



THE OUT HOUSE

FUNDRAISING PACK

Be Inspired to Help Us Support Our Community



THE OUTHOUSE FUNDRAISING PACK!



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About This Pack!

The following pages are filled with fun ideas about how you can support The OutHouse to help local LGBTQ+ individuals find their community and achieve their fullest potential. From organising a Pride Party to a cake sale, a cabaret night to a quiz, or taking on a personal challenge - we hope you feel inspired to help us continue to do great work for our community throughout the county.

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ABOUT THE OUTHOUSE

Who We Are

The OutHouse proudly supports the LGBTQ+ community to feel seen, included and understood. As a registered charity in England & Wales, we provide opportunities for LGBTQ+ people throughout Essex and East Anglia. We work to support individuals to find their community and achieve their full potential.

Where We Came From

Our journey began in 1979 as the Colchester Gay Switchboard, where our founding members established a helpline of compassion and understanding to those isolated and alone. In 2025, 45-years later, we have grown to serve the community in a number of different ways.



*19 East Hill, Colchester,
Essex, CO1 2QX*

Our Purpose

Our purpose is to provide and advocate for safe and inclusive spaces for everyone from the LGBTQ+ community.

What we do

Our core services include the following:

Community Engagement

We support various emotional and social needs relating to bettering an individual's health and wellbeing, whether it be for adults or young people and their support networks.

Adult Social Groups

We run a range of adult socials groups, from Saturday Social to 50+ Coffee Mornings, Book Club and more.

Young People Social Groups

We run a range of social groups for young people throughout Essex, including residentials and forums.

Counselling

We offer in-person and online counselling with our team of professional counsellors, all of whom are experienced in working with the LGBTQ+ community. Our counselling offers a safe and non-judgmental space dedicated to supporting LGBTQ+ people in Colchester, North Essex and beyond.

LGBTQ+ Awareness Training

We offer bespoke LGBTQ+ Awareness training for businesses to establish safe and inclusive places.

Our Values

Equality – We believe that everyone should have the same life chances and be treated with dignity and respect.

Diversity – We believe in embracing diversity, recognising and valuing the vast range of life experiences that enrich our vibrant community.

Innovation – We believe in identifying, creating and otherwise taking advantage of all opportunities that arise to ensure that the organisation remains fit for purpose.

Celebration – We believe in supporting and uplifting others, with the hope of encouraging individuals to proudly celebrate themselves and embrace their identity fully.

The OutHouse is a registered charity number: **1006244**



TAKE ON A CHALLENGE

Are you up for a challenge?
Have a look at the tasks below and see
what takes your fancy.

Running

If you like to strut your stuff, then why not speed things up and raise money with a run? From a mighty marathon to a 5K fun run, you can find a list of runs around the country via the Find a Race website (<https://findarace.com>). If you're feeling inspired, then download the Couch to 5K app (via the App Store or Google Play Store) to get you moving.

Swimming

Taking on a swimming challenge for charity in a pool or open water is a brilliant way to push yourself whilst supporting a worthy cause. Whether you're aiming to cover a long distance in one go or accumulating lengths over a set period, with each lap you know you'll have made a difference. So, water you waiting for?!

Triathlon

Taking on a triathlon for charity is a brilliant way to push personal limits whilst making a real difference. Whether it's a sprint or a full Ironman - test your stamina across swimming, cycling, and running, demanding both physical and mental endurance. Fundraising for us makes a difference to your journey as each stroke, pedal, and step fuels a greater cause. So why not take the opportunity to fundraise for a great cause and earn yourself the bragging rights of being an athletic triple threat!

You can find all running, swimming, bike riding and triathlon events taking place around the UK by going to
Find a Race: <https://findarace.com>

Three Peaks Challenge

The Three Peaks Challenge involves climbing the highest mountains in Scotland, England, and Wales—Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike, and Snowdon—within 24 hours. It's a tough but rewarding adventure, testing endurance and resilience whilst getting to experience the UK's natural beauty. Remember, "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" to keep you from... fundraising
Find out how to complete a Three Peaks Challenge by visiting:
<https://threepeakschallenge.uk>

TAKE ON A CHALLENGE

The Reading Challenge

Celebrate the diverse stories and voices explored in our LGBTQ+ Book Club this year by organising a sponsored read! Choose your favourite books from our club's reading list, revisit them, or dive into new ones while inviting friends and family to sponsor your efforts. Not only is this a wonderful way to promote queer literature, but it's also an opportunity to raise funds for a meaningful cause. Turn pages for progress and let the stories inspire understanding and connection! Check out our book club <https://theouthouse.org.uk/events/lgbt-book-club>



OTHER CHALLENGES TO PARTICIPATE IN

Sports Days

Arrange a mini sports day competition and compete with friends whilst raising money.

Dance-athon or Non-Stop Silent Disco

Dance for a set period of time without stopping e.g. 24 hours. Complete this on your own or as part of a group and enjoy grooving your way to your fundraising goal.

Singing Marathon

On your own or part of a group spend a day singing non-stop and get people to sponsor you per hour of performance.

You can request an email copy of our Sponsorship Form to get started on your Fundraising journey today - info@theouthouse.org.uk



Share your pictures on Instagram and tag us
@outhouseessex

Show us your creative ideas from all your fundraising events!



COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING

Quiz Nights

Hosting a quiz night for The OutHouse is a fun and engaging way to support a vital cause. It brings people together for a lively evening of questions, laughter, and community spirit, all whilst raising funds to help us continue our essential work supporting LGBTQ+ individuals. With rounds tailored for all, it's an enjoyable way to make a difference!

Cabaret Evenings

Organising a cabaret is a fabulous way to celebrate talent and diversity whilst raising funds for an important cause. With vibrant performances and a welcoming atmosphere, the event brings the community together in support of The OutHouse's essential work. It's a night of entertainment and solidarity that truly makes a difference!



Music Evenings

Hosting a music event is an inspiring opportunity to unite the community with live bands and musical performances, all in support of a vital cause. With captivating acts and a welcoming atmosphere, the event entertains while raising essential funds to help The Outhouse continue its work supporting LGBTQ+ individuals. It promises to be a night of music, connection, and meaningful change!

There are many other ways to raise money!

Bathing in Beans

Bathing in beans for charity is a fun and quirky way to raise money for us.

Craft Fairs

Craft days offer a creative way to raise money and support a cause.

Auction of Promises

An auction of promises is a fundraising event where people bid on services or experiences, with all proceeds going to charity. It's a fun way to raise money whilst offering something unique in return.

WORKPLACE FUNDRAISING

Organising a charity fundraiser at work is a great way to bring colleagues together whilst supporting The OutHouse and raising awareness of LGBTQ+ inclusion in the workplace.

Hosting coffee mornings, bake sales, or fabulous dress days allows everyone to contribute, no matter how small. These events are easy to set up and can be held at your place of work, making it simple for everyone to participate. Plus, sharing some coffee and treats encourages donations and sparks conversations about the charity's mission. Whether it's a one-time event or a recurring effort, these small gatherings can make a big impact!

Pride Parties

Throwing a fun Pride Party for The OutHouse is a beautiful way to celebrate love, inclusivity, and community! With rainbow decorations, lively music, and colourful treats, everyone can join in on the fun whilst supporting a good cause. It's the perfect way to spread love, have a great time, and make a difference together!

Fabulous Fashion Day

A Fabulous Fashion Day is a fun way to encourage employees to dress in their most fabulous outfits, showcasing creativity and flair whilst supporting a great cause. Participants can dress in vibrant rainbow colours, adding an extra splash of fun and unity to the day. It's a great way to brighten up the office, foster team spirit, and make a positive impact. Add a little extra excitement by offering prizes for the most fabulous and colourful outfits!



Charity Cake Sale

Workplace cake sales are the sweetest way to raise money! From decadent cupcakes to irresistible brownies, everyone can indulge their sweet tooth whilst supporting us. It's the perfect excuse to bake, buy, and share your favourite treats with colleagues. Plus, a little friendly competition for the best cake always adds to the fun! All the funds raised go towards our wonderful services, making every bite even more satisfying. So, grab your apron or your wallet, and make your cake sale a delicious success!

Coffee Mornings

A Coffee Morning fundraiser is a delightful way to bring everyone together over a warm cup of coffee and decadent treats. It's a relaxed, feel-good event where colleagues can chat, laugh, and share a little break from the usual workday hustle. Everyone is invited to make a small donation and enjoy the camaraderie, with all proceeds going to supporting The OutHouse. Whether it's a one-off event or a regular tradition, a Coffee Morning is the perfect way to make a positive impact!

FUNDRAISE IN YOUR PLACE OF EDUCATION

Reading Marathon

A reading marathon is a great way to raise money for The OutHouse whilst indulging in a love of books. You can commit to reading for an extended period, whether it's finishing as many books or pages as possible. It's a fun and rewarding challenge that encourages both personal achievement and generosity, with all funds raised supporting a good cause.

School Fairs & Fetes

School fairs and fetes are a fantastic chance to raise money for The OutHouse whilst bringing the community together. From a bean bag toss to bouncy castles, a day filled with fun activities for everyone can provide great entertainment and generous donations. Fun for all, it's a brilliant way for families to come together and support The OutHouse and its important work.

Talent Show or Concert

A school talent show is a fantastic event for raising money for The OutHouse, showcasing students' skills whilst supporting a good cause. With performances ranging from singing to dancing, the event offers a great chance for young people to raise funds for The OutHouse and support their fellow LGBTQ+ peers.

Other ways to raise money!

Fun Runs

Organise a fun run or walkathon to get students active whilst raising money as active allies.

Dress-Down or Dress-Up Days

Encourage students to participate in themed dress-down and dress-up days to support others by expressing themselves.

Sponsored Silence

A sponsored silence in school lets students raise money for charity by staying silent for a set time. Mindful activities could even be encouraged to help make saving the chat until breaktime a much easier task!



FUNDRAISING EVENT PLANNER

Introducing The OutHouse Fundraising Event Planner!

This guide is to help you plan out the basics. From picking a date and venue for your event, to setting yourself a fundraising target. We've tried to give an outline of the basics you'll need to consider from selling tickets to promoting your event and thanking everyone for their support after.

Plan the Basics

Choose a Date: with lots of LGBTQ+ awareness days throughout the year, you could use LGBTQ+ History Month in February, Pride Month in June, or Trans Awareness Week in November as a hook to raise money for The OutHouse.

Choose a Venue: Find an LGBTQ+-friendly venue or workplace that works for the planned size of your event. Look for intimate and welcoming spaces from small theatres to community centres, or even local pubs and independent cafes. The key is creating an atmosphere that feels fun and inclusive. Confirm dates based on venue availability and understand whether extra insurance is necessary.

Plan Your Running Order/Lineup

Invite performers from your local LGBTQ+ community—drag artists, singers, dancers, comedians, or even spoken word artists! A diverse lineup keeps an evening dynamic and celebrates a range of talents. If you are doing a cake sale, you can still break the day down into sections – selling, judging, announcing the winners etc.

Set a Fundraising Target

How much are you hoping to raise? Page 9 gives you an idea of what different sums of money raised can do for The OutHouse.

Set Up Admissions/Ticket Sales

Charge for entry or consider adding a suggested donation option, or set up a JustGiving page to get numbers up front.

You could also offer a premium ticket that includes perks like front-row seats or a drink on arrival, with all proceeds going to The OutHouse.

Get the Word Out & Promote Your Event

Use social media, posters, and community groups to spread the word. Highlight you are fundraising for a great cause, supporting The OutHouse in its mission to provide essential services for LGBTQ+ adults and young people. Clearly explain proceeds will support The OutHouse.

Fundraising Elements

Plan for raffles, auctions, or even a donation bucket passed around during the evening. Fun, interactive fundraising keeps everyone engaged and excited to give. If you're selling baked goods and refreshments, please make sure you have the necessary hygiene certificates!

Thank Yous

Make sure to thank your participants and visitors at the end of the event, highlighting The OutHouse's impact and how they've all made a difference with their support.

Follow-Ups

Share how much was raised, thank participants, and encourage ongoing support for The OutHouse.

With a welcoming atmosphere and a mix of fun, you can make your event impactful.

MOST IMPORTANTLY.... HAVE FUN!





LEAVING A LEGACY & IN MEMORIAM

When we lose someone dear to us, it's natural to seek ways to honour their memory and keep their spirit alive. One meaningful way to do this is through in memoriam donations, which allow you to contribute towards causes that were important to your loved ones; ensuring their values and passions continue to make a positive impact in the world. Additionally, leaving a legacy through a will serves as a powerful way to express our final wishes, providing support to loved ones and charitable organisations that reflect our beliefs and priorities. By integrating these two elements—establishing in memoriam donations and carefully considering how we leave our legacy—we can create a profound and lasting tribute that not only honours the lives we cherished but also fosters hope and support for future generations. Together, these acts of remembrance empower us to turn our grief into purpose, creating a meaningful connection that transcends time.

Leaving a Legacy

Leaving a legacy to The OutHouse is a powerful way to make a lasting impact on the LGBTQ+ community. By including our charity in your will or estate plans, you can help ensure that we continue providing essential services, support, and safe spaces for individuals of all ages. Your legacy gift can fund vital programs that promote mental health, education, and empowerment, helping future generations thrive.

Every contribution, no matter the size, helps us expand our reach and deepen our impact. Leaving a legacy is not just about financial support; it's about standing in solidarity with the LGBTQ+ community and leaving a message of love, acceptance, and hope for the future. We invite you to consider this meaningful way to support The OutHouse and create a lasting change in the lives of many.

In Memoriam

Creating an in-memoriam donation page is a heartfelt way to honour the life of someone you love and to celebrate their legacy. Start by choosing a platform that feels right for you, like GoFundMe or JustGiving. As you set up your page, share the story of the amazing person you're honouring—include their name, some memories that capture their spirit, and what made them so special to you and everyone who knew them. Be sure to highlight the mission of The OutHouse, explaining how it supports the LGBTQ+ community and why this cause meant so much to your loved one. Setting a fundraising goal can help guide your efforts, so think about what you hope to achieve in their memory. Once your page is live, invite friends and family to contribute and share their own memories. Their support can create a beautiful tapestry of love and remembrance. Remember to thank your donors with heartfelt messages and keep them updated on how the campaign is progressing. By creating this donation page, you're not only paying tribute to a wonderful person but making a meaningful difference in the community they cared about.

HOW YOUR FUNDS CAN HELP THE OUTHOUSE

£30.00

could give a young person facing hardship a place on a residential.

£120.00

can provide a family counselling session.

£600.00

can provide 20 counselling sessions for someone who cannot afford to fund them.

£2400.00

can support a 12 week social or support program.



Gift Aid is a scheme that lets UK taxpayers easily supercharge their charity donations. Every time you say 'yes' to Gift Aid, each £10.00 you give becomes £12.50 for the charity at no extra to you.



Scan the QR code to visit our JustGiving page and donate today.



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