



of Richland County

## Fun ideas for your United Way Workplace Campaign

### A Taste of (your company name)

Create "A taste of (your company name)." Invite local restaurants out in the area to set up their best dishes for employees to sample and purchase to raise money for your campaign.

### America's Funniest Office Video Party

Find an employee who can volunteer to take candid video footage around the office. Schedule a short meeting in a conference room to show the video to your employees. Sell tickets, soda, and popcorn and donate the proceeds to United Way of the Inland Valley's campaign. If the video is a big hit, perhaps hold an opportunity drawing off a copy or sell duplicates. It could make a great office holiday gift!

### Auction

Gather items to be auctioned off to the highest bidder.

### Back to School

Collect school supplies for a United Way partner. For fun hold a spelling bee with managers versus employees or department versus department. The winning team receives a prize. (Contact your UWIV rep for United Way partner info.)

### Baby Picture Match Game

Invite employees to try their luck at matching baby pictures of employees or Senior Management. Charge employees to vote & award a fun prize to the entrant who stumped the most people or who got the most right answers.

### Bake Sale

Have employees bake their favorite treats to sell during break or lunch.

### Biggest Loser Contest

Hold a contest to see who can lose the most weight over a month-long period. Each person pays a set amount for every pound lost or gained.

### Bingo Night

Sell bingo cards for employees to purchase. Get a local store to donate prizes for all winners.

### Bowl-A-Thon

Ask employees to participate and consider charging \$2 to enter. Give each participant a pledge sheet in advance to use when asking employees for their support. Make the event fun and encourage fan support.

### Book, Music & Video Sale

Have employees donate old books, CD's, and DVD's for a company sale, with proceeds going to United Way.

### Boss for a Day

Sell tickets to be the "boss" for a day. The CEO and employee will trade jobs for 1 day.

### Chili Cook-Off Contest

Employees (or a team of employees) cook their favorite chili recipe and enter it into a cook-off contest. You can charge teams or employees to enter the contest. This activity can also add "spice" to a Community Fair. A panel of chili experts selects the official Chili Champion and employees pay a small amount to taste the chili. Talk to a local hotel representative about donating a weekend stay at their hotel for the winner.

### Christmas Tree Raffle

The month of November set up a Christmas tree fully decorated. Have employees purchase tickets to win it.

### Coins For The Cause/Keep the Change

United Way can do big things with small change! If employees buy coffee, soda, candy and get change back they can throw their change in a bottle for United



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### Coupon Books

Many organizations that sell "entertainment" coupon books will sell the books at a discount to organizations that are fundraising. Generally, you only pay for the books that you sell. There are many different types of coupon books available.

### Diversity Events

Tie in United Way programs and services to special events at your office. For example, during Latin American History Month, invite a speaker from a partner organization serving Latin Americans to share how United Way donations help promote Latin American History.

### Easter Egg Raffle

Employees buy plastic eggs filled with different items. Some containing paper or candy, but others filled with tickets for a nice prize.

### Employee Car Wash

Recruit a team of car washers (try to involve management), determine shifts and set up a wash location in the employee parking lot. You can sell "wash tickets" in advance or recruit cars the day of.

### Employee Cookbook

Have employees donate their favorite recipes to be published in a company cookbook.

### Executive Tricycle Races

Set up a relay course for executives. Let observers "bet" on their favorite contestant(s).

### Flashback Carnival

Invite employees to an old-fashioned carnival, complete with cakewalks, bake sales, bubble blowing and \$.50 hot dogs. Hold a hoola-hoop contest and hoop-shoot to really give it that flashback flavor. Charge participants a fee to enter the contest. Set up a dunk tank with all your favorite dunkable executives. Charge \$3.00 for three balls. Throw those pies at all your favorite executives.

### Food Around the World

Employees team together to create taste treats from around the world. Employees decorate their own booths and dress in appropriate costumes. Hold the event over the lunch hour, allowing employees to purchase tickets redeemable for food at the booths. Have a panel of "celebrity" judges award prizes.

### Garage Sale

Employees clean out their closets and set up a company-wide garage sale to benefit United Way.

### Hawaiian Luau

Have a mini luau. Serve ham, pineapple upside-down cake and other Hawaiian fare. Give prizes to employees wearing the most outrageous Hawaiian attire

### Karaoke Party

This has the potential of being a BIG fundraiser and a GREAT team builder! Participants pay \$2.00 to enter and are given a list of songs and a pledge form in advance. Participants ask employees to support them by pledging an amount of money. At the event, have a big box of funny hats, boas and other costume items available for participants to use. Pass the hat at the party to receive even more pledges!

### Ice Cream Social

Set up an ice cream bar with a variety of favorite toppings. Charge employees by the scoop.

### Joke Book

Employees submit their favorite jokes. Compile the jokes & sell the books.

### Mardi Gras

Why not model your campaign after the biggest party in the world?

### Miniature Golf Contest



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Hold a miniature golf tournament on a 9-hole or 18-hole layout that winds around the office, complete with traps, hazards, and other obstacles. Charge a \$5 entry fee and award prizes for first, second, and third places. Holes-in-one can be rewarded with prizes like an extra vacation day.

#### **Mini-Indy 500**

Rent or borrow remote controlled cars & set up an "Indy 500" race. Use office supplies to make the track more interesting. Pay to play and the employee with the fastest time around track wins a prize.

#### **Office Olympics**

Set up an obstacle course in the lunchroom or a conference room. Time your contestants as they type a few paragraphs at one station, file at another, and photocopy at another station. Add in some other stations like pencil sharpening or making a paper clip chain. The contestants pay an entry fee and the winner gets a prize.

#### **Parking Place Auction**

Employees bid on front row parking spaces to be used until campaign season next year.

#### **Pizza Party**

Invite employees to a pizza party during the lunch hour. Ask them for a donation of \$2 per slice of pizza. Ask local pizzerias to donate or discount pizzas.

#### **Progressive Breakfast**

Have each department bring multiple servings of breakfasts foods. Employees rotate throughout the building to sample each department's dishes. Charge employees \$5 to participate. It's an opportunity for departments to get to know each other.

#### **Puppy Love**

Ever hear pets look like their owner? Test this theory by having employees try their luck at matching a pet picture to its correct owner. Award a prize to the contestant with the most right answers. A great prize would be a gift card to a local pet store.

#### **Reinvent Popular Game Shows**

Jeopardy, Family Feud, etc. Build teams based on departments or worksites.

#### **Scavenger Hunt**

Employees participate in a scavenger hunt that requires them to find unusual items from around the office building, as well as to demonstrate community knowledge. You can "plant" items to be "discover." Charge \$5 for each "hunter." If a team arrives late, assess a penalty of 2 points per minute (or fraction thereof). Award winners with something special just for their team



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### **Sodawe**

Like soda? So-do-we! Set up a stand or table in your building's lobby and sell drinks to benefit United Way.

### **Sports Tournaments**

Create contest and teams utilizing everyday sports like golf, baseball, basketball, volleyball, bowling, etc.

### **Tailgate Party**

Create a sports theme to coincide with football season. Hold the party in the parking lot . Serve hot dogs, chips and soda. Allow employees to wear their favorite football attire.

### **Ticket Giveaway/Gift Certificates**

Give free tickets to movies, theater productions, amusement centers and other attractions for pledge incentives. Give movie passes to every employee who meets the challenge of pledging a certain dollar amount increase. In addition, enter the names of all employees who turn in a signed pledge form during the first hour following the kick off into a special drawing . Get tickets to a fun local destination such as Disneyland for your special drawing.

### **Trivial Pursuit Match**

Create a pool around the winning team, and give all employees who bet on the winners a prize. Hold the challenge during a staff meeting. Give the event a game show flavor with participants using bicycle horns if the answer is known.

### **Vacation Day**

This is probably the most effective and appreciated event. Have employees "buy" a vacation day by contributing a day's wages to United Way.

### **Vending Machines**

Raise the cost of vending machine items during your campaign with the difference going to United Way.

### **Video Game Tournament**

Set up three or four game systems (Wii) in a small conference room. Employees pay to play, with prizes going to the top scorer in each game.

### **Waffle or Pancake Breakfast**

Sell tickets and have people sign-up for their choice of pancakes or waffles. Cook breakfast in your company cafeteria. Don't forget the bacon, sausage, butter, etc.!

### **White Elephant Sale**

Employees donate "white elephant" gifts that others can buy at affordable prices. This is especially popular at carnivals.

### **SAYING THANK YOU**

Don't forget to say "THANK YOU." Any of the incentives or ideas above can be used to thank your employees. Also, a letter from your CEO thanking everyone for their participation is another great way to thank employees.