

## Food related activities

Chili cook off- Employees cook and bring in their favorite chili recipe to be judged by co-workers. Employees pay \$5 for a bowl to try all of the entries. You can also do this with desserts or any favorite dish.



Soup Kitchen- Create a big pot of soup and have a big soup and bread line for your employees. On the tables have facts about the agencies that United Way supports that benefit the homeless and hunger.



Latte stand- Offer a latte stand. Sell to coffee drinkers and remind employees what a latte costs and show them how donating that amount daily (or weekly) can benefit the programs that United Way funds. Call us for this information.

Progressive breakfast (or lunch)- Have each department bring a breakfast food item, employees rotate throughout the office to sample each department's contribution.



Ice cream or shake social- Mix up shakes or have a build your own sundae bar for employees. This is great for a thank you event.

Midnight breakfast- If your company has a third shift, don't forget them! Supply them with breakfast at midnight, served by executives.

Cookie exchange- Have employees bring a plate of their favorite cookies and swap with other employees.

International Food day- Invite employees to create tasty treats from around the world. Hold the event over a lunch hour and charge for tickets to the tasting. Award prizes for the best food items in categories such as treats, snacks, main dishes, side dishes.

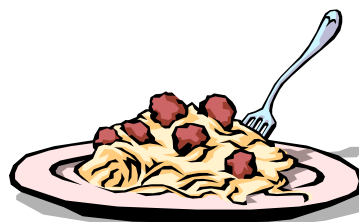
Spaghetti dinner- Provide take home meals for sale too.

Hold a tailgate party- sell hotdogs, chips, and drinks

Potato bar- Sell baked potatoes with all of the toppings

Lunch box auction- Have employees create gourmet lunches to be auctioned off to the highest bidder. Give prizes for the most creative, nutritious, elegant, or humorous.

Candy bar or popcorn sale



## Games and Contests

### Contests

- Pie-eating contest- Choose employees or managers to compete in a pie-eating contest. Tie participant's hands behind their back and time them to see how many cream pies they can eat in a designated time
  - Best celebrity or employee impersonation- Hold a contest for employees to dress or act as their favorite celebrity or fellow employee. Be sure to put together a good judging panel and award prizes.
  - Mystery hunt- Clues (sent via e-mail) lead hunters to a United Way agency or co-worker who is connected to an agency. This is a great way to educate employees about United Way's involvement in the community.
- United Way trivia pursuit- Distribute printed questions about United Way and its programs every day for a week. Then ask trivia questions based on the information. Those completing all questions are entered into a drawing.
- Oh baby!- Recruit one manager from each department to compete in a baby food eating contest. Let employees feed their managers.
- Executive dare- Challenge the staff to meet a goal. If they can meet the goal, a manager or CEO will perform a dare. Examples- a losing department manager can cook lunch for the winning department. The CEO can dress crazy for a day.
- United Way jingle contest- Have each department create a jingle about United Way. Have them perform for a judging panel or other employees.
- Dollar an inch contest- Employees donating over \$100 can cut an inch off of the boss' tie. Give prizes for the shortest tie, ugliest tie, etc.
- Baby picture match game- Invite employees to try their luck matching baby pictures to pictures of staff or management. Charge \$2 per ballot and offer prizes for the person with the most matches.
- Balloon pop- Before filling balloons with helium, add a piece of paper naming a prize to be won. Employees pay \$1 to pop a balloon and win the prize.
- Create a game- Hand out a United Way quiz which compliments materials in the campaign packet. Those answering correctly are eligible for prizes.
- Pumpkin carving contest- Plan a Halloween theme and have a pumpkin carving contest. Employees buy the pumpkins, then pay to enter the contest. Award prizes in a variety of categories such as most creative, scariest, best effort, or most traditional.
- Scavenger hunt- Make a creative list and have employees find the items within the company. Timed game is best.
- Matching game- Have the ECC take pictures of employees heads and legs and employees pay to guess at matches. Men can wear stockings and women wear wigs or odd shoes. Offer prizes.
- Basket shooting contest- Charge each employee for a three minute time period to shoot baskets with a prize going to the winner. Another take would be to do a Bozo style "Grand Prize Game".



- Ugliest tie or hat contest- Have employees wear their ugliest hats or ties and solicit votes (\$1 per vote) from employees. The person with the most votes at the end of the day wins.
- Company IQ test- Make up an IQ test based on your company's history or products. Have employees pay to complete it and offer a prize to the winner.
- Look a like contest- Employees dress up as famous personalities such as Elvis, Madonna, etc and co-workers pay to vote on the best look a like. Award a prize to the winner.



## Sports events

- Golf outing- Hold a golf or mini-golf tournament. Work with a local golf course to get a reduced rate. Charge players a regular rate. Award prizes for longest put, lowest score, etc. A mini golf course can be set up at the office.
- Tug of war- Management team vs. staff or interdepartmental. Each team pays an entry fee.
- Tricycle races- Have managers race but before the contest let employees pay to tie weight to the bikes. Or open to everyone with an entry fee and prize to winner.
- Team sports- organize tournaments with any of your favorite games. Consider ping-pong, video games, volleyball, thumb wrestling, or board games.
- Wheelchair race- race on wheelchairs using plungers to move yourself.
- Bowling tournament- Get a bowling alley to reduce fees. Charge full rates.
- Office Olympics- Set up an obstacle course in the office. Have them make paper clip chains, pencil sharpening contests, typing contests.
- Fun races such as three legged race, wheelbarrow races, etc.
- Bike or walk-a-thon- collect pledges
- Croquet or ladder ball tournament



## Auctions and Sales

- Silent auctions- Have staff auction off services such as car washing, cooking, or donated crafts. Have executives auction off their parking places or dinner with them. Solicit local vendors and businesses for prizes.
- Craft, food, or bake sale- Employees donate baked goods, items from their gardens, or even meals with proceeds going to United Way.
- DVD/CD/Video/Book sale- Employees donate new or used items and proceeds go to United Way
- Employee raffle- Employees donate items to be raffled off during the campaign.

Donated items can include food items, homemade craft items, use of a vacation home, or tickets to a special event. Raffle tickets can be purchased or handed out based on completing pledge forms



- Theme baskets- Have each department create a theme basket to be auctioned via silent or live auction. Themes can include movie night, crafts, golfing, sports, family game night, spa package, scrapbook kits, or baking.
- CEO car wash- Employees who donate a designated amount can have their car washed by the CEO. Charge for photos of the bosses cleaning.
- Services for a day- Auction off employees, supervisors, or executives to do work around an employees home such as mowing the lawn, baby sit, wash windows etc.
- Rummage sale- Employees donate items to sell. Hold the sale in a cafeteria or conference room. Can be private or open to public. Specialize for just kids and baby items.
- Plant sale- Have employees dig up their extra perennials and have a fall plant sale.



### Miscellaneous ideas

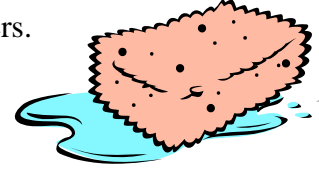
- Top ten list- Have a contest among employees to make a list of the top ten reasons to support the United Way. Post winning list in bathrooms, break rooms, or publish in the next newsletter.
  - United Way jail-a-thon- “Arrest” employees, set bail, and provide them with phone numbers to raise cash to get them out of “jail”.
  - Payday reminders- Hand out Payday candy bars as a reminder that employees can pledge with payroll deductions.
  - Change jar- Encourage employees to drop their change in a United Way campaign box in the break room.
- Casual day- Sell pins for casual dress day. Employees pay \$1-2 per day to dress casually. United Way can provide these pins.
- Drawings- For every \$10 pledged to United Way, the employee’s name will go in a drawing for a prize. The drawing will be held on the last day of the campaign.
- Penny jar- Throw your spare pennies in a jar. Challenge departments to collect the most pennies. For a fun twist, designate quarters as “sabotage” and encourage competing departments to drop quarters in each other’s bottles. At the end of the contest count coins and subtract the quarters. The department with the most money wins and all money goes to United Way.



- Dunk tank- Set up a dunk tank in the parking lot and have employees pay to dunk managers or co-workers.
- Purchase carnations or cookies and have employees pay to send to co-workers. At Halloween you can send dead flowers! See if flower shops will donate.
- Create an employee cookbook- Collect employee recipes and helpful hints. Print or copy the recipes and bind and charge for each copy.
- Trick or Treat Party- Invite children from a United Way agency to tour the office in a costume. Give them pencils, candies, and other treats.



- Compliment-o-gram- Send anonymous compliments (for a small charge) to co-workers.
- Balloon-o-gram- Send balloons with messages to co-workers.
- Soak the boss- Pay to throw wet sponges at the boss
- Executive shoe shine- Company executives set up a shoe shine booth and employees pay for the service.
- Goblin goodies- buy treats to send to others (or any other name based on your theme)
- Have an all day scrapbook crop. Find a location to donate space for a day or use your company space. Charge a set amount (\$25-\$30) to allow people to scrapbook all day (on weekends) or Friday nights. Mom's love this kind of getaway! Do raffles and giveaways hourly and provide food.



#### More ideas!

- Create and sell college survival kits
- Cook off contest
- Concession stand
- Candy sale
- Dessert tasting extravaganza
- Valet parking
- Guess how many jelly beans or M&M's in jar contest
- Flavored coffee tasting
- Coloring contest
- Recycle cans for cash
- Sidewalk chalk art show
- Ice cream social
- Guess the company grand total
- Most humorous photo contest
- Lip sync contest
- Packer ticket raffle
- Have executives shave their heads if donations reach a set amount
- Gift wrap service
- Cubicle decorating contest
- Sucker pull

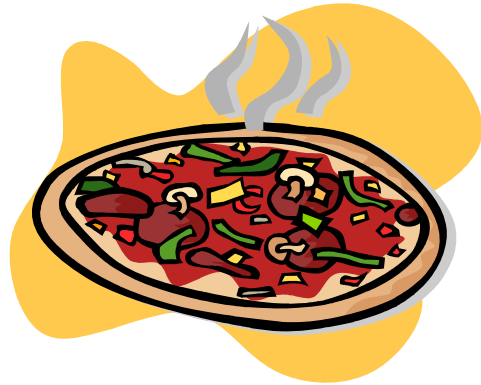


## **Make campaign meetings fun!**

- Create a team spirit. We are helping together!
- Create a United Way game such as Jeopardy or Trivia, Have the answers cover the information that you want to share with employees.
- Distribute “Because of your contribution...” stories about ways United Way makes a difference in the community.
- Recruit employees to share reasons to contribute to United Way.
- Schedule speakers from agencies receiving funding from United Way to educate employees about community needs and how their money helps.
- Chocolate kick-off- Create candy bar wraps with the United Way logo and “Thanks to you, it’s working” on them. Distribute at kickoff.
- United Way cookie caper- Pass out cookies with pledge cards and the slogan- “United Way Cookie Caper- Help us bring in the dough”
- Have employees turn in completed pledge cards at the meeting. Hold drawings and award prizes for those who do.

## Prizes and Incentives

- Prime parking places
- Managers take employees to lunch
- Department pizza day
- Day or half day off with pay
- Tickets to sporting event
- Free meal or dessert
- Gift certificates
- Movie or concert tickets
- Ask local businesses or vendors to donate items
- Sleep in late day
- Use of company car
- CEO for the day
- Lottery tickets
- United Way promo items- shirts, cups, pens
- Company promo items- shirts, caps, coffee mugs, pens
- Gas card
- A traveling trophy
- Ice cream sandwiches
- Massage at local spa
- Hand written notes for the ECC
- Leave work early passes
- Trophy for department with highest participation
- Executives serve lunch to employees
- Open soda machine during lunch
- Cookie jar filled with cookies weekly
- Birthday off
- Two hours off per month to volunteer at a United Way agency
- Movie passes



### Leadership giving ideas

- Breakfast or lunch at a United Way agency with tour
- Breakfast and United Way speaker at office
- Rush hour wine and cheese tasting
- Golf, tennis, etc. with CEO
- Serve an assortment of gourmet desserts at United Way meeting



## Theme ideas

Using the theme:

- Have goofy or cheesy ideas for lots of fun!
- Have a decorating contest by department
- Tie food and games in with theme



## Themes

- Music mania- Play musical chairs, karaoke contest, musical trivia contest
- Halloween/ Fall festival- Pumpkin decorating contest, guess the weight of the pumpkin, haunted house, apple bobbing, apple or pumpkin pie baking contest, send co-workers dead flower bouquets (see if local florists will donate).
  - Hawaiian- Have employees wear Hawaiian shirts, have a limbo contest, have a luau
  - 50's- Wear decade attire, have a sock hop or twist contest.
  - 60's- Sell headbands, tie-dyed shirts, smiley face pins
  - 70's- Have a disco. Wear your favorite polyester shirt.
  - 80's- Who has the best or biggest 80's hair?
  - Wild west- Dress in cowboy hats and bandannas. Hold a chili contest. Serve BBQ's for a kick off event. Use a cactus for a thermometer.
- Sports- hold a tailgate party. Have a playing field with players advancing towards the goal. "Go the extra yard- Give"
- Raisin' money- Use the California raisins as a theme. Hand out boxes of raisins as they turn in pledge cards.
- Raiders of the lost heart- Chart progress on a heart. Each department represents a piece of the heart, the goal is met when the heart is full.
- The big shot- Instead of the standard United Way thermometer graph, use a hypodermic needle to chart progress. Have a hospital theme.
- Carnival- Have putt-putt, pool table, ring toss
- Hot air balloons- Have a balloon rising as funds are raised. "Set your sights high" or "The sky's the limit" Hold a drawing for a balloon ride.
- Other themes: Sports, Ethnic, Tropical, Outer space, Hollywood, Indy 500, NASCAR, Medieval times, Monopoly, New York! New York!, Mardi Gras, Holiday, A night at the casino, Counting on you (count jelly beans in a jar, count Dracula), Shoot for the stars, Reality show, Party in Paris, Oscars/Red carpet, Political scandal, Mystery theme, Olympics, Back to school, Christmas in September, Pirate or nautical, Dr Seuss: "Oh, the places you'll go", Monopoly: Don't leave your community to chance, Be a lifesaver.



## **Don't forget to thank them!**

We can never say thank you too many times. Thank your company and its employees in a variety of ways highlighted below.

- Sundae bar- Create a sundae bar with an assortment of ice creams and a wide variety of toppings.
- Have a finale party. Once your office has reached it's goal, have a finale party. Invite all employees and give a thank you presentation. Serve refreshments and have prize drawings.
- Donor meal- Have a thank you meal for those who pledged. Ask people who didn't pledge to pay for the meal with proceeds going to United Way.
- Display campaign results prominently.
- Have an awards luncheon or party hosted by your CEO
- Employee newsletter with names and photos of campaign volunteers
- Distribute Thank You cards (handwritten if possible)
- Special button on ID tag showing that they are a United Way contributor.
- Letter form the CEO
- Campaign mementos including certificates, coffee mugs, cups, notepads, pens, or LIVE UNITED T-shirts
- Incentive prize drawings

Special Thank you to campaign volunteers

- You are a lifesaver! Give lifesaver candy with a thank you note.
- You take the cake! Give a cupcake with a card saying thank you.
- A toast to a job well done! Fill a plastic champagne or wine glass with jelly beans.
- We appreciate our Motivated and Multi-talented volunteer! Give a bag of M&Ms