

6 Creative Ways To Fund Your Adoption



1 BothHands.org

On episode 69 of Infant Adoption Guide podcast, our guest JT Olson went into details about how their process works – of helping fund your adoption AND at the same time serving a widow in your community. I absolutely LOVE what BothHands.org is doing for the adoption world – and especially for widows. This is truly amazing!

Here is a really cool thing about BothHands.org: they believe so much in the importance of adoption and are committed to doing everything they can to help bring families together – that **they don't take any administrative fees from donations to their projects.** How many other non-profits do this? Not many.

2 Adoption grants

There are a TON of grants (that is free money) available for adoptions. These are for anyone who is adopting domestically and has been approved by an agency - and they will probably require you to have your home study completed. Money is usually given directly to your adoption professional. Here are some great adoption grant organizations:

HelpUsAdopt.org I love them so much that I am a member of their adoption professionals council. Since 2007, they have awarded 399 adoption grants totaling over \$3.6 million!

GiftOfAdoption.org

The Buescher Foundation: TheBuescherFoundation.org

AChildWaits.org These have been around for years and are ones you should be applying for.

3 Crowdfunding

This is where you raise money by inviting friends, family and others to donate to your adoption journey. While this may sound a bit weird and hard to do, LOTS of people are successful at raising money AND there are sites dedicated to helping you with this, including:

AdoptTogether.org in just 6 years, they have helped more than 4,000 families raise over \$13M to fund their adoption! You create a profile online to share your story and invite people to donate.

So people donate to a non-profit foundation PURE CHARITY, the crowd-funding platform partner of AdoptTogether.org – and will be designated to their selected adopting family (that's you).

4 Personal savings

There are LOTS of ways to save money - through selling your stuff, make and keep and household budget (try EveryDollar.com), get a part time job (temporary for sure), and even this cool idea called the 52-Week Adoption Savings Challenge:

Challenge yourself and your family to save! The idea of the 52-Week Adoption Savings Challenge is simple. Commit to save for 52 weeks starting with \$1 in week 1 and increasing by \$1 every week. By the end of 52 weeks, you will save a total of \$1,378!

If you want to get really creative, ask 5 or 10 or 20 of your friend and family to save \$1 per week for 52 weeks for your adoption journey - and you'll save an additional \$! Definitely worth the ask!

5 Fundraising Events

- **Host a Meal** – Everyone has to eat, so why not turn a meal into a spaghetti dinner or pancake breakfast fundraiser? These can be successful, especially if you are well-connected in your community. You can get even more creative and host a themed dinner.
- **Chili Cook-Off** – Perfect fall fundraiser that attracts family, friends, and the best chili chefs from miles around for an incredible event that includes eating, competing, and supporting a good cause – your adoption journey!
- **Adoption Carnival** – These are a huge hit with families, especially kids. Get a bounce house, a dunk tank, face painting, games, raffles and carnival food. This can be a great fundraiser because you can add on silent auctions, bake sales, and even sell adoption t-shirts. All of this will increase the amount you're able to raise. I've heard of families who have raised over \$5,000 and \$6,000. You can do this!

6 Sell Other People's Stuff

- **Network Marketing Home Shows** – We all have friends or family members who are involved in network marketing such as Tastefully Simple, Jamberry, Mary Kay, Pampered Chef and are looking to grow their business. Consider inviting them to organize a home party for their business and donating the proceeds from the party toward your adoption. Offer to serve snacks and drinks to make it more fun!

- **Sell Items at garage sales, eBay, Craigslist, etc.** – This is my favorite, one that I know works, is fun to do and is sooo worth it! Garage sales are something everyone can help out with. Start with your own house and find items that you no longer need. Ask your family and friends to donate items that will sell and then hold a BIG garage sale. Maybe even hold your sale when a neighborhood garage sale is happening. You can then do the same thing for items you can sell on eBay or post on Craigslist. Smaller items (electronics do well) are easy and less costly to ship on eBay. Larger items such as tools, furniture, etc you should sell on Craigslist or Varagesale.

BONUS TIP: You can also re-sell other people's things by finding great deals on other people's garage sales or Craigslist sales. Look for deals on electronics, toys, tools, etc.. You have to negotiate, buy low, and sell for a profit, and you'll be amazed at how fast the cash starts rolling in for your adoption!

No matter which of these you try, just start! You can do this! I'm cheering for you!

Tim

