After doing some research and brainstorming, I came across a fantastic list of ways for youth to raise funds. While it is not guaranteed that they will work, it offers a variety of options that will – if anything – be enjoyable to the youth putting them on.

Some of these activities include:

1. **Choose the Torture –** Have donors pay $1 a vote to decide which form of “torture” to inflict on your organization’s leader (i.e. dye hair, dress as a clown, trade a job for a day).
2. **Smoothie Stand –** A healthy and yummy twist on the tired ol’ lemonade stand.
3. **It’s a Wrap –** Coordinate with a store to offer gift wrap services during the holidays.
4. **Bail Me Out –** Handcuff two willing fundraisers and let them lose when they raise “bail”.
5. **Holiday Shop –** Collect new and gently used items from your volunteers and resell them in gift baskets at a holiday shop.
6. **Spa Night –** Offer to have female volunteers give manis, pedis and 5 minute massages at a Women’s Night Out for donations.
7. **Social Media Call –** Let potential donors know about your fundraising need through Facebook and Twitter.
8. **It’s a Bust –** Sell balloons for $10 each and insert a number in each that corresponds to a raffle ticket given to the purchaser. Pop a balloon for each available prize and read off the winning number.

For more fun ways to raise funds, check out: <http://www.signupgenius.com/nonprofit/50-creative-and-easy-fundraising-ideas.cfm>

It is important to have a variety of fundraising options as the youth participating come from different backgrounds and have different interests. Not everyone will want to strictly do bake sales or shovel drive ways, so changing the method of finding funds will make it more fun for the youth. Also, the more interesting the fundraiser, the more the community will be intrigued by it. While some fundraisers (ex. dunk tank) are usually quite entertaining, the selling the same catalogs or merchandise can get dull, and the public interest may dwindle. In order for our youth fundraising ventures to be successful, we not only must find committed youth volunteers, but also make the experience enjoyable for them to ensure their continued involvement.