



## **FUNraising Ideas**

### **Events:**

#### **Executive Auction**

Get your executive staff to donate one hour to your campaign. Auction off each executive to the highest bidding employee with proceeds to benefit your United Way Campaign. The executive then must take over the employee's job for the appointed hour.

#### **Lunch Box Auction**

Employees supply lunches to be auctioned. Encourage CEO and management participation. Display lunches. Give prizes for the most creative, nutritional, elegant, and humorous lunch. Tie in a speaker from a United Way-funded agency that operates a food pantry.

#### **CEO Lunch**

Have your CEO and other management serve and bus tables at a luncheon. Sell tickets!

#### **Casual Days**

Sell casual day badges allowing employees to dress casually on certain days. Employees purchase badges for \$5 each. Designate certain casual days as "crazy days" and encourage your employees to show their wild side, i.e., Stupid Hat Day, Outrageous Socks Day, Sports Team Day, or Dress Up Day.

#### **Baby/Pet Picture Match Game**

Invite employees to try their luck matching baby and/or pet pictures of management. Award the entry with the most right answers a paid holiday off or some other fun incentive. Charge employees \$5 per ballot.

#### **CEO Car Wash**

Employees donate \$5 to have their car washed at high noon by their "boss." Charge extra for Polaroid photos.

#### **Balloon-o-gram**

Sell balloons to employees to give to their co workers. Employees can purchase the balloon, include a brief note, and have it sent to their colleague. Employees get affirmation and your office gets decorated with colorful United Way balloons.

#### **Raffles**

Vacation days, gift certificates, parking spaces, clothing/mugs with your company logo, etc. The sky is the limit!

#### **Beach Blanket Bingo**

Decorate a conference room with beach items: beach balls, blow up rafts, fake palm trees, etc. Establish a dress code, no office attire allowed. Serve hot dogs, fruit, sandwiches and drinks. Award best outfit, play bingo!

#### **Company Comedy**

Have employees bring in their favorite jokes. Combine all the jokes into one volume. Sell the books at a comedy-themed lunch hour.



**Don't Know Much About History**

Employees come to work dressed in clothing from their favorite eras. Employees decorate offices/cubicles according to the era selected.

**Eat This!**

Purchase whipped pies and balloons at your local store. Fill balloons with water. For a fee, employees throw pies and balloons at upper management. Arrange function to be held during peak business hours.

**(Insert Company Name) Funniest Home Videos**

Encourage employees to bring in their funniest videos, or to create new ones. Allot a time for showing videos. Establish a small entry fee. Funniest video wins grand prize of a donated DVD player.

**Lights, Camera, Action!**

Employees dress up as their favorite movie character or TV show personality. Best dressed wins and winner's favorite rerun or movie is shown during kickoff lunch.

**Office Olympics**

Teams must be made throughout the office. Determine sign up fees. Teams will participate in events such as making paper airplanes to see whose flies the longest distance; dress for success relay; shooting crumpled paper into wastebaskets, department darts etc. Encourage departments to enroll staff. Hold finals in the main lobby for all to see. Awards/prizes will be given to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place.

**Give 130!** (\$5 per 26 pay periods).

Have meetings at 1:30am or pm. Have stickers/buttons made saying "I Gave 130 – Ask Me Why". Base everything you do around the numbers 5 and 130. You can use any numbers you like.

**Shhh! Silent Auction**

Have staff bid silently on items such as extra vacation days, longer lunch hours; VIP parking spots, dinner passes, casual days, etc. Money raised goes to campaign.

**Sports Shorts**

Organize a softball, basketball, touch football, or bowling tournament. Staff socialize outside of work, creating stronger bonds! Assign teams to pay to play!

**Survivor**

Create tribes to compete against one another, each containing one member from upper management. Hold physical and mental challenges each day where tribes compete for prizes such as an extra 30 minutes on lunch, tickets to shows, etc. Challenges can include office mini-putt game, puzzles, quizzes, and scavenger hunts. The grand prize goal is a day of paid vacation.

**Tailgate Party**

Have a Monday night tailgate during football season. Each employee pays \$10.00 to attend. When work lets out, gather everyone together and serve hot dogs, wings, chips and beverages. Rent a big screen TV, watch the game as a team while enjoying great food.

**Walk A Mile in My Shoes**

Ask staff to come to work in their craziest pair of shoes prepared to have a wild and crazy lunch. Serve items such as FOOT-long subs, CORN chips, SHOESTRING French fries. Play Blue Suede Shoes, Kicking You Out, Footloose, and Boots Were Made for Walking.



### **"Who Knows the Nose" Contest**

Have employees take pictures of their noses. Hang the pictures on a wall. For a small fee (\$1.00) employees can guess the nose "owners." Employee guessing the most correct noses in the shortest amount of time is the winner. Winner takes half the pot.

### **Have Breakfast on Us**

Contributors to the campaign were honored at a "Have Breakfast on Us" affair. Senior management and supervisors donned cook's clothing to fry eggs, flip flapjacks and tend to the other serving chores for breakfast "on the house".

### **Greased Pig Contest**

For the past two years one company has added spice to its United Way campaign. The company sponsored a Greased Pig Contest where employees paid \$2.00 for a chance to chase down the greased pig of their choice. They then had the option of turning the swine back to the meatpacker for a ready to eat ham or take the piggy home

### **A piece of the tie**

One company coordinator wore the same tie during the campaign week. Each time an employee turned in a pledge card the employee got to cut off a piece of the tie. Not only was it great fun for the employees, but it was a great conversation piece that motivated employees to turn in their pledge cards.

### **Heavyweights**

Guess the combined height and weight of the "Heavyweights" (management).

### **"Show Your Spirit Day"**

One day during the campaign encourage employees to share their spirit by digging into their closets and pulling out their letter jackets, team jerseys, and old uniforms. They could also wear their children's jackets and jerseys.

On that same day have your United Way meetings, a potluck or some sort of special event allowing the employees to interact and share.

### **Team Fitness Challenge.**

Break participants into teams, or have them compete individually based on numbers. Each participant determines how much s/he wants to lose during a determined amount of time and for each pound s/he puts \$5 into a pot.

Each person weighs in. Each day there could be special lunches planned and motivational quotes posted around in support of the efforts and as a reminder. On the last day everyone weighs in again. For every pound lost they receive \$5. All left over money goes to the United Way.

### **Mascot Contest.**

Start the United Way campaign with great energy and enthusiasm by having a Mascot contest.

Departments or individuals can design a mascot that will be used at your company all through the campaign. Mascots can be on paper, three dimensional or even life-size! Offer prize to the designer(s) of the chosen mascot.

### **Penny Wars.**

Get your departments to compete against one another in the spirit of United Way. Each department is given a jar, or some other container. The object is to have the most money in your jar. pennies are added to the total and silver coins, the nickels, dimes and quarters are subtracted from the total. One department can sabotage other departments by putting their silver into their jars. A department will retaliate by putting more pennies in their jar and putting silver in the other department's jars. This will go on throughout a designated number of days. The jars should be kept in a central location where they can



be monitored by a neutral party, most likely the campaign coordinator. At the end of the designated time - the neutral party will total the jars and the department with the highest total receives a prize or incentive.

### **Card /Board Game Tournament**

This event can take place during lunch breaks and can consist of a number of board and/or card games to be played. Set an entry fee and acquire prizes for this event. You can make the event more interesting by introducing teams and/or interdepartmental competitions.

### **Chicken Wing Eating Contest**

For an event like this, there are usually anywhere from 4-7 teams, consisting of one male and one female. Each team is responsible for raising pledges for their team, either per wing or a flat rate. You will likely have to find an out of office venue for this event. There may be an opportunity for your venue to sponsor the event.

### **E-mail Bingo, 50/50 Draw or Raffle**

Bingo cards are available for purchase at any bingo supply store and other party planning businesses found in the Yellow Pages or make your own! Assemble prizes that are of interest to your co-workers - use of company sports or special event tickets, underground parking for 1 month, day off with pay, etc. Send out an e-mail announcing the event and inform your co-workers how and where to purchase cards. Start the game by posting 1 number per day via e-mail. If the game is short or there are more prizes, play again! Play straight line, two lines, X across the card, and/or full card to make it more interesting.

### **Gold Fish Race**

Gold Fish are ordered from a pet store ahead of time, picked up on racing day, and sold to employees (minnows or rats work as well). Employees may be asked to place orders ahead of time to determine exact Gold Fish needs, yet remember to include the chance of casualties in your order. Nets for catching fish and small plastic bags for putting individual fish in (especially if employees are to take them home) are also needed for this event. Serve Gold Fish crackers and punch as a snack. Each fish is given the opportunity to race down a gutter section (with end caps), which can be purchased from a hardware store. An example would be to have five fish in five separate gutter sections go at one time. Winners are determined by a process of elimination leading up to a final heat. First, second, and third place winners are awarded ribbons and fish bowls to take their prized fish home.

### **Pirates of the Caribbean**

For those who don't want to grow up like Peter Pan, this event will be a lot of fun. Decorate meeting room or lunchroom with cut out palm trees, starfish, waves, etc. Bring in shells and fishnets to add to the decor. Bring in a chest with a key that will be your treasure chest, fill it with secret prizes. Otherwise make a treasure chest out of a large cardboard box with gold and silver foil pasted on the outside. Employees purchase a key (either real or cut-out cardboard keys) from a volunteer dressed in a pirate costume. Cutout keys are numbered and the winner of the treasure chest is determined by a drawing. Real keys are tried in the lock, the winner being the person with the actual chest key. Make a treasure map and mount it on the wall. The display shows the progress toward campaign goal with a pirate ship crossing an ocean, in search of desert islands, with an "X" to mark the spot (goal)

### **Team Chia Pet Contest**

Employees will need to divide into teams and choose a team captain. Each team will care for and provide food, clothing, and shelter, for the their Chia pets (Sun lamps, Rapid Grow, and sweet-talking are all fair game to grow your Chia Pet) Judges will need to be chosen for the contest; results can be announced at a closing luncheon, winning team receives an extra hour added to one of their lunch hours.



### **Tricycle Races**

Create teams each with of three to 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 through the office. Possibilities include: through hallways, lunch/break rooms, around cubicles, chairs, and in and out of offices. Have course marked with signs or tape on the floor. Fans are able to watch and cheer from different areas around the office. The race is designed as a relay. Team members may pass off a flag, pinwheel, teddy bear or similar item to their succeeding team member. Remember to take pictures for the company bulletin board or newsletter!

### **Other Ideas**

- Casual Day
- Bake Sale
- Executive Dunk Tank
- Silent Auction/Online Auction
- Management Services Auction
- Sell popcorn and drinks
- Invite agency speaker to speak
- Company picnic/Employee cookout
- Ice Cream Social
- Pizza Party
- Pancake Breakfast
- Office Olympics
- Halloween Costume Contest
- Baby Picture Guessing Game
- Campaign Slogan/Theme Contest
- Cubicle Decorating Contest
- Departmental Penny Wars
- Softball/Volleyball Tournament
- Golf Tournament
- Auction premier parking space
- Beach Party
- Carnival
- Children's Drawing Contests
- Voice Mail/E-mail Quiz
- United Way trivia contest
- Male Beauty Contest
- Chili cook-off
- Ugly tie/ugly earring contest
- Funniest home videos
- Dress-up Day
- Feet guessing game
- Sucker Pull
- Fear Factor
- Manager Car Wash
- Dilly Day - Drawing Dilly Bars
- De-Stress - Bring in specialists who will donate their services for stress reduction. Employees pay for massage sessions, yoga class, or manicures



## Themes

- Roaring Twenties
- Fifties Sock-hop
- Psychedelic Sixties
- Disco Fever
- Hawaiian Luau
- Hollywood Stars
- A Night at the Casino
- Medieval Times
- Wild, Wild West
- Popular Movies/Television Shows
- Birthday Party
- Mission Possible
- Superheroes
- Casino
- Crocodile Hunter/Safari
- Hoe-down
- Mardi Gras (give beads to givers)
- Medieval
- New York! New York!
- '80s TV Shows
- Reality TV – United Way Idol or Survivor
- Sports – golf, football, NASCAR
- Kids Field Day (play kids games like kickball and red rover, bring in old school photos)
- Beach theme