

FUNDRAISING AND ENGAGEMENT IDEAS

AWARENESS

Appreciation/Compliment Grams

Design notes of thanks or congratulations for co-workers to buy and send to each other.

Balloon Grams

Sell balloons with notes of recognition inside and deliver to co-workers.

Change Bandit

A co-worker dresses as a bandit (as approved by company security.) Have them visit employees to procure spare change.

Spare Change Jars

Place empty jars near vending machines or gathering places. Ask employees to deposit spare change throughout the year for United Way. This can be a competition between departments to see who collects the most change in a time frame.

White Elephant Sale

Employees donate odd items for the sale. Co-workers should have the opportunity to buy items and stipulate in whose workspace these items should be displayed. Set a time frame for which objects must stay in that location.

Spelling Bee

Hold a spelling bee, charge an entry fee. Have galley observers place bets on their favorite participants.

Entertainment Drive

Employees donate new or slightly used books, videos, DVDs, board games, puzzles, etc. and hold a sale to benefit United Way.

Buy a Boa

Purchase brightly colored feather boas for employees to buy. The purchaser chooses a person to wear the boa for the day. In order to get rid of the boa, the wearer must pay to pick another employee to wear the boa. The boa must be worn at least 10 minutes prior to choosing another lucky boa wearer.

Dress Down Day

Employees pay to not wear "normal" work attire. Get as casual as needed: jeans, tennis shoes, sports apparel, hats, slippers, etc. Contact your Loaned Executive for stickers that say, "I Dress This Way for United Way" and distribute to participating employees.

Guess the Number

Fill a clear jar with candy and have employees pay for a chance to guess the number of pieces in the jar. The most accurate guess wins the candy or another prize.

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AWARENESS (continued)

Massage Therapist

A therapist, preferably one who will donate time, visits the workplace and employees sign up for time slots. Employees pay for a massage, with proceeds benefiting United Way.

Psychic Reading

A psychic/card reader, preferably one who will donate time, visits the workplace. Employees pay a small amount to have their fortune read, with proceeds benefiting United Way.

Penny Wars

Divide the office by department and have a money jar assigned to each. Members of each department deposit pennies, nickels and dimes into their own jar and place quarters or “green” into the jars of other departments. Pennies count as positive while quarters and “green” are negative. The department with the highest positive number (or often the case, the least negative number) wins a lunch provided by the company.

Smell the Roses

Have a local florist donate flowers or purchase flowers en masse. Employees buy flowers or arrangements to send to co-workers or for personal use.

Charge Late Fees

Employees who arrive late for meetings, or any other tardiness, pay a fee to be donated to United Way.

Bingo

Purchase Bingo cards and distribute to employees. Everyday email a Bingo number to all participants. The first one to reply with “BINGO” wins. The Bingo game continues until all prizes are distributed.

Avant-Garde Attire

Employees pay to dress in their most dramatic garb to ignite creativity for the day.

Guess the Baby Picture

Employees bring their baby pictures to work and post the photos a few days prior to the event. Contestants pay to enter the contest and pay to match employees to their baby pictures. The employee with the highest number of correct matches wins a prize.

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AUCTION & RAFFLE

Informative Meeting Incentives

Hold a workplace meeting and have a representative from United Way and/or an agency speaker give a presentation. Offer donuts, coffee or raffle tickets to attendees.

Box Raffle

Boxes are placed in highly-trafficked areas with the name of a prize on each. Employees buy tickets and put them in the boxes corresponding to the prize they want to win. A winner is drawn from each box.

Silent Auction

The company donates auction items such as office furniture, printers, scanners, computers, corporate box seats at a sporting event, company apparel, etc. Employees can also donate items/services. All proceeds go to United Way.

Executive Chef

Auction off dinner for two or more at the home of an executive.

Front Row Parking

Raffle front row parking spots for a year, or during the winter months.

Paid Parking

Raffle/Auction off a year's worth of free parking.

Getaway

Have co-workers donate time at their vacation cottages to the highest bidder.

Lunch with CEO

Auction or raffle off lunch with the CEO – CEO's treat!

Extra Day Vacation

Raffle/Auction off a day or ½ day of vacation.

Mystery Pumpkins

Buy miniature or regular pumpkins for employees to purchase. Write numbers on the bottom of each pumpkin. Draw numbers for prizes corresponding to the numbers on the pumpkins. Pumpkins can be taken home and carved for a later Pumpkin Carving contest.

Rubber Duckies

Write numbers on the bottom of rubber ducks and have prizes corresponding to those numbers. Charge participants for each time they pick up a duck.

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FOOD & FESTIVITIES

Lunch Box Auction

Employees create gourmet lunches to be auctioned off to the highest bidder. Give prizes for the most creative, nutritious, elegant or clever meals.

Bake Sale

Employees buy employee-donated baked goods with donations benefiting United Way.

Build Your Own Ice Cream Sundaes

Have a wide variety of sundae toppings (nuts, fruit, cookies, gummy bears, crushed candy bars, whipped cream, cherries, etc.) available for employees to build their own sundaes.

Nacho/Pretzel Sale

Sell large plates of nachos and/or soft pretzels with cheese and jalapeno peppers. Donate proceeds to United Way.

Ethnic Food Festival

Ask employees to bring dishes symbolic of their heritage or recipes “handed down” from family members along with interesting facts about their heritage. Another option is to have various departments sponsor a lunch representing a specific ethnicity.

Ice Cream Cart

On a hot day, visit employee cubicles and offices selling popsicles, ice cream sandwiches and other cold snacks. Donate proceeds to United Way.

Peanuts, Get Your Peanuts!

Decorate a pushcart with a sports theme. Stock the cart with individual bags of salted peanuts, chips, hot dogs, soda and all necessary condiments (ketchup, mustard, relish, onion.) Visit cubicles and sell items. This is a great way to kick-off any sports season.

Potluck

Post a sign-up sheet for employees to bring entrees, salads and desserts to ensure a variety of food. Decorate the room with a theme. Adjust entry fees for those who bring an item.

Root Beer Float Sale

Buy necessary ingredients for employees to make their own root beer floats. Floats made and served by executives can be a fun treat!

Tailgate Party

Hold a pay-per-plate cookout during lunch. Cook brats, burgers and hot dogs with condiments. Have chips, pretzels, soda and other tailgating items.

Chili Cook-off

Participants pay to enter their chili into the contest. Choose judges and determine prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. After judging, employees can pay to sample each chili. Remember to supply cheese, sour cream, crackers, TUMS, etc.

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ACTIVITIES

Tricycle Race

Teams race in relay format around the office parking lot on small bikes. Employees bet on which team they think will win. All bets go to United Way.

Fuzzy Slippers / High Heels

Find a large size pair of high heels or slippers. Employees pay to choose a co-worker to wear the shoes.

Golf Putt

Supply a putting green and club. Employees pay per putt for a chance to win prizes.

High Score

Place a dart board in the office and sell dart board shots. Award prizes to winners.

Office Olympics

Fire up the Olympic Torch (or grill) and let the games begin. Have a tricycle or office chair race. Use items around your work location for golfing, shooting baskets, etc. Have spelling contests, typing contests, contests to develop the most persuasive or most complimentary memo, etc. Devise rules for each race in advance and seek participants. Combine the event with a cookout. Design award medals to display in the cubicles of winners.

Karaoke Contest

Each location, department or team nominates one employee to sing a song. Choose a variety of music or "spotlight" a particular theme of music. The winner is chosen by audience applause or a panel of judges.

Balloon Pop Surprise

Put a prize note in each balloon (soda, jeans day, gift card, candy bar, sports tickets, etc.). Be sure to have one big prize. Place balloons in a contained area and have participants pay to pop balloons for prizes.

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ENGAGING MANAGEMENT

Dollar-an-Inch Contest

Executives participate in an all-day competition to end the day with the shortest tie. Don't forget the ladies! They can wear a tie too. Employees cut off an inch of their favorite executive's tie each time they give to the community. Prizes go to the shortest tie, the ugliest tie, etc.

Costume War

Choose an executive to wear a costume for the day by placing money jars outside the office doors of willing participants.

Executive Dunk Tank

Pay per ball for a chance to dunk your boss or pay a higher fee to walk up and press the "dunk" button. Participants pay extra to add a bag of ice to the dunk tank water.

'American Idol' Contest

Employees donate to vote for the management singing group of their choice. The duo or group that attracts the most votes will sing a song in front of an audience.

SAY "THANK YOU"

Participation Goals

Set realistic participation goals for workplace giving. Have various awards for reaching each participation goal (pizza party, cookout, jeans day, time off, etc.)

Thank You Drawing

Collect a variety of gifts – either donated, purchased, or intangible goods. To encourage employees to pledge, every contributor to United Way is entered into a drawing.

Pledging Participation

The department, location, division, etc. with the highest percent participation will have the pleasure of viewing their supervisor in a funny outfit. If they choose not to wear the outfit, they have to buy pizza for their department, location, division, etc.

Happy Holidays to Your Clients

Make corporate donations on behalf of your clients to United Way. Send clients a holiday postcard communicating the generous gift to the community.