

ACTIVITIES

Generate enthusiasm, employee participation and additional dollars

Pair activities with your campaign theme or use them on their own.

Theme basket raffle/auction

Each department assembles a theme basket (golf, chocolate, spa, BBQ, etc.) which are raffled or auctioned off. Put together a book that shows all items so that everyone is able to see the items available. Tap on employee's talents and resources for themed baskets.

Jail and Bail

Executives get "arrested" and they can't leave "jail" until a certain amount of money is raised for their bail. Some companies have had off duty police officers do the "arresting."

Agency or Not

Each person takes out \$1. Have a person call out agencies. Employees put the \$1 on their heads if they think it's a United Way agency or put it on their tails if they think it is not. Collect the \$1 if people guess wrong, until there is one winner.

Casual for a cause

Sell Casual Day badges for employees to dress casually on certain days.

Tricycle races

Use the excuse to act like a kid as you race against your coworkers. Create teams with three or four riders. Teams are named and publicized in advance, allowing employees to make pledges or bets on the winning team. Team members ride large tricycles (rent or arrange to borrow from a cooperating store) through a predetermined course throughout the office or outside. Have the course marked with signs or tape on the floor. Fans are able to watch and cheer from different areas. The race may be designed as a relay.

Brown Bag/Agency Lunch

Invite several United Way Agency Partners for "Lunch & Learn," allowing them to speak about their initiatives and how employee donation dollars really make a difference.

Kickball or volleyball tournament

Hold "recess" for employees and go head to head with a game of kickball, volleyball ball or whatever you fancy.

Relaxation Day

Hire a massage therapist to come to the office and treat employees to an unwinding back rub.

Employee Cookbook

Collect and group recipes into a customized cookbook. Employees' children create illustrations for the cookbook, including cover. If possible, print and bind books by a local business, pro bono. This event has been so popular that some organizations have not been able to fill all requests. You set the price!

Order Up!

Take orders for lunch for an area restaurant, pick up the food for them but charge a fee for delivery.

Chili cook-off

Employees cook their favorite chili recipe and enter it into a cook-off contest. Charge employees a fee to try the chili. A panel of "chili experts" can select the Official Chili Champion – be sure to offer a prize to the winner.



Sucker for a Buck

Pay \$1 and get a sucker and a prize that goes with it (color code the bottom of the sucker; certain color, certain prize).

Coin War

Each department/floor/division has an empty water cooler bottle. Employees drop spare pennies, nickels, and dimes into the bottles. These coins are counted as positive. Quarters and dollars count as negatives. Employees can “sabotage” another group’s bottle by dropping a quarter into their bottle. At the end, all positive and negative monies are counted and the group with the most money raised wins.

Craft & Bake Sales

Encourage employees to get in touch with their creative side! Hold a sale where interested employees can donate their spectacular creations and treats.

Mustache Mania

Designate a “Mustache Mania” day. For a \$2 donation, employees can purchase a mustache and designate a co-worker to wear it on that day. If they “opt out” they can return it for \$4.

Pet photo contest

Ask employees to bring in photos of their pet and pay \$5 to guess which employee the pet belongs to. Winners receive a gift card to a local retailer or restaurant.

Pie in the face

Recruit executive staff to be the recipient of pie(s) in the face. Purchase items needed to make whipped cream pies (and lots of paper towels!). Charge staff members \$2 to throw a pie.

CEO Car Wash

Employees donate \$5.00 (or your determined amount) to have their car washed by the boss. You can charge extra for special services like cleaning the interior or polishing the rims. You may also want to charge for a polaroid or digital camera photo of the car owner and boss together.

United Way trivia

Send e-mails containing United Way facts during the week leading up to the pledge drive. Once it begins, send a new trivia question each day. Reward correct answers with raffle tickets toward a prize drawing.

Health and Giving Events

Each department in your organization hosts a special event that will raise money for local men, women and children and better the health of the employees at the same time. These could include yoga classes, stress reduction workshops, personal trainer consultations or brown bag workshops for health and wellness hosted by local organizations.

Popcorn Sales

Sell popcorn to employees. Who can resist the smell of fresh popcorn popping?

Rose Event

Ask local florists to donate roses or carnations that employees can buy for a fee to send to fellow co-workers. As an added incentive, the organization might match each donation. Try the same event with cookies, as a variation, with employees donating the cookies.

Backyard/Parking Lot BBQ

Set a sale price for the BBQ. Pre-sell tickets to the event and donate proceeds to United Way. The event may also be set up as a potluck picnic with everyone bringing a dish to share.



Where is _____? (Name of CEO or a person in management)

Create a life-size cardboard person and use a cut-out picture of a staff member (CEO) to put on the cardboard person. Employees can send this to anyone's office with a note. \$1.00 buys you the opportunity to send it, \$2.00 will allow you to have it removed, \$3.00 to also find out who sent it to you. At the end of the week, the cut out can be auctioned off.

Kids Coloring Contest

A colorful way to get everyone's children involved is to have children color a United Way logo or have them make a picture that shows giving or sharing. These pieces of art are great to use on thank you cards, t-shirts or bookmarks. Sponsor a contest and give a prize to the top three artists.

Healthy Living

Promote healthy living in the workplace by organizing a walk or bike ride through a local park or on your office campus. Raise money by taking pledges for each mile walkers/riders complete. At the end, each participant must pay X amount, depending on how far off their actual finish time is from their guessed time. Have a healthy lunch following the walk/ride.

Carnival

Kick off the event with a carnival-themed party. Employees can participate in traditional carnival games such as the egg/spoon race, ring toss and ducky race. Provide cotton candy and popcorn to the winners. Have an executive dunking booth. Have a balloon making contest; each employee can make a balloon animal and other employees will vote for their favorite.

"Show Your Spirit" Day

One day during the campaign, encourage employees to show their school spirit by digging into their closets and pulling out their letter jackets, team jerseys and old uniforms. They may also wear their children's jackets and jerseys. On that same day, host your United Way meetings, a potluck or some sort of special event allowing the employees to interact and share.

E-Bingo

Sell Bingo cards for a small fee. Send e-mails sporadically throughout the week with one or two Bingo numbers each time. The first person to get Bingo should let everyone know by sending an e-mail to all users, and, of course, he or she will win a donated prize.

Balloon-o-grams

Employees pay to have messages tied to helium balloons delivered to co-workers with compliments or encouraging words. Charge \$1, \$2, or \$5 per balloon.

Pick and Egg, Any Egg

Fill plastic eggs with prizes or cash, charge for the opportunity to play.

Balloon Pop

Employees 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 the prize. Employees pay \$1 to \$5 to buy a balloon and pop it to find out what prize they have won.

Pumpkin Carving or Decorating Contest

Plan a Halloween theme and hold a pumpkin carving contest. Find a local business willing to donate pumpkins for your organization to sell to your employees. Employees buy pumpkins for their families, their staff, or to use in the contest. Employees enter carved or decorated pumpkins individually or by group. Charge \$5 to enter and \$1 to vote.

