

## Fun fundraising ideas

There are hundreds of different ways to fundraise. Here are a few ideas to get you started.

- > **Lights out!** Hold a sponsored sleep out (after obtaining permission from the council).
- > **Go under canvas.** Live in a tent for a week without your favourite creature comforts!
- > **Get creative.** Set up a stall selling items made out of recycled materials.
- > **India night!** Stage a Bollywood evening – serve up some warming Indian food.
- > **Take to the streets.** Run a magical mystery tour along your neighbourhood streets and share some fascinating local facts.



Photos: Istockphoto

- > **Go online!** Set up a page on our fundraising website [www.myactionaid.org.uk](http://www.myactionaid.org.uk) where you can collect donations, share ideas and upload photos.

## Real lives: Brijesh's story



Brijesh, 14, a former street child.  
Photo: Atul Loke/Panos/ActionAid

Many street children run away from violence and poverty at home – almost all take the rail route out. When they get off at a station, many never leave.

Two years ago, 14-year-old Brijesh was living on a railway platform, addicted to solvents

and alcohol, begging and sweeping train carriages. “Everyone used to beat me up. Especially the police,” he says.

Brijesh came off the platform and began to live in an ActionAid-funded shelter. He received counselling, including help with his drug addiction.

“When I started living in the shelter I wanted to be clean and live well,” he says.

Now he has special lessons to help him catch up with the years he lost while on the streets, and has made contact with his family.

“If I was still on the platform I’d be a completely rotten person. I was a dirty, drug-addicted drunk. Now I’m good,” he smiles.

## Priority Projects

actionaid

# India: a safe haven for street children

**Fact:** thousands of children are living on the streets of Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, India.

**Aim:** to help them off the streets and into safe ‘drop-in’ shelters, where they can get counselling, training and the chance to return home.



Anita, eight, a street child living in Bhopal, India.

Photo: Atul Loke/Panos/ActionAid

## Street children in India

No-one knows how many street children there are in India. However, UNICEF and Indian government figures suggest that between 11 and 18 million children work for low wages on India's streets as porters, mechanics, street tailors, rag pickers or food, tea or handicraft vendors.

## The dangers for street children

Life on the streets is dangerous. Children are poor, ignorant of their rights and often have no family to help them if they get into trouble. Street children face exploitation and abuse, and many get caught up in illegal activities. They are often mistreated by police, who see them as criminals.

### India factfile



- > The population of India is just over one billion.
- > Average life expectancy is 63.
- > 80% of people live on less than £1.30 per day.
- > 74 in every 1,000 children die before the age of 5 (in the UK it is 6).
- > 47% of children are underweight.
- > ActionAid has been working in India since 1972. Through more than 300 local organisations and community groups we support poor and marginalised people – mainly *dalits* ('untouchables'), tribal people, women, children, homeless and disabled people.

### Real lives: Rajesh's story

Rajesh ran away when his father, an alcoholic, poured hot syrup on his legs to punish him for breaking a glass. Rajesh struggled on his own, and returned home, but his father had moved away. He tried to survive by cutting animal fodder, but had to give up after he lost his arm in an accident.

Six months ago he arrived at Kampur, Uttar Pradesh, and is now being helped by an ActionAid-funded street children's centre.

**"As soon as I arrived, someone from the centre came and spoke to me and invited me there, and I was able to get food and an education."**

Rajesh now doing an IT course, paid for by the centre under a government-subsidised scheme. He is also a peer educator, locating new runaways at the station and inviting them to the centre. "I motivate them by sharing my experience," says Rajesh. "I tell them, we can help you – you can come here and have a better life, you can learn and you can play."

## How you can help

### The project

This project will help 2,500 street children by providing specialist counsellors and drop-in shelters. Where possible, children will be helped to get home. Child-to-child educators will use street plays and puppet shows to make children aware of their rights, while staff will lobby the government to improve the laws protecting street children, and sensitise the police to their needs.

### What this Priority Project will do:

- > Train street volunteers to identify newly arrived children in the cities.
- > Provide care and protection in the drop-in shelters.
- > Help reintegrate children with their families.
- > Provide food for children staying in the shelters.
- > Provide counselling and de-addiction services.
- > Make basic health services available to the children.
- > Run vocational training and job placements for young adults.
- > Provide education for children staying in the centres.



A street child at Bhopal railway station.  
Photo: Atul Loke/Panos/ActionAid

### What your money can buy

# £15

could pay for two sets of clothes (summer and winter) for a street child.

# £75

could pay for the enrolment and school fees for one child for one month.

# £188

could provide sports and games materials for 20 children.

# £625

could pay for the living costs of one teacher for one year to provide non-formal education to 20 children.

# £1,200

could pay for a basic shelter that can house 20 children.

# £2,500

could provide two hot meals a day for 20 children for one year.