


On a Journey with United Way

This 15-20 minute interactive tabletop discussion will help employees:

- Learn about the issues in our community
- Understand the difficult decisions that impact teams are facing



Reserve the
Journey activity
by using the
[Materials
Request form.](#)

Setting the Stage for the Activity:

Divide your group into small groups of 4 - 8. Each group will receive a United Way “suitcase”. Please explain the activity as follows:

We are going on a Journey and as a group, you will decide where we are going. The journey that we are going to take is not a casual vacation, however. This is a purposeful journey. We want to accomplish something – sort of a “mission trip”.

In your suitcase there are a number of things that we will need on our journey. You will see Paper Money. This represents the money we need to meet the ever increasing needs of our community. There are some cut-out paper dolls that represent various groups in our community. United Way brings these groups together to address important issues in our community.

You will also find some United Way items. These represent the resource that United Way can be for you. United Way’s 2-1-1 and Volunteer Connection support activities at all other non-profits and are available to provide you with information on ways to give or get help in our community.

Most importantly, there are small paper T-shirts with information on them. These are your destination choices. As a group you are going to decide which of these destinations are the most important. You can choose 4 out of the 8 destinations at your table.

You only have 10 minutes so would one person at each table takes charge and get the conversation moving as quickly as possible. Have each person read through their card(s) while everyone is listening. (For Example: Read Card)then you will have about 8 minutes to discuss and make a decision Once you have chosen your 4 destinations, raise your hand and someone will pick up your cards.

Once the decisions are made, one person needs to sort the t-shirts to determine which were chosen most often.

Wrap-up:

Debrief with the following :

How did you do? Was it difficult to choose from the many wonderful places we could be? Did your group agree quite easily or are some of you feeling a little disappointed right now? This is a very simplified example of the choices that the United Way has to make every year.

We are going to 7 areas on our journey, but we can't go everywhere. One of your cards was "everyone having a computer and internet access in their home"... but as I think you all guessed, that is NOT one of United Way's destinations. The other seven you discussed are goals for United Way – so if you had a hard time narrowing it to 4, you should know that community volunteers who help set the priorities felt that all 7 were important.

Through the use of countless volunteers on impact teams and a much wider variety of data resources, United Way tries to determine where we want to go as a community. There are difficult decisions being made at this time by those volunteers – they recently received about \$3.2 million in program requests in those 7 areas for 2011. This is approximately 30% more than funds available in 2010.

Now let's look at the destinations you decided were most important. (Top 4 or 5)

Report your results:

After you complete this activity, we would be very interested in learning which priority areas were chosen by the employees in your workplace. Please let us know by emailing shaupt@unitedwaymc.org. Thank you.