request form for non-profits, schools, police, and fire departments only.
Pental - 401(c)(3) organizations may request a donation if their focus is education, arts, or health and human services.
Pink Calyx - Provides $50 Gift certificates for Facebook Likes. Any non-profit can like their FB page and receive an instant, printable $50 gift certificate.
Portrait Innovations - Schools and non-profit groups may email gift certificate donation requests to requests@portraitinnovations.com
Red Box - Fulfills 100 requests per month (provides 25 free movie rental coupon codes).
Stampin Up - Nonprofits send donation request with organization details, contact info, address, and how donation will be used to demos@stampinup.com
Tiny Prints - Schools and non-profit groups may request donations of $25 gift cards (sponsorship@tinyprints.com)
Think Fun - Fill out their donation request document and then submit by email.

Donations From Attractions

DisneyLand/DisneyWorld - Eligible 501(c)(3) nonprofits and public schools may submit donation requests for a standard gift of four (4) one-day Park Hopper® tickets to be used for fundraising purposes.
Sea World | Busch Gardens - Contact info for each theme park location to request tickets for fundraising auctions.
Six Flags - Donates two park passes to non-profit groups for fundraising. Request by mail only. Mailing addresses and details on linked page.
Triple Play Family Fun Park - Supports local non-profits in Idaho, Washington, Oregon and Montana.
Donations From Hotels

**Best Western** - Submit your donation request by email and be sure to provide the requested information.
**Fairmont Hotels** - Each hotel works with local non-profit groups in their community. See donation request directions on website.
**Hilton Hotels** - Hilton supports non-profit groups only in the communities they serve.
**Intercontinental Hotels** - Supports local charities in these three areas: environmental sustainability, creating local economic opportunity, or providing disaster relief.
**Marriott Hotels** - Submit local non-profit charitable contribution requests through their online form.

Donations From Rental Car Companies

**Budget Rent A Car** - Offers car rental vouchers to non-profit groups. Concentrates their philanthropic efforts on national organizations that serve the needs of the communities in which they operate.
**Enterprise Car Rental** - Does not donate vehicles or rentals. Gives back to the communities where their customers and employees live and work.
**Hertz** - Focuses on the communities they serve. Donates vehicles, no-cost rentals, volunteers, and grants.

Donations From Cruise Lines

**Carnival Cruise Lines** - Focuses on arts & culture, community affairs, education, and health & human services. Request an in-kind donation and list how much your auction raised in previous years.
**Hornblower Cruises** - Hornblower supports all the communities it calls home, providing dollars and donations for local charities and non-profit groups.
**Royal Caribbean** - Focuses solely on non-profit groups serving children & families, education, and marine conservation.

Food and Beverage Donations

**Dr Pepper/Snapple** - Use their online form for donation requests and sponsorship requests
**Emergen-C** - Provides sponsorship donations for fun, active, and exciting events.
**Hershey** - Provides grants and product donations to non-profits supporting kids and kids at risk.
**Jack Links Beef Jerky** - Provides product donations such as gift baskets. Uses Sponsorwise system for all donation requests.
**Nutiva** – Uses email for product donation requests for fundraising events. Often donates a Superfood Sampler Pack.

**Organic Valley Foods** - charitable giving program includes grants, cash and food donations, literature and silent auction kits.

Every company has different policies on which types of nonprofit groups they'll support and how to submit your donation request, so use the links to get all the details.

Some businesses will also let you use their donations for raffles while others prohibit using their donated item that way. So, pay attention to their terms & conditions.
Fundraiser Help Resources:

**Top 10 Silent Auction Items** - There are certain items that always bring in a lot of bids at any charity auction, so check out this list of auction tips for the best silent auction items that sell well.

**Silent Auction Request Letter** - If you’re doing a silent auction at your fundraising event, this sample silent auction request letter will help you get more items donated to raise money. Essentially, this is a modified donation request letter and follows that format or template while giving the business owner or decision maker all the necessary facts.

**How To Run A Silent Auction** - Silent auctions are a great way to raise money, but require a lot of coordinated effort. These tips for running a silent auction will help you procure more items, liven up your event, get everything setup right, make it run smoothly, and maximize your results.

**Auction Consignment Items** - A great way to raise more funds at your next charity auction event is to include consignment items in your live or silent auction. The major advantage is that you can raise more money without any risk because consignment items that don’t sell have no obligation for you to pay. You just ship them back. Meanwhile, the ones that do sell bring in roughly 50% profit and that’s with zero upfront expense.

**Silent Auction Ideas: Offer Vacation Rentals** - Looking for silent auction ideas that will add to your bottom line without any upfront cost? Offering vacation rentals at your silent auction will add thousands of dollars in extra profits with very little work on your part.

**Silent Auction Ideas: Offer Hot Air Balloon Rides** - If you’re looking for some good silent auction ideas, offering hot air balloon rides is an easy way to raise lots of money. The neat thing about it is that it won’t cost you anything to include several balloon rides in your silent auction because a company called Fundraising Rides handles everything, including the auction display and a compelling description that helps you get lots of bids.

**500 Silent Auction Basket Ideas** - If you are looking for some silent auction basket ideas, here are 500 concepts for basket themes and fun names for your auction baskets. Browse hundreds of auction basket ideas for men, teens, kids, teachers, fun nights and more.
Silent Auction Do’s & Don’ts - Putting together a great silent auction is hard work, but many groups make some simple mistakes that cost them a lot of lost revenue. Here are some silent auction ideas, i.e. Do’s & Don’ts, to help you maximize your fundraising success.

50 Fundraising Auction Tips - At charity events, the fundraising auction activity is what raises the most money. Here are 50 fundraising auction tips to help you raise more funds. The advice is for both live and silent auctions, plus how to blend them together for the best results.

Rules For Silent Auctions - These rules for silent auctions cover all the necessary legal clauses, bidder registration, item descriptions, the bidding process, and checkout procedures along with a few organizational tips.

Fundraiser Raffle vs Silent Auction - Many groups wonder whether a raffle fundraiser will raise more funds than a silent auction fundraiser offering the same items. Unsurprisingly, the answer is a qualified maybe because it depends on a wide variety of factors. Listed below are the factors you should consider when choosing between a raffle fundraiser and a silent auction.

Selecting A Professional Auctioneer - Many non-profit groups don’t use a professional auctioneer when doing a live auction and that’s a big mistake. Saving money by not using a professional to conduct your live auction is like saving money on gas by not driving your car.

Starting Bid vs Minimum Bid - Sometimes people get confused about two important auction terms, the starting bid versus the minimum bid. Auction terminology can be confusing, even for those who regularly help out with charity auctions, live auctions, silent auctions, etc. And who better to explain the difference than one of the top charity auctioneers in the country, Sherry Truhlar.

Purse Auction Fundraiser - A purse auction fundraiser is an easy way to raise funds as either a standalone event or as part of a larger gathering. There are several variations on the purse auction, but the basic premise is offering new or gently used purses through an auction format.

10 Ways To Sell More Event Tickets - When organizing a fundraising event, ticket sales can make or break your fundraiser. Here are 10 ways to sell more event tickets so you can raise more funds.