



Race to Zero Fundraising Guide

Every step moves us closer to ending sexual violence

ZCenter's annual Race to Zero is our signature family-friendly fundraiser that gives the greater community an opportunity to come together, support survivors' healing, increase awareness about sexual violence, and raise critical funds for ZCenter's essential programs.



Date: Sunday, September 20, 2026



Location: Independence Grove Forest Preserve, Libertyville



Time: 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM



Goal: Raise \$30K

Every Dollar Makes A Difference

Your fundraising efforts help provide free counseling, advocacy, crisis support, and prevention education for survivors of sexual violence throughout Lake and Northeastern Cook Counties. Together, we can create safer communities and ensure survivors have access to the support they need.

How Can Companies Support and Encourage Fundraising?

Whether you're a sponsor or simply participating as a team, there are many ways your organization can help maximize your impact.

- [Form a company team](#)
- Not local? Form a virtual fundraising team so employees everywhere can participate by walking, running, or completing a 5K in their own communities on race day.
- Set a team fundraising goal
 - ***Fundraising Tip:** Reaching a team goal of \$1,000 may be easier than you think. If each member of your team of 10 raises just \$100, you'll meet your goal. That's only 10 people giving \$10 each to every team member.*
 - ***Need help setting up your fundraising page?** Step-by-step instructions are available on RunSignup: [Create/Join a Fundraising Team](#)*
- Cover employees' race registration fees to encourage participation.
- Encourage company leaders to make an early donation or create a fundraising page.
- Encourage employees to donate the cost of their morning coffee.
- Create friendly competition between departments or office locations.
- Offer fun incentives, such as gift cards or a team lunch for the top fundraising teams.
- Invite employees' friends and family members to join the team.
- Celebrate fundraising milestones along the way.

Team Fundraising Ideas

Put the FUN in FUNdraising and get the whole team involved!

- Ask your employer to host a casual dress or jeans day (\$5-\$10 donation per participant).
- Host a bake sale or sell candy bars, popcorn, or other grab-and-go treats in the office.
- Hold an office raffle or prize drawing with a \$2 entry donation.
- Organize a lunch-and-learn with voluntary donations.
- Create a friendly department fundraising competition.
- Partner with a local restaurant for a give-back night.
- Host a chili cook-off, dessert contest or potluck with a suggested donation.
- Host an ice cream social with a suggested donation

Team Captain Tips

- ❖ Encourage every team member to create a personal fundraising page
- ❖ Set a team fundraising goal and celebrate milestones.
- ❖ Share a quick weekly fundraising update with your team.
- ❖ Lead by example and make the first donation to your fundraising page

Easy Ways Individual Participants Can Raise Funds

Getting started is easier than you think!

- Ask 10 friends or family members to donate \$10 or \$25.
- Share your personal fundraising page on social media each week.
- Send a personal email or text asking for support.
- Ask your employer if they offer a matching gift program.
- Include your fundraising link in your personal email signature.
- Celebrate a birthday or milestone by asking for donations instead of gifts.
- Thank each donor personally and share your progress along the way

Share your fundraising journey on social media. Tag ZCenter to help spread the word.



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Questions? Please feel free to contact LaKesha Lockett at llockett@zcenter.org or 847.244.1187 ext. 117.

**Thank you for helping us move one step closer to a future free from sexual violence.
We look forward to celebrating with you on Race Day!**