

Largest fundraisers in the Baltimore area

Ranked by 2009 Baltimore-area donations

Prior rank	Name of event location	Money raised/ budget/ attendance	Sponsor organization	Event description	Dates held in 2009
2	1 Komen Maryland Race for the Cure Hunt Valley	\$5.1 million/ \$494,173/ 29,124	Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure	largest series of 5K runs/fitness walks in the world; raises funds and awareness for the fight against breast cancer	Oct. 18
1	2 Maryland State Police Polar Bear Plunge Sandy Point State Park	\$3.4 million/ \$2.9 million/ 40,000	Special Olympics Maryland	annual water sport event to raise funds for Maryland Special Olympics	Jan. 24
n/a	3 Raising O' The Green BWI Marriott	\$2.2 million/ \$8,000/ 215	Chesapeake Arts Center	dinner, dance, auction party	March 13
4	4 Walk MS Nine communities across Maryland	\$1.3 million/ \$161,389/ 7,300	National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Md. Chapter	5K walk held in nine communities across Maryland to raise funds for MS research	April 4, 18-19
5	5 Aspire Gala Baltimore Marriott Waterfront	\$1.2 million/ \$300,000/ 780	Cal Ripken Sr. Foundation	annual event to support foundation programs including celebrity guests and honorees in business, entertainment, and sports	Feb. 6
6	6 Festival of Trees Maryland State Fairgrounds	\$850,000/ \$900,000/ 40,000	Kennedy Krieger Institute	holiday family event with designer trees, wreaths, and gingerbread houses, live entertainment	Nov. 27-29
9	7 Step Out to Fight Diabetes Rash Field and Baker Park	\$612,000/ \$36,000/ 1,800	American Diabetes Association	5K walk to raise money and awareness for diabetes research, advocacy and education	Oct. 3
12	8 A Night for Heroes: Shock Trauma Gala Baltimore Convention Center	\$540,000/ dtd/ 1,700	University of Md. Medical System Foundation	annual benefit for shock trauma center	April 25
11	9 Bike MS: presented by Wells Fargo Chestertown	\$529,000/ \$87,147/ 650	National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Md. Chapter	two-day cycling tour of Maryland's Eastern Shore to raise funds for MS research	June 13-14
8	10 Anne Arundel Medical Center Foundation's 2009 Gala Hyatt Regency Baltimore	\$449,000/ dtd/ 620	Anne Arundel Medical Center	black-tie gala benefitting AAMC's Geaton and JoAnn DeCesaris Cancer Institute; live and silent auctions, dinner, and dancing	March 21
17	11 Constellation Energy Senior Players Championship Baltimore Co. Club Five Farms, Timonium	\$400,000/ \$5 million/ dtd	PGA Tour	final major golf championship of the season on the PGA Tour's Champions Tour	Sept. 28-Oct. 4
19	12 March for the Animals Druid Hill Park	\$361,000/ \$55,723/ 5,000	Maryland SPCA	SPCA's annual 1.5-mile walk, featuring games, activities, contests and demonstrations	April 19
n/a	13 ROAR for Autism Oregon Ridge Park, Cockeysville	\$325,000/ \$33,000/ 1,000	Kennedy Krieger Institute	bike ride, nature walk, and family fun festival to raise money for autism research	April 25
n/a	14 Baltimore Visionary Awards Dinner M&T Bank Stadium	\$311,000/ dtd/ 200	Foundation Fighting Blindness	benefited the foundation and honored Arthur and Patricia Modell and Bruce and Bonnie Sawyer	Sept. 29
n/a	15 2009 Fund for Medicine Gala Baltimore Hilton	\$242,000/ dtd/ 610	University of Md. School of Medicine	"Discovery Advancing Better Global Health" celebrated faculty, physicians and scientists, provided funding for research and clinical initiatives	March 14
10	16 Associated Italian American Charities of Md. Annual Ball Martin's West	\$240,000/ dtd/ 890	Associated Italian American Charities of Maryland Inc.	black-tie charity dinner dance, in its 64th year	June 12
10	16 Jay Matriciani Italian Open Turf Valley	\$240,000/ dtd/ 300	Associated Italian American Charities of Maryland Inc.	charity golf tournament, in its 36th year	Aug. 10
25	18 Baltimore Walk Now for Autism Speaks Towson University, Burdick Field	\$193,000/ \$220,000/ 2,000	Autism Speaks Maryland	5K family walk to heighten public awareness and to raise funds for research into the causes, treatment, prevention and cure of autism	Oct. 10
23	19 Taste & Auction of Howard County Turf Valley Resort	\$190,000/ \$35,000/ 450	Gilchrist Hospice Care	Octoberfest theme, 21 Howard County restaurants serve their specialties, live and silent auction	Oct. 18
n/a	20 Challenge Walk MS: presented by Wells Fargo Chestertown	\$189,000/ \$39,040/ 200	National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Md. Chapter	two-day, 50K walk along Maryland's Eastern Shore to raise funds for MS research	June 13-14
n/a	21 Caritas: Saint Agnes Spring Gala Maryland Science Center	\$176,000/ dtd/ 500	St. Agnes Foundation	spring gala raising funds for the hospital	March 28
n/a	22 18th Annual Chocolate Affair M&T Bank Stadium	\$165,000/ \$38,000/ 1,500	Health Care for the Homeless	more than 50 local restaurants, caterers and chocolatiers offer culinary demonstrations, dancing, live music, silent and live auctions, spa	Feb. 5
n/a	23 Saint Agnes Foundation/Crothall Services Golf Classic Turf Valley Resort; Waverly Woods	\$155,250/ dtd/ 240	St. Agnes Foundation	day of golf, complete with breakfast, on-course snacks, lunch, a cocktail reception and awards ceremony	June 15
n/a	24 Chesapeake Challenge Golf Tournament Md. Golf & Country Clubs, Bel Air	\$146,471/ \$34,319/ 123	Upper Chesapeake Health Foundation	breakfast and lunch, golfer gift, numerous awards and prizes; funds raised support hospitals' Cancer LifeNet Program	May 18
n/a	25 17th Annual Culinary Extravaganza Hippodrome Theatre	\$142,000/ \$12,000/ 325	Meals on Wheels of Central Maryland Inc.	culinary tastings from the area's top chefs, wines, silent and live auctions	May 4

RE-RANKED

By number of attendees

- 1** Festival of Trees
40,000
- 1** Maryland State Police Polar Bear Plunge
40,000
- 3** Komen Maryland Race for the Cure
29,124
- 4** Walk MS
7,300
- 5** March for the Animals
5,000
- 6** Baltimore Walk Now for Autism Speaks
2,000
- 7** Step Out to Fight Diabetes
1,800
- 8** A Night for Heroes: Shock Trauma Gala
1,700
- 9** 18th Annual Chocolate Affair
1,500
- 10** ROAR for Autism
1,000
- 11** Associated Italian American Charities of Maryland Annual Ball
1,000
- 12** Aspire Gala
780

NOTE: About 100 nonprofit organizations were surveyed but some did not respond by deadline or did not disclose the ranking criteria.

¹ Budgeted expenses may differ from actual operating expenses. Budget may also include sponsor funding.

SOURCE: Representatives from the organizations provided the information for this List. The Business Journal takes the firms at their word.

Compiled by: Carolyn M. Proctor and Rachel Bernstein.

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CURRENT: Jan. 8, 2010.

