

Fun Ideas for Your Campaign



Featured Ideas

Wii Contest

Set up three or four video machines in a small conference room. Employees pay to play and try to beat the previous players' scores. This can take place over several days with many repeat players.

Latte Stand

For more distinguished coffee drinkers, offer a latte stand during a morning rally. 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.

Ping Pong Tournament

Set up a ping pong table and charge a tournament entry fee.

Ice Cream Sundae Social

Set up an ice cream bar with a variety of toppings and charge by the scoop. Or try selling root beer floats!

Food Related Activities

Breakfast of Champions - Pancake or Waffle Breakfast

Start the day off right by cooking breakfast in the company cafeteria. Don't forget the bacon, sausage, butter and syrup!

Midnight Breakfast

If your organization has a third shift, charge employees for a midnight breakfast served by the executives and other day employees. Ask your United Way representative to schedule an agency speaker.

Bakery Cart

Wheel a serving cart through the workplace and sell bagels, doughnuts, cookies, Danish, coffee and juice.

Lunchtime Festivities

Corn Roast

Great autumn activity. Grill sweet corn and charge by the ear. Be sure to have plenty of Wisconsin butter and salt available!

Lunch Box Auction

Ask employees who enjoy cooking to create a lunch box to be auctioned on a specific date.

Potluck Payoff

Organize a potluck lunch and have everyone bring in their favorite dish. Charge employees to have lunch.

Chili Cook-Off

Employees cook their favorite chili. Charge employees to sample the entries and vote for their favorites.

Good Neighbor BBQ

Join with other companies near your business to have a cook out with games and giveaways.

Tailgate Party

Create a sports theme to coincide with football season. Hold the party in the parking lot. Serve hot dogs, chips, soda and peanuts. Play a game of flag football or video football with participants donating an entry fee.

Afternoon Treats

Bake Sale

Ask each employee to donate an item for a company bake sale. Have items available for purchase.

Candy Grams

Sell candy with your company or United Way's logo on it.

Yummy Anytime

Employee Cookbook

Encourage employees to donate their favorite recipes to be collected, published and sold in a company cookbook. Request employee's children to provide illustrations.

Eating Contest

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

Whipped Cream Pie in the Face

Host a whipped cream pie throwing contest. Get management to be the targets and have employees pay to play.

Activities, Events & Parties

A Ghoulishly Good Time

Have a Halloween party, create a haunted house and have a pumpkin carving, pie eating or costume contest.

Be a Life Saver

Have some fun, beach style! Sand, sunglasses, beach balls and some festive music make your office a whole lot hotter. Give out Lifesaver candy for donations.

Bon Voyage

Use a traveling theme to host a "Bon Voyage" party as a victory celebration. Contributors are given "passports" to get into the party.

Funniest Home Videos

Employees can create original and funny home or work videos. Have a viewing party and charge an entrance fee of donations.

VIP Lounge

Decorate a door to a room where employees for a one time donation would be invited to enjoy snacks & refreshments.

Theatre Party

Employees can write skits that involve the United Way. Perform skits at kick off party, luncheon, or have a company movie night.

Theme Kick off Party

Hold a pot luck lunch with a certain theme. Employees can make food, add decorations to the office and dress according to the theme.

Sales

Flower Sales

Sell flowers at the office to employees. This works great in conjunction with Administrative Professional's Day or Sweetest Day!

Dead Flower Bouquet

This is a great Halloween idea. Get flower shops and restaurants to donate dead flowers. Employees pay to have a dead flower bouquet with a message sent to another employee.

Rummage Sale

Ask employees to donate old items (books, CDs, videos) for a company or department-wide sale. Unsold items may be donated to charity.

Balloon Sale

On a piece of paper write down a prize or United Way fact. Place each piece of paper in a balloon and have balloons available for employees to purchase during the campaign. The money for each purchase goes to the United Way.

Easter Egg Sale

Fill plastic eggs with numbers. People buy eggs for springtime prizes such as potted flowers and gift baskets.

Ornament Sale

Bring in hand-made or purchased ornaments to hang on a tree. Names/numbers are chosen until all ornaments are picked from the tree. Raffle tickets are sold for \$.25 each or five for \$1.

Events

Dunk Tank

Set up a dunk tank in the parking lot. Have executives take turns on the "hot seat."

Car Wash

Employees can get their cars washed by the boss. Have managers/CEOs available to wash/wax/vacuum employees' cars. Get neighbors or neighboring business involved by having the carwash open to the public. Charge a small fee for the service to donate to United Way.

Stress Reduction Workshop

Hold a workshop at lunch or in the middle of the day for employees to relieve stress. Things to include are neck and hand massages, exercise and facts about what causes/relieves stress.

Pucker Up and Kiss a Pig!

For a donation, employees can cast votes for the co-worker or manager who will "kiss the pig" at the end of the campaign. This would also work with goats, cows, or any other animal.

Casual Day

If your business does not have a casual dress code, then offer employees the option to dress casual one day a week through the campaign. Have additional casual days available to purchase.

Auction

Auction off staff services (i.e. babysitting, oil change, lunch for a week), executive parking spaces, donated merchandise or services. Or ask each department to sponsor, create, and fill a theme basket (spa, chocolate, golf, etc.) for the auction.

Crazy Hat Day

Ask employees to come to work with their favorite hat or ask them to create a crazy hat. Set a time to model the hats around breaks or lunch. Award prizes for the most creative. Email pictures to United Way.

Sports Related Events

Hula Hoop/Jump Rope Contest

Let employees know that at a specified time there will be a “hula” and/or jump rope contest, & encourage them to practice during the week prior to contest date. Play some fun music. See who can hula or jump rope the longest or most hulas or jumps. Hula or jump rope towards a goal or line & back. Award prizes.

Football toss

Measure for distance and accuracy. Charge per each attempt.

Golf Outing

Organize a golf outing for employees. Participants pay an entry fee. Have goofy prizes for highest score, most putts, longest game, etc.

Volleyball/Softball/Football/Basketball Challenge

Play real or improvised games with teams of employees. Charge an entrance fee for each participant. Have spectators bet for the winning team.

Office Golf

Provide putters and build a nine-hole course featuring slinkies, staplers, chairs and other creative obstacles. Participants sign up in teams of two.

Fun Run

Charge an entry fee to compete and provide a prize for the winner.

Frozen Turkey Bowl

Use 2-liter plastic bottles filled with water for bowling pins and a frozen turkey as a ball.

Croquet Tournament

Set up a croquet course on a nearby lawn and charge a tournament entry fee.

Tricycle Races

Run a tricycle race around your building using children’s tricycles.

Games & Contests

Penny Wars

Employees can put pennies in a jar set up for their department. At the end of the given time period the department with the most pennies wins. Departments can sabotage jars by donating sliver which can be subtracted from the amount. Give proceeds from the jars to the United Way.

Photo Contest

Employees can take pictures of legs, arms, eyes or other body parts. Or have employees bring in baby photos of themselves. Guess which picture belongs to what employee. Charge \$1 per guess.

Lip Sync or Air Guitar Contest

Jam out to your favorite tunes with a lunchtime lip sync or air guitar contest. Have the audience vote for their favorite with a donation.

American Idol

Employees make a donation to vote for the singing group of their choice.

United Way Jingle

Employees can create with a jingle for the United Way. Each employee sings their jingle over the PA system. Prize goes to the best jingle.

Top Ten Lists

Ask employees to write a top ten list of reasons to give to the United Way. Award prizes for most creative list or most original ideas.

Guessing Game

Display a jar filled with skittles, M&M, or peanuts. Have employees guess how many are in the jar to win the goodies inside. Charge \$1 for each guess.

Look-a-like Contest

Employees dress up like famous personalities such as Marilyn Monroe, Nixon, or Elvis. Employees pay to vote on the best costume.

Envelope Contest

Envelopes available for purchase with one containing a prize such as Packer tickets and the rest containing United Way facts. Make sure all the envelopes look the same and have employees pick one.

Talent Contest

Ask employees to show off their hidden talents. Award prizes for funniest talent, craziest talent, and most creative.

Board Games

Groups of employees compete around a chosen board game. They may move their piece for every returned pledge card, for every \$10 raised, or for participation in volunteer activities.

E-mail 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.

Kids Coloring Contest

Involve employees' children by asking them to make a picture that shows giving or sharing. Display the artwork. Sponsor a contest and give a prize to the top three artists.

Ugliest Apparel Contest

Contestants pay to enter the ugliest tie, earrings or socks contest. Take pictures of the participants and have employees 'vote' on the ugliest apparel by contributing a dollar.

Scavenger Hunt

Leave fun clues and have the employees find the items hidden within the office.

Pumpkin Decorating Contest

Employees or departments carve and decorate pumpkins. Vote by placing money in container for each pumpkin.

Chair Races

Set up a race track in your office and use desk chairs for employees to compete in drag races. Have employees place bets on who they think will win with proceeds going to the United Way.

Hot Wheels Race

Hold a Hot Wheel car race and have employees sponsor their favorite car. Have separate heats and award prizes to the winner.

Plinko

Just like the "Price is right". Set up a game board with slots full of prizes or of course Plinko slots. Prizes can range from football tickets to cash. Employees can pay \$2 for three turns.

Trading Spaces

Take-off from the reality show "Trading Spaces" and have employees decorate each others cubicles and offices.

Pins

Give each person a pin & have them pin it on their shoulder. Instruct everyone they cannot use the words Ex. yes or yea, etc. When they do, the person they said this to gets their pin(s). The person then adds the pin(s) to their other pin(s), the person with ALL the pins at the end of the day wins a prize.

Survivor

Take-off the popular television program by voting people on or off your “Campaign Island.” Each dollar contributed is a vote for that survivor.

United Way 007

Have you ever wanted to be a secret agent? Give clues to employees in the form of riddles. The department or individual who figures out all the riddles receives a prize at the end of the campaign.

Dollar an Inch

Executives participate in an all-day competition to end the day with the shortest tie. Employees buy the privilege of cutting an inch off their favorite executive’s tie. Give prizes for the shortest tie, ugliest tie, etc.

Team Chia Pet Contest

Employees will need to divide into teams. Each team will be given a Chia Pet to care for. The Chia’s hair may be trimmed, primped and styled. Prizes will be awarded for fullest growth, longest single sprout, most original, etc.

Radio-Controlled Car Race

Set up a pre-determined course. Use timers to see who can run the course in the shortest time. Charge per attempt.

Spelling Bee

Hold a spelling bee, charging \$5 entry fee. Gallery observers place \$1 bets on their favorite participants. Present winner with special award.

Other Ideas

CEO/Executive Agreement

Ask managers to agree to do something crazy if employees meet a certain goal. For example managers can do a polar bear jump or wear a tutu to work.

Flamingo Visit

Purchase a small amount of plastic flamingos and place them in someone’s office. The right to determine where the birds land next is up this employee’s discretion and a donation to the United Way should be encouraged. Employees can purchase “flamingo insurance” to insure flamingos do not land in their office. Charge a premium which can be donated to the United Way. For variation substitute an ugly lamp!

Brown Bagging It

Designate a day as “Brown Bag Day” every month. Encourage staff to bring their lunches on that day and donate the money that they would normally spend going out to lunch.

Employee Joke Book

Encourage employees to donate their favorite jokes to be collected, published and sold in a company joke book.

Compliment-o-grams

Make up special forms and sell them to employees as an anonymous way to give a compliment to someone in the office. Charge one dollar per compliment. Or attach the messages to helium balloons.

Corporate Challenge

Take on another company in your field in a campaign goal challenge.

Employee/Manager Switch

Ask managers to take the place of another employee and do work they would not normally do. Work could include answering phones or running machines. For a small twist have employees rent a boss with donations to the United Way.

Believe it or Not

Construct a board with several topics listed on it. The categories should be about the United Way and its partner programs. Under each topic list some facts that are true and some facts that are false. Have teams of employees pick out the true facts.

Volunteer Fun

Ask teams of employees to get together to do a fun volunteer project. They could paint a house, do yard work, or do some light repairs to someone's home. Have team leaders award prizes for fastest to climb a ladder or quickest to change a light bulb.

Vacation Day

For those employees who donate at least a days worth of wages to the United Way, give them an extra day of vacation at the end of the year.

Agency Tours

Invite a group of employees to tour one of the many United Way agencies. This is a great way for employees to see how their donations are used to help the community.

Theme Ideas

- Carnival
- Hollywood Glamour
- Roaring Twenties
- Fifties Sock-Hop
- Australian Outback
- Wild, Wild West
- Survivor
- American Idol
- School days
- African Safari
- Around the World
- Popular TV/Movies
- Superhero
- Hawaiian Luau
- Disco
- 80s
- Sports
- Disney
- Casino Royale
- NASCAR
- Indy 500
- Medieval Times
- New York! New York!
- Return to Top
- Incentives & Prizes
- Bonus vacation days
- Day off for birthday
- Sleep in for a day
- Subscription to favorite magazine
- Reserved parking space
- Open Vending machines
- Longer lunch
- Catered Lunch
- Paid hours to volunteer
- Traveling trophy for department with highest participation
- Dinner Cooked by Executives
- Early dismissal on Friday
- Flowers
- Limo Ride
- Phone Cards
- Candles
- Casual days
- Lunch or dinner with the CEO
- Company Memorabilia (Mugs, hats, shirts)
- Health club membership
- Short term membership to YMCA
- Spring cleaning/ housekeeping services
- Sports Tickets
- Restaurant gift certificates
- Gas Coupons
- Lottery Tickets
- Movie/Video Rental
- Golf/Golf Lessons
- Company Car for a day
- Mall Gift Certificates
- Books
- Family Portrait
- Massage
- Manicure/Pedicure
- Plants
- Bring your pet to work day
- Weekend Getaway
- Family Vacation
- Airline Tickets

Thank You

Take an opportunity to say Thanks! Donors and campaign volunteers need to hear how important their contributions are to the community. Here are some ways to thank your volunteers:

- Hand out awards, certificates, and pins.
- Produce a special "Thank You" addition of your company newsletter.
- Handwritten thank you notes from executives.
- Surprise people with a note, flowers or balloons.
- Plan a "Thank-You" breakfast, lunch or ice cream social. Have management serve the food.
- Organize singing telegrams performed by coworkers.