



United Way
of Greater McHenry County

FUN-Raising Ideas For Your Workplace Giving Campaign

- **Come to work late/leave early pass** (see attached image) for employee who donates a certain amount, they get a pass or entered in a raffle for one of these
- **Ice Cream Social/Freezer Pops** (host on a weekend in summer for community members/bank clients)
- **Lobby Popcorn Machine**
- **Employee Snack/Drink Station** - A central location for snacks & drinks that employees donate \$ to when they need a refreshment and the money goes to charity
- **Candy-Gram**
- **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.
- Any kind of contest for employees to participate in and then vote with their dollars- cubicles, etc.
- **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.
- **Wall of Wine** – Have leadership donate bottles of wine, including a couple of high-value bottles. Bag the wines and display them on a table. Employees purchase tickets for \$10 and get to select one of the bottles of wine.
- **Silent Auction** – Secure items from vendors, co-workers, and the leadership team. Allow employees to pay for their items via payroll deduction.
- **Mobile Food Sales** – Host a coffee cart or ice cream truck. Sales of all items come to United Way.
- **Tricycle Race** – Set up an office relay course for participants to go through, either sitting in a chair or on tricycles. Have employees “bet” on their favorite contestants to win.
- **Cubicle Makeover** – Have employees’ makeover their cubicles. Theme the cubes.
- **CEO Embarrassment & Change for Change** – Whether it is a pie in the face, dunk tank, or any number of other activities, embarrassing the senior leadership is always a popular activity. Conduct a change for change drive. As a part of the drive, give all of the Leadership Team a bucket with their picture next to it. Any coins add to the total amount and dollar bills take away from total. Leadership that raises the least gets embarrassed.
- **Sports Tournaments** – Host a basketball, dodge ball, four square, or any number of sporting event tournaments for your company. Participants pay to enter and proceeds come to United Way. Donate the sporting equipment from the games to a United Way partner agency.
- **College Basketball Bracket** – During March Madness, turn your work bracket into a fundraiser for United Way. 50% of the proceeds go to the bracket winners and 50% come to support programs of United Way.
- **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.
- **Leadership Lunch** – During the campaign, encourage participation amongst employees. The department with the highest participant gets to attend a lunch or dinner hosted by all senior leadership. Lunch can also be for those that give \$1,000 or more.

- **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
- **Point System Competition** – During the campaign develop a point system to encourage participation and a friendly-competition between departments. For example:
 - 6-points for giving during the campaign
 - 4-points for increasing gift from last year
 - 3-points for donating to the food drive
 - 2-point for volunteering during the campaign
 - 1-point for attending a campaign event (i.e.: kick-off, meeting, etc.)
 The team that wins the most points will earn a team lunch, half day of PTO, week of jeans, etc.
- **Jeans Stickers** – This is an oldie but a goodie. Sell stickers for jeans days. Some companies will sell stickers that are good for the entire year!
- **Raffle for Executive Parking Spot**
- **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.).
- **Baskets for Auction** – Gather your department and create themed baskets for a raffle. Basket theme ideas include, Backyard BBQ, Wine Lover, Beer Lover, Activities for the Kids, Movie Night, etc.
- **Bike-a-thon** – Charge and entry fee. Participants collect pledges for the number of miles they ride.
- **Bowling Tournament** – Set up a bowling alley in a hallway using bottled water and a ball. Charge participants to enter. Participants can get pledges for the number of pins knocked over.
- **Executive Chair Race** – Set up a relay course for executives to go through, the executives are either sitting in a chair or on tricycles. Let observers “bet” on their favorite contestants.
- **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.
- **Bake Sales** – Ask employees to bring their favorite cakes, cookies or breads. Even a small office can raise a lot of money with minimal effort. Sell per item or by the dozen.
- **Lunch Time Meals** – Sponsor a lunch of spaghetti, chili, barbecue or another favorite food. Charge a flat fee for all you can eat, enough to cover expenses and a small contribution.
- **All you can eat Potato Bar** – You will want to have baked potatoes with all the fixin’s. Chili, sour cream, shredded cheese, butter, steamed broccoli, melted cheese, chives, bacon bits, sautéed onions, sautéed mushrooms, hot peppers, ham, and spices.. The possibilities are endless.
- **Balloon Pop** – Place gift cards or small prizes inside balloons and sell raffle tickets to get a chance to pop the \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50 etc. balloon at your campaign wrap up celebration.
- **Flamingo Insurance** – Company purchases 20 inexpensive flamingos (stuffed, on a stand, etc.). Employees can purchase Flamingo Insurance from HR for \$5 to insure that no flamingos can enter their office or cubicle. Employees pay \$5 to send a flamingo to an office or cubicle that does not have a Flamingo Insurance sign provided by HR. If you receive a flamingo in your office, you can pay \$2 to send it away.
- **Executive Auction** – Get the executive staff to donate half a day to the campaign. Then auction each executive off to employees. The executive must take over the employee’s job for that half day.
- **Dinner For a Week** – Get 7 restaurants to donate a dinner for 2 and raffle off a week of eating out. Sell tickets for around \$30 each. The lucky winners are able to eat out every night for a week.
- **Barbecue Contest** – Fire up the grill and breakout your best BBQ recipe. Ask members of the team to act as judges and have different categories for various meats or vegetables. Require guests to pay to attend.