When planning an event to benefit the National Kidney Foundation of Maryland, take some time to research what types of events are currently being planned. Be creative and focus on current trends to develop a unique attractive event. Listed are some ideas to get you thinking about what could work in your area, the sky is the limit – be creative and have fun!

**Art Show**
Hone in on your creative skills (or a loved one, maybe your kids or family!) and sell the items for a small donation price.

**Adult Prom**
Who doesn't like to dress up? Do you know people who haven't been to a high school reunion in a long time, if at all? Do you know adults who just want a reason to get all dressed up and have fun with friends? An adult prom could be the winning opportunity to raise funds to help the National Kidney Foundation of Maryland fight the cause for kidney disease.

**Tailgate to Tackle Kidney Disease**
Tailgate in support of the National Kidney Foundation of Maryland. Host it in the stadium parking lots, your living room, the bleachers, or at a favorite local spot.

**Karaoke Night**
Host a karaoke night at a local bar, a restaurant or, even better, your house. Attendees can donate to sing a song. Spice things up a little and have people donate to get their friends on (or off) the stage! For example, I would donate $5 to nominate Katie to sing. Katie doesn't want to sing, so she donates $10 to get “off the stage” (not to sing).

**Lunch on Us**
“Sell” box lunches to your friends, family, clients, etc. Send out an email to everyone letting them know that you'll deliver them a lunch for a $10 (or more) donation to the National Kidney Foundation of Maryland. You can decide on a certain day or hold the event for the entire week. Many restaurants and/or grocery stores will help you with reduced costs.

**Wii Tournament**
A great way to involve your kids! Host the tournament at your house or anywhere you think would be fun. Players would donate to enter the tournament. The winner could win a donated prize. You could have a tournament for each Wii game.

**Silent Auction Bake Sale**
You know who the awesome bakers are at your place of work. Ask them to donate their best item for the auction. This could be a cake, cookies, a pan of lasagna, a Mexican dish, BBQ sauce, etc. Let staff vote for a couple of days or a week. It’s fun to see how much people will donate for great food.

**Cookout for a Cause**
It’s a perfect time of year for a cookout party. Invite your friends and family over or plan a whole
neighborhood block party. Charge a small fee (for example $5-10 a person) to attend. Do you know people who could donate a couple of items? If so, have a raffle as well. Get a dunk tank and charge the players a small amount to throw. Play a game of croquet and ask them to donate $1 to play.

**Game Night with a Purpose**
Who doesn’t love games? Hold it at your home or work with your faith community, school, civic organization, etc. and host a card night. The attendees pay an “entrance fee” to play cards (or any game) for the evening with the proceeds going to the National Kidney Foundation of Maryland.

**Basket Bingo**
If you work with a fun crew, this one if for you. Collect donations to make prize baskets and host the event at a local hall or church. You can charge by the sheet and have a “bonus” card for a chance to win a fun prize or maybe make it a 50-50 to split between the winner and the charity.

**Baby Picture/ Cutest Pet Contest**
Have your managers/ department heads bring in a baby photo and have employees pay for each guess of which manager matches which baby picture. OR have your employees bring in pictures of their kids/ grandkids/ pets and put a jar in front of each one. People vote by putting in money and the one with the most money at the end of the week wins.

**Third Party Fundraiser Ideas Continued**

**Garage Sale at Home or on EBay**
Clean out your garage and host a yard sale in your area! Ask family, friends and/ or staff to donate items too! Be sure to post a sign that all proceeds will be donated to the National Kidney Foundation of Maryland - people’s willingness to buy will increase!

**Baking Contest**
Choose on item for everyone to bake (or have several categories) – lemon meringue pie, a decorated cake, chocolate chip cookies, bread - whatever people love in your area. Recruit several unbiased judges to decide a winner. Then sell all the items by the piece to staff and families.

**Pancake Breakfast at a Local Restaurant**
Local businesses love to partner with friend and family fundraisers. Contact your local establishments such as Applebee’s and talk to them about their opportunities! They provide the kitchen and cook - you provide the serving staff and excitement! There are many local restaurants who offer opportunities to raise money for a cause, why not for the National Kidney Foundation of Maryland?

**Dress Down Days**
Ask your employer to hold a dress down day (or week!) to benefit the National Kidney Foundation of Maryland. Employees donate a set amount to be rewarded a day in casual clothes. NKF-MD has stickers available or you can create your own fun way to recognize those who participate.

**Trade it In**
Do you have a lot of CD’s or DVD’s that you don’t listen to/watch anymore? What a great way to clean out some space and donate the money raised to the National Kidney Foundation of Maryland.

**Host a Dog Wash/Car Wash**
Bring your neighbors together and host a Dog Wash/ Car Wash! Kids will stand in line to get sudsy for a good cause and we bet adults will too!

**In Lieu of Gifts, whether for birthdays, weddings or other special events**
Instead of accepting gifts at your next birthday or special event, ask your friends and family to make a donation towards the National Kidney Foundation of Maryland to help those affected by kidney disease. Think about your boss too – what a great way to honor your boss in October – make a donation in their name as a way to honor them for all they do!

**Talent Show**
Show me the talent! Are you looking for something creative and fun to do? If you are, now you can add one more (quite possibly the most fun one) to your list. Keep the entry fee for the talent show low as to generate more entrants – this won’t be your main source of revenue. Offer spectators a chance to win a door prize as a bonus to their entry fee and hold a concession stand at the event (with donated refreshments and snacks) to help boost your profit.

**Golf Event**
Do you know people who love to golf? Or who want to try to golf? Give them a chance to give back and host a golf tournament to support the National Kidney Foundation of Maryland. Host a golf marathon or "golf-a-thon" - a rather new initiative in fundraising golf tournaments that engages players in recruiting sponsorships and donations. Golf marathons allow organizations to increase fundraising dollars raised by having tournament participants commit to raising a certain amount of money through pledge donations. Ask your golfers to contact friends, colleagues, and family members to solicit donations for their participation in your golf tournament. Each golfer can easily raise $250 or $500 by tapping into their friends and family. Another great way to raise additional funds is to host a golf charity auction as part of your charity golf tournament. Since your golf tournament event is bound to attract a number of attendees, a golf charity auction is great way to earn additional funds, while providing an opportunity for guests to bid on valuable one-of-a-kind items.

To make your event as successful as possible, you will need to spend considerable time on promotion. Getting the word out about your event can include social networks, like Facebook and Twitter, flyers, posters, emails, hosting your own website and general public website postings (see above and also consider sites such as craigslist.org, eventsetter.com, eventguide.com, and citypaper.net). Write and send out a press release to promote your event in local press venues. Talk about your event as much as possible to take advantage of “Word of Mouth” or as we like to call it “true grass roots marketing” to advertise your event.