

**Kids Making a Difference!
Child friendly Fundraising Ideas**
by Stephanie Gregoretti

The last few weeks of summer, my 10 year old son, James, came to me and told me that he wanted to raise money to find a cure for his brother, Anthony. He decided he was going to make rubber band bracelets and sell them to our family for \$1.00 each. He enlisted the help of his brother, dad, and myself and started making bracelets right away. I was so proud of him and wanted to share his amazing idea with our SDS families so I posted it on the Facebook support page; before I knew it, everyone wanted a bracelet! I was shocked, and so were the boys! We were not expecting that kind of response. Something that started off so small became a huge success in just minutes. To date, they have raise \$198, and although they had to halt production due to settling back into school they are by no means done! They still have orders to fulfill and they will! Anthony shared the bracelet fundraiser idea with his teachers and everyone has donated to help find a cure for SDS. We are so blessed to have such support from our school.

The reason why I am sharing this is because my son inspired me to want to inspire other children to help make a difference. There are so many ways to empower our children and get them involved in fundraising. What my children have gained from this experience could never have been taught. The sense of accomplishment and feeling that they are making a difference is priceless.

Talk to your children and find out what interests them and start planning! Whether it is making bracelets, having a bake sale/ lemonade stand, or collecting bottles and cans for deposits, any activity will be helpful! Have them talk to their teachers/schools and see how they can get the community involved. Our school has a faculty *Casual Friday* and each month they pick a different cause to donate to in exchange to dress down. I am happy to report that SDSF was chosen as one of this year's charities! Ask your school's administration or Parents Association to hold a bake sale, blood drive, walk-a-thon, read-a-thon, Crazy Hat Day, or a carwash! The ideas are endless! How about asking coaches or club advisors to help plan a fundraiser? Don't forget about your local Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, they are willing to help and are always looking for a great cause!

These are just a few of the many ideas to get children involved in giving back and finding a cure! There is no greater lesson learned. If you need any help getting started feel free to contact me at stephanie@shwachman-diamond.org.

Thank you for your efforts!