



Autism Assistance Dogs Ireland



Your guide to...

FUNDRAISING

www.aadi.ie

RCN 20075491

Thank you for your support

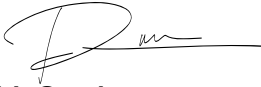
On behalf of all the families awaiting our support, **thank you** for kindly supporting Autism Assistance Dogs Ireland.

1 in every 65 children in Ireland has autism and the demand for our highly trained Assistance Dogs is overwhelming. **Our dogs are specially trained to provide safety, companionship, reduce anxiety, promote independence and improve coping mechanisms** of children who are currently struggling with some of the debilitating symptoms of this invisible disability.

Your support will help us raise vital awareness and funds that ultimately will change the world for an autistic child.

This guide aims to give you all the information you need to plan, organise, enjoy your fundraising event and smash your fundraising target. If you need any advice, further support or fundraising materials please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards



David McCarthy
Head of Fundraising & Communications
fundraising@aadi.ie



"I can't put into words the transformation that has happened since my daughter got Bella."
says Elizabeth, Rebecca's mum



"Nana has given Thomas the ability to be part of our community"
says Grainne, Thomas's mum

Your support matters!!
We rely on fundraising and donations to reach children who are struggling with this invisible disability.

Get inspired by **fun** fundraising ideas to fit your lifestyle...



Whether you go it alone and take on a challenge...



...or get together with a group of friends to organise an event...



...or involve your family, colleagues, neighbours or school community ...

We will help you organise a **FUN** fundraiser

Bring together some friends for some **fun!**

Get creative on what you can all do together ... below are some ideas but we are always on the look out for new ones!



QUIZ
NIGHT

Quiz or Bingo night

Settle it for once and for all, who is the smartest on the team or in your family! Test your knowledge with an online or in person quiz or bingo challenge.



Coffee Morning

Put the kettle on and join your family, friends, colleagues for a cuppa ... Who knows there may be some talented bakers amongst them!



Virtual Night In

Pick an evening and gather together online for some fun. A virtual night can be anything, movie night, games challenge, talent show you decide.



Team Challenge

Do you have some daring friends or colleagues? Push each other to step outside your comfort zone and get sponsorship to do something daring.

Have **fun** with the family and involve the children

Family **fun** day

Get that obstacle course set up in the garden and organise a family fun day - fancy dress competition, face painting, egg and spoon race ... it's up to you!



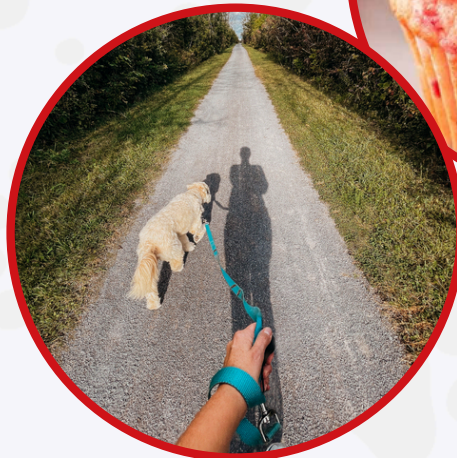
Treasure hunt

Get everyone involved in a fun hunt for 'treasure' ... maps, compasses and competitiveness at the ready!



Bake sale

Get those aprons on and whip up some tasty treats for family and friends. They deserve it!



Sponsored run or walk

Get those shoes on and gather everyone for a sponsored walk or run in your local park. Dogs are welcome too of course!

It takes 2 years and costs €25,000 to train one of our life changing dogs



Don't forget ...
... to ask to Match it!

Ask your employer about matched giving and see if you can double your donations.



Remember why we're doing this...

"Before my son Adam received his autism assistance dog from AADI, one of us would have to always stay at home with Adam so **being a family together didn't happen**. This definitely affected my other two children...



...Since we got an autism assistance dog from AADI, all of our children can now live a normal life. **Adam feels calmer and he is now safer**. He can cope with going out to the shop, to new places...

...it now only takes one of us to support Adam with daily tasks...

...Because of Earl, Adam's speech has gone from being solely functional, to being filled with emotion. Adam even started to say to Earl, "I love you" and as a result he now can spontaneously say to myself and Neill, "I love you". **As parents, to hear your child finally tell you that he loves you is incredible.**"

Caroline - Mother of Adam and owner of Autism Assistance dog Earl



"Life before Bella, our autism assistance dog, was hard. Rebecca was living in a ball of anxiety..."

...Now Rebecca can concentrate, **she can adjust to the world around her**, she watches everything that is happening now and she has a great laugh. Rebecca's **speech has improved** so much since Bella has taken away her anxiety...

...She has gone from being in a special school to moving into a mainstream school. Rebecca and Bella go to school together every morning. **She goes to new places, normal childhood things that would have had her climbing the walls with anguish before...**

...What more could you want for your child and all because we got an assistance dog from AADI"

Elizabeth - Mother of Rebecca and owner of Autism Assistance dog Bella

Transforming the world for autistic children

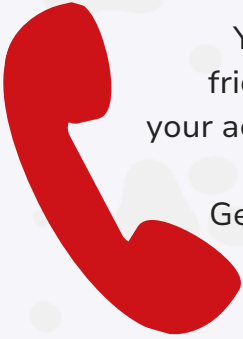


Make it happen

Call in some favours

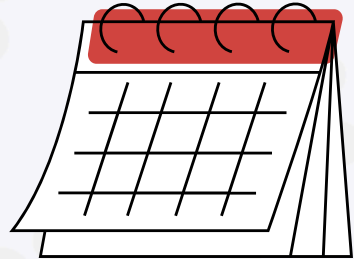
You might be surprised as to what talents your family, friends or colleagues have and can offer you to enhance your activities. Do you know a master baker or quizmaster?

If you don't ask you don't get.
Get everyone on board. Together you'll be unstoppable.



Pick a date

Choose your date and location for your fundraiser and let everyone know. Don't forget to check for any big local events happening that might affect your turnout



Broadcast it

Be sure and post all over your social media to tell everyone about it. Also contact your local paper or radio station to help spread the word. Don't hesitate to contact us if you require support on publicising your event.

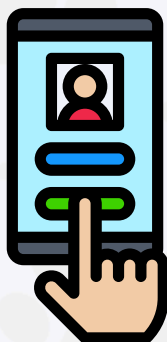
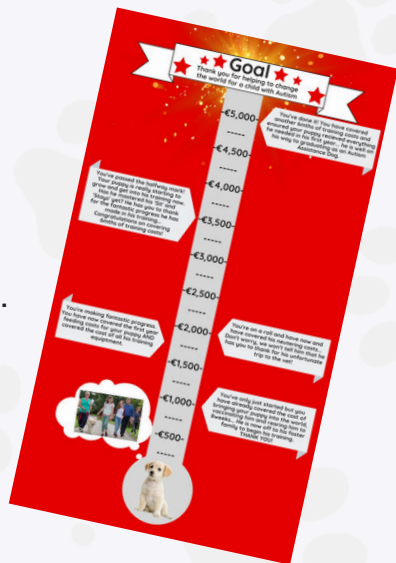


Spread the word

Once you have a plan of action, make sure you tell everyone about it! Don't be shy about shouting it ... put up posters on notice boards, tell family and friends, include it in a newsletter and announce it at work.

Set a target

How far will you go to help change the lives of children with Autism? Setting a fundraising target is a great way to motivate yourself and persuade your supporters to part with a few extra euros.



Go online

Click [here](#) to set up an online fundraising page. It's super easy to set up and makes fundraising fuss-free with money going directly to AADI.

It's all about socials!

Leave no social media stone unturned to get your friends and family behind you and following the link to your fundraising page.



WhatsApp



Top tips for... **Keeping it safe and legal**

Collections

It is illegal to solicit members of the public, in a public place, or by going 'door-to-door' for funds unless you have our permission AND a permit from An Garda Síochana. If you have one of our sponsorship cards, you can use it to collect funds from family and friends only. If you are unsure, please contact us for clarification.

Insurance

Please remember you are responsible for the activity and AADI cannot accept liability for any fundraising activity or event that you undertake. If you are planning an event that involves the general public, you will need public liability insurance. Your venue may already have this. If you are unsure, please get in touch with us.

Children

Don't hold an event that specifically encourages children to attend without a parent. Children should always be accompanied by an adult and if children are attending the event, make sure the environment is safe. Please ensure you observe child protection legislation which includes ensuring no photographs of children are taken without written consent from their guardian.

Money

For your own protection, make sure you count any monies collected with another person present and have them verify the final amount. Ask people who want to make a donation by cheque to make it payable to 'Autism Assistance Dogs Ireland' rather than you personally. Make sure any cash donations are kept in a secure place and banked as soon as possible.

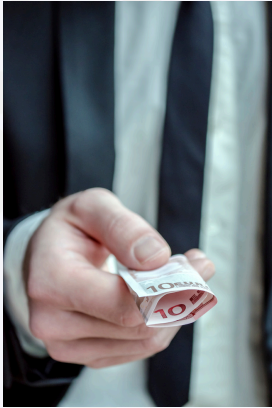
AADI logo & charity details

When you are writing to anyone about your event or producing any publicity material, please remember to include AADI's registered charity number (RCN 20075491) and use our full name: Autism Assistance Dogs Ireland. If you would like to use our logo, please email fundraising@aadi.ie with details of your event and we will gladly help.

When it's all over ...

Bank it

If you'd rather not go online, that's not a problem. You can send us your hard-earned donations by postal order, cheque or lodge them direct into our account. Remember to include your name and fundraiser number (if available) so we know it's from you. Please email fundraising@aadi.ie and we will send on our bank details.



Erm John, can I get that fiver?

Don't feel awkward asking people to hand over the cash. If you blush at the very mention of money, why not send your friends a message thanking them for their support rounded off with a polite reminder to pay up ASAP.



Remember why you are doing this...

There's no time for stalling or self-doubt on your fundraising journey. You're doing something incredible, you are changing the world for autistic children and you're going to see it through.



Autism Assistance Dogs Ireland

Transforming lives for autistic children and their families



*"We wouldn't be the family we are today without
Mango, our autism assistance dog"*

Marley Tarnaud, Bear's mom



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