



FUN-RAISING IDEAS

FOR YOUR WORKPLACE GIVING CAMPAIGN

There are all kinds of ways to make campaign season fun at your workplace!

A creative theme can really personalize your campaign and help raise money. Try some of these great ideas and feel free to contact your Relationship Coordinator for support and assistance.

FOOD RELATED



Bake Sale - Have employees bake their favorite treats to sell during break or lunch.

Bakery Cart - Wheel a serving cart through the workplace and sell bagels, doughnuts, cookies, coffee cake, coffee, and juice, with proceeds going to United Way.

Lunch Box Auction – Employees create gourmet lunches to be auctioned off to the highest bidder. Give prizes for the most creative, nutritious, elegant, or clever meals.

Ice Cream Social - Set up an ice cream bar with a variety of favorite toppings. Charge employees by the scoop.

Pizza Party - Invite employees to a pizza party during the lunch hour. Ask them for a donation of \$2 per slice of pizza. Ask local pizzerias to donate or discount pizzas.

Progressive Breakfast - Have each department bring multiple servings of breakfasts foods. Employees rotate throughout the building to sample each department's dishes. Charge employees \$5 to participate. It's an opportunity for departments to get to know each other.

Wine Tasting - Hold an online wine tasting event and select five wines to be rated. All employees and their spouses/ guests in attendance are given rating sheets. Special drawings for bottles of wine or wine-themed gifts are also held for contributors to the United Way campaign throughout the week. The larger the contribution the more chances for prizes.

Latte Stand and Giving Example - For more distinguished coffee drinkers, offer a latte-stand during a morning meeting. Remind them how much a cup of gourmet coffee or tea costs. Give examples of what giving up one cup of coffee, one soda or one candy bar a day can do for a person in need. Ask if they can donate that same amount (or more) each week to United Way.

Candy Grams - Sell candy with your company or United Way's logo on it. All proceeds go to the United Way.

Midnight Breakfast - If your organization has a third shift, charge employees for a midnight breakfast served by executives and other day employees.

Eating Contest - Who can eat the most in a given amount of time (hot dogs, pie, crackers, pickles, etc.)

Chili Cook-Off - Employees cook their favorite chili. Organize a panel of "expert" judges to decide on the best recipe. Charge employees to sample and eat lunch or even have the employees vote.

Whipped Cream Pie in the Face - Host a whipped cream throwing contest. Use sponges covered or pie tins filled with whipped cream and try to hit a target. Get management to be the targets and have employees pay to play.

Executive Chef – Auction off dinner for two (or more) at the home of an executive.

Pancake & Waffle Breakfast – Host a pancake or waffle breakfast for employees. Charge employees for the ticket. Encourage leadership to serve food at the breakfast as a way to show their support for the campaign

Lobby Popcorn Machine - Encourage those to donate a bag of popcorn and use proceeds to go towards the campaign

COMPANY/OFFICE THEME



Competition between Companies – Do you have a vendor or a competitor that also runs a workplace giving campaign with United Way? Consider doing a friendly competition between companies. Most raised? Most participation? Most food donated? The winning company has to provide the other company with a prize (i.e.: hosted lunch, tickets to a sporting event, etc.).

Parking Spot – offer a raffle for a free parking spot – the best one or the closest one to the building for that employee who donates. The name goes into the raffle and they win for the year or every month it changes to a new person.

Cubicle Makeover– Have employees makeover their cubicles. Theme the cubes.

Coin Wars – Get rid of your change for United Way. Set up large water jugs in each department and do a coin war. The highest fundraising department wins a pizza party.

Boss for a Day - Sell tickets to be the “boss” for a day. The CEO and employee will trade jobs for 1 day.

Vacation Day -This is probably the most effective and appreciated event. Have employees “buy” a vacation day by contributing a day’s wages to United Way.

Parking Place Auction - Employees bid on front-row parking spaces to be used until campaign season next year.

Vending Machines - Raise the cost of vending machine items during your campaign with the difference going to United Way.

Children’s Drawing Contest - Give employees photographs of some top executives for their children under 12 to draw. Charge a ballot fee to vote for the best portraits. Display the winning portraits. Variations of this event: have children draw people helping other people; poems, collages and photos can also be submitted.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS



Survivor Game - Each participant pays \$5 to join and has to do something each day to stay on the island. They have to: bring an item for the silent auction, bring in baked goods for the bake sale, or wear a certain color. The winner receives paid time off.

Basket Auction - Ask each department in your organization to sponsor, create and fill a theme basket (spa, chocolate, golf, cooking). The baskets are then auctioned off. The department that has the most tickets at the end also wins a prize.

Car Wash - Charge employees to have their cars washed by management. Take and sell pictures.

Dress Down Day - Sell employees the right to dress casually or silly for a day. Variations include: Silly Hat Day”, “Sports Team Day” or “Ugly Shoe Day”. United Way has “Casual Day” stickers available at no cost.

Auction - Auction off staff services (i.e., babysitting, oil change, lunch for a week), executive parking spaces, donated merchandise or services. Try conducting the auction over your internet site.

Mini Massage – Find a massage therapist who is willing to donate their time. Charge employees for a 15-minute chair massage.

SPORTS RELATED



Football Toss - Measure for distance and accuracy with prizes for top Guy and top Gal. Charge per attempt.

Office Olympics – Set up an obstacle course in the lunchroom, several offices, and several floors of offices or outside. One station can be for typing a couple of paragraphs, another station for filing, another for photocopying, etc. The contestants pay an entry fee with the funds going to United Way.

Hallway Golf – Form teams, get creative, and create golf holes throughout your office floors. Incorporate United Way’s mission, by conducting a food or book drive and use the raised items to create the holes. Employees pay to participate in the golf. Consider getting your corporate vendors to sponsor holes.

Office Miniature Golf - Provide putters and build a nine-hole course featuring slinkies, staplers, chairs and other creative obstacles. Participants sign up in teams of two, with or without a registration fee.

Marshmallow Driving Range - Set up your own driving range, but use marshmallows instead of actual golf balls - to make it more manageable. Award prizes for the longest and most accurate drives.

Executive Tricycle Races -Set up a relay course for executives. Let observers “bet” on their favorite contestant(s).

GAMES & CONTESTS



Ugliest Apparel Contest - Contestants pay to enter the ugliest tie, earrings, socks, or stockings contest. Take pictures of the participants and have employees ‘vote’ on the ugliest apparel by contributing a dollar.

Picture Match Game - Invite employees to try their luck at matching high school pictures, pet pictures or celebrity pictures to executives. Charge employees to vote and award the entry with the most right answers a fun prize.

Who Is It? - Gather baby pictures of co-workers. Have a contest to see who can correctly name the most co-workers. Contestants pay a fee to take part. Give an award for the most correct matches.

Balloon Pop - Employees or vendors donate prizes for this event– a variation of a traditional raffle. Before filling a balloon with helium, put a note inside with the name of a prize. Employees buy a balloon and pop it to find out what prize they’ve won.

ETO (Extra Time Off) Goodie Bags – Assemble and sell bags of candy. Each bag includes a slip of paper with messages such as, “Congratulations. You won 4 hours of extra time off,” or “Sorry, you didn’t win extra time off. Please play again.”

FESTIVAL THEMED



Flashback Carnival -Invite employees to an old-fashioned carnival, complete with bake sales, bubble blowing and hotdogs. Hold a hoola-hoop contest and hoop-shoot to really give it that flashback flavor. Charge participants a fee to enter the contest. Set up a dunk tank with all your favorite dunkable executives. Charge \$3.00 for three balls. Throw those pies at all your favorite executives.

INCENTIVES & PRIZES



- Bonus vacation days
- Prime parking spaces/free parking
- Movie passes
- Department pizza party
- Day off to do volunteer work
- Chair or hand massage
- Lunch or dinner with CEO
- Gift baskets or goodie bags
- Early dismissal on Friday
- Traveling trophy for department with highest participation
- A two-hour lunch break
- Sleep-in-late or leave-work-early pass
- Job swap (boss does winner’s job for a day)
- Gift certificates donated by local merchants
- Mugs, T-shirts, key chains, etc., with company logo
- Casual days
- Lottery tickets
- Cafeteria coupons
- Employee-designed T-shirts