

## **Raising money for your Mechanix Training programme**

1. Apply for grants to cover the course costs to charitable trusts. Research those trusts most likely to fund your project first. You will then need to make an application and need to give an average of 3-6 months from when you submit the application to finding out the result. A good free resource if you are just starting out is [Funding Central](#).

*Top tip - speak to charitable trusts if you can first to talk through your ideas prior to making an application*

2. Get your local community involved in fundraising for the course so they feel included in your project. It can be as simple as a cake or book sale or a concert, but these things do work and are great for your profile locally. Try to get your supporters to organise them, and always make sure you thank them.

3. Get your supporters to contemplate being sponsored for a challenge that is a personally demanding achievement. Climb Ben Nevis, run the London or local marathon, cycle through the Alps, walk the length of the UK etc. A big challenge will usually get more generous donors and show your commitment to the cause.

*Top tip - Build an email database of your supporters and use social media to keep in touch with your supporters. Keep them up to date with lots of photos and news.*

4. Look for personal donors who might support your Mechnix project by giving a larger donation. People like to get behind a project, especially if they can really see the benefit of it. They buy into it and are keen to make it happen. If the project isn't too huge, donors can quickly see how their money is being spent.

5. If you have one, it is crucial that you keep your website up to date and relevant. Set a Mechanix fundraising page up on your website with a visible donate button. Remember, this is the face of your charity and the first port of call for donors and anyone interested in what you do. It is vital that you have a "donate now" facility on your home page. Use established donation platforms such as Local Giving, BT MyDonate or Virgin Money. This makes donating easy from anywhere in the world. These sites will handle your Gift Aid for you.

*Top tip- ensure that you have a way of ensuring that those supporters who are not computer savvy can still donate e.g. simply filling in a form on a leaflet or whatever you produce.*

6. Set up a Crowd fundraising page – asking the public to support your Mechanix programme. Use a relevant social media platform to launch your page. A good story and short video really helps your success.

7. Finally, for a small top up earn money for your charity while you shop. Register with [Easy Fundraising](#) and get supporters who already shop online with retailers such as Amazon, M&S, Argos, John Lewis, Comet, eBay and Boden to sign up for free to raise money while they shop. It's simple to do and each time they shop using Easy Fundraising they raise money for you.

Good Luck!