

Whereas the financial hurdle can appear daunting, there are ways to raise funds. The following are a few creative ideas our families have come up with for offsetting the costs of attending a conference:

Check with Civic Organizations

Funds can also be found by contacting the local United Way, the March of Dimes, Kiwanis, Rotary, Lions Club, American Legion and other community and civic organizations.



IRS Tax Deduction

The IRS will allow parents to deduct some of the costs associated with attending medical meetings related to their child's health condition. Check www.irs.gov for the latest information.



Hold a Yard Sale

The hands-down best way to raise money is to convert stuff you already own into cash. If you have furniture, electronics, children's items, sports equipment, jewelry, etc. (in other words, the usual clutter that most of us once thought we needed to buy), then a yard sale might just get you some extra funds for attending the conference.

B-E-G

Ok this may not be the best way to get the funds but it can be the most effective and who knows, it might work!

BE CREATIVE!

Ask for contributions in lieu of birthday, anniversary and other special occasion gifts.

Sell Stuff on Craigslist or eBay

A good alternative to the yard sale is to make use of Craigslist and eBay. Both are great internet sites for buying and selling almost anything. Over 40 million people use them every month. Craigslist is free and localized, so there is typically no shipping involved. eBay offers several different fee structures based on your needs.



Save a little each month

There is still a little over 4 months until the conference, try saving a little money each month. The costs will not seem so intimidating if a little is saved at a time.



Frequent Flyer Miles

Ask others to donate their frequent flyer miles.

Develop a conference pledge sheet

This is a great way to raise \$425 in just one week!

- Day 1: Sponsor yourself – pay the fundraising kitty \$25
- Day 2: Ask five friends to contribute \$20
- Day 3: Ask two relatives to sponsor you for \$25
- Day 4: Ask five co-workers to sponsor you for \$10
- Day 5: Ask five neighbors to sponsor you for \$25
- Day 6: Ask your company to sponsor you for \$25
- Day 7: Ask two businesses you frequent (such as your dry cleaner, doctor, dentist, etc.) for \$25

Most people are happy to give when they are asked. Explain the importance of attending the conference. Take the opportunity to raise awareness of cystinosis in your community. Many people who have raised funds have commented how much others want to help. Other people want to do something positive for you!