

## My GX Fundraising Journey

My name is Clara and I decided to sign up for GX after my studies in Development and Anthropology because I wanted to experience in practice the issues I studied for three years. I volunteered for other organisations before and had already some experience in fundraising.

Fundraising is easier when you break it down to smaller tasks. First make a list of the people and companies you could contact by the end of the week. Research fundraising ideas and ask friends/families if they can help out. For some of the activities that I did, it was very important to have my friends' and family's support but there were also other ones that I could do all by myself.

For example, I contacted all my local shops to get prizes and vouchers for a Raffle (raised about 80pounds) or I prepared Sushi in the morning and had a Sushi stall on my campus (raised about 40 pounds). These are things you can organise yourself but I found that you enjoy the fundraising experience a lot more when you get help from friends.

I did a few pub-crawls with a friend where I would wear my fundraising T shirt and ask for donations in 4 to 5 pubs a night (ask the manager in advance and bring a collection box and maybe some sweets or chocolates to distribute around). I once packed bags in a supermarket (asking the supervisor in person usually works better than asking by email or phone), bring 5 or 6 chatty friends along and give them flyers and a collection tin. With a group you can easily raise hundreds of pounds within a few hours. Make sure you treat your friends to a drink afterwards!

In the past, I have also done street collections for a previous fundraising: I did the first one by myself in front of a tube station (raised about 50pounds), the second one I did in Brighton with my friends from the Circus society at my Uni (raised about 90pounds in 4hours!). Having friends performing some kind of show by juggling and fire staff spinning created a positive impact and people were less defensive when I approached them on the street. In addition, I wasn't standing somewhere where people are in a hurry to go somewhere else and I didn't get discouraged or bored when my friends were there with me.

I am quite a shy person so talking to strangers was very daunting at first but the more you do it the easier it becomes, don't get discouraged if people turn you down; use your creativity to ask for money in different ways. Good luck and make sure you share your fundraising experience with your fellow GX volunteers as much as you can, you can give each other encouragement and helpful tips.

**Clara Borg**  
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Working with:

