

Fun Ideas

So, You Are The Company Campaign Manager

A campaign that is fresh and fun makes your job more enjoyable and creates increased awareness among your co-workers. You will find examples of special events and ideas to help ignite an exciting and effective employee campaign.

Successful campaigns occur when people understand what United Way is doing in our community. Be sure to read the “educational” ideas that will help your co-workers understand how United Way is improving lives in our communities. Consider implementing one or more of these ideas, along with an activity, to increase participation and giving.

Keys To A Successful Event

Recruit a committee with representatives from all levels and locations in your organization. Planning an event can be time consuming. The more people you involve, the more support you will have.

Choose an event that is appropriate for your work environment.

Select a date and location. Consider an easily accessible location.

Develop a detailed plan and timeline.

Assign roles and responsibilities: publicity, prizes, decorations, audio/visual, food, volunteers, etc.

Report the results to your employees and United Way.

Send “thank you” notes or make telephone calls to everyone who helped.

Index

New Ideas	Page 2
Food Related	Page 3
Activities & Events	Page 4
Sports Related	Page 4 & 5
Games & Contests	Page 5 & 6
Other Ideas	Page 6
Year Round by Month	Page 7
Educational Ideas	Page 8
Incentives & Prizes	Page 8 & 9
Saying Thank You	Page 9

New Ideas

Team Chia Pet Contest

Create teams. Each team will be given a Chia Pet to care for. The Chia's hair may be trimmed, primped, or styled & decorated. Prizes can be awarded for fullest growth, longest single sprout, most original, etc.

Root Beer Float Sale

This is a welcomed activity for those hot summer afternoons in July and August.

Balloon Launch

Sell balloons filled with helium. The employee puts his/her name on a card that contains company name and address, a short message asking finder to return card by a specified date and that the balloon was launched as part of your company's United Way campaign. All balloons are launched at the same time. Person whose card is returned from the greatest distance receives a prize.

Radio-Controlled Car Race

Set up a pre-determined course. Use timers to see who can run the course in the shortest time. Charge per attempt. Offer prize to person with shortest time to navigate course.

Good Neighbor BBQ

Join with other companies near your business to have a cook out with games and giveaways. Have a speaker present or invite families from area agencies to partake in festivities.

Operation Game

Individuals or teams. You can do brackets and advance winners throughout the week. Employees can bid on who might win. Employees can get a raffle ticket for \$1 and put it in the bucket of the team they are rooting for. Then the winning team receives some type of fun trophy along with a prize to the lucky winner from the winning teams raffle bucket.

Where is _____? (Name of CEO or a person in management) - **BIG HIT!**

Create a life-size cardboard person and use a cut-out picture of a staff member (CEO) to put on the cardboard person. Employees can send this to anyone's office with a note. \$1.00 buys you the opportunity to send it, \$2.00 will allow you to have it removed, \$3.00 to also find out who sent it to you. At the end of the week, the cut out can be auctioned off.

Hat Wars

Want to see your manager or co-workers in a crazy looking hat? Pay a fee to have someone wear one of these crazy hats for an hour. Person receiving the hat can get "revenge" if they want to by paying a fee for their buyer to wear one of the hats the following day. You can pay for more than an hour if you wish. Be creative with the hats and have fun. You can even use similar rules as the idea above.

Nascar Scooter Race

Set up a speedway in your parking lot. Have each dept "sponsor" a Nascar scooter driver. Have pit teams, the national anthem, and maybe a doctor on hand. Sell raffle tickets to "spectators" to place their winning "bet" by placing their raffle ticket into a specific Nascar drivers bucket. When the race is over – a ticket is drawn from that drivers bucket for a prize. There are other things that could be incorporated to add dollars – add food sale, hot dogs, brats, or walking tacos for the spectators.

Food Related Activities— If you **FEED** them, they **WILL** come!

Latte Stand and Giving Example

For more distinguished coffee drinkers, offer a latte-stand during a morning meeting. Remind them how much a cup of gourmet coffee or tea costs. Give examples of what giving up one cup of coffee, one soda or one candy bar a day can do for a person in need. Ask if they can donate that same amount (or more) each week to United Way.

Bake Sale/Cookie Exchange

Ask employees to bake their favorite cookies or other goodies. Sell plates of the treats to employees. Charge an additional fee for the recipe.

Employee Cookbook

Encourage employees to donate their favorite recipes to be collected, published and sold in a company cookbook. A variation of this theme is to sell books on golf, gardening, etc. Request employees' children provide illustrations.

Candy Grams

Sell candy with your company or United Way's logo on it. All proceeds go to the United Way.

Midnight Breakfast

If your organization has a third shift, charge employees for a midnight breakfast served by executives and other day employees.

Eating Contest

Who can eat the most in a given amount of time (hot dogs, pie, crackers, pickles, etc.)

Chili Cook-Off- **VERY popular!**

Employees cook their favorite chili. Organize a panel of "expert" judges to decide on the best recipe. Charge employees to sample and eat lunch or even have the employees vote.

Whipped Cream Sponge– or– Pie in the Face

Host a whipped cream throwing contest. Use sponges covered or pie tins filled with whipped cream and try to hit a target. Get management to be the targets and have employees pay to play.

Potluck Payoff

Organize a potluck lunch and have everyone bring a favorite dish. Charge employees to have lunch.

Bakery Cart

Wheel a serving cart through the workplace and sell bagels, doughnuts, cookies, Danish, coffee and juice, with proceeds going to United Way.

Activities & Events

Basket Auction

Ask each department in your organization to sponsor, create and fill a theme basket (spa, chocolate, golf, cooking). The baskets are then auctioned off.

Car Wash

Charge employees to have their car washed by management. Take and sell pictures.

Dress Down Day

Sell employees the right to dress casually or silly for a day. Variations include: “Silly Hat Day”, “Sport Team Day” or “Ugly Shoe Day”. United Way has “Casual Day” stickers available at no cost.

Survivor Game

Each participant pays \$5 to join and has to do something each day to stay on the island. They have to: bring an item for the silent auction, bring in baked goods for the bake sale or wear a certain color. Winner receives paid time off.

Coin War

Set up large empty water bottles for each department in a central location. Employees drop their spare change into the bottle. Coins are positive while paper money is negative. The group with the highest point value wins. All cash collected is donated to United Way.

Auction

Auction off staff services (i.e., babysitting, oil change, lunch for a week), executive parking spaces, donated merchandise or services. Try conducting the auction over your internet site.

Rummage Sale

Ask employees to donate old items (books, CDs, videos) for a company or department-wide sale. Unsold items may be donated to a local shelter.

Flower Event

Have a local florist donate flowers. Employees purchase the flowers with proceeds to the United Way. This is great in conjunction with Administrative Professional’s Day or Sweetest Day.

Sports Related Events

Football Toss

Measure for distance and accuracy with prizes for top Guy and top Gal. Charge per attempt.

Golf Outing

Organize a golf outing for employees. Participants pay an entry fee. Have goofy prizes for highest score, most putts, longest game, etc.

Bowl-A-Thon

Organize a bowling contest at a local bowling alley or set up makeshift lanes at the office. Participants pay an entry fee. Give the winning team a prize.

Office Miniature Golf

Provide putters and build a nine-hole course featuring slinkies, staplers, chairs and other creative obstacles. Participants sign up in teams of two, with or without a registration fee.

Office Olympics

Make up your own “Olympic” games having a team admission fee. Brainstorm new ideas– roll the egg (not hardboiled) with your chin across the finish line without breaking it, relay race handing off a full glass of water on a tray using one hand spilling as little as possible, office chair races, waste basket free throw, paper airplane toss (use hula hoop as target). Use your imagination!

Tricycle Race

Run a tricycle race around your building or parking lot using children’s tricycles. Entrants decorate their bikes and have that as a contest also. Have the staff place money on the one they think is going to win. Cookout after race.

Volleyball/Softball/Touch Football/Basketball Challenge

Play real or improvised games with teams of employees. Charge an entrance fee or a canned good for each participant. Spectators may wager for the winning team. Do the challenge with year-round sporting events to raise money all year round.

Packer Day

Sell stickers that allow employees to wear Packer attire during the season. Host a Packer tailgate party during lunch asking employees to bring their favorite dish.

Games & Contests

Who Is It?

Gather baby pictures of co-workers. Have a contest to see who can correctly name the most co-workers. Contestants pay a fee to take part. Give an award for the most correct matches.

E-Bingo

Sell Bingo cards for a small fee. Send e-mails sporadically throughout the week with one or two Bingo numbers each time. The first person to get Bingo should let everyone know by sending an e-mail to all users, and, of course, he or she will win a donated prize.

Kids Coloring Contest

A colorful way to get everyone’s children involved is to have children color a United Way logo or have them make a picture that shows giving or sharing. These pieces of art are great to use on thank you cards, t-shirts or bookmarks. Sponsor a contest and give a prize to the top three artists.

Ugliest Apparel Contest

Contestants pay to enter the ugliest tie, earrings, socks, or stockings contest. Take pictures of the participants and have employees ‘vote’ on the ugliest apparel by contributing a dollar.

Picture Match Game

Invite employees to try their luck at matching high school pictures, pet pictures or celebrity pictures to executives. Charge employees to vote and award the entry with the most right answers a fun prize.

Fashion Show

Sponsor an employee fashion show with employees modeling sweatshirts, hats, jackets, etc. with your organization logo. Employees pledge at least \$5.00 to attend and are entered into a drawing for the items that are modeled.

Scavenger Hunt

Employees pay an entrance fee to hunt for hidden items around the office or neighborhood. Give employees a time limit. Award the winning team a prize. Add themes by having employees dress as detectives or hunt for themed items.

Board Game Contest

Recruit employees to play a chosen board game. Create a pool around the winning team or allow employees to move/acquire a game piece for every returned pledge card.

Other Ideas

Lose Your Locks

Have employees volunteer to cut their hair or shave their heads if goals are met.

Balloon Pop

Employees or vendors donate prizes for this event– a variation of a traditional raffle. Before filling a balloon with helium, put a note inside with the name of a prize. Employees buy a balloon and pop it to find out what prize they've won.

Funniest Home Video

Employees bring in tapes of funny moments caught on tape. Vote on the best video, winner gets a prize.

Casino Night

Provide a few game tables, one bingo table, bean bag toss and snack table. Employees and their families create a successful casino night. Have local businesses donate prizes for the winners.

White Elephant Sale

Have items in storage you don't use? Gifts you never returned? Donate them to the sale or conduct a gift exchange. Your trash is someone else's treasure!

Appreciation Carnation

Sell carnations as a sign of appreciation from one employee to another. For an added twist, send the flowers anonymously. Recipients can pay to find out who sent the carnations to them.

Greeting Card Sale

Have departments create various cards and sell them with all proceeds going to United Way.

Other Ideas...

Carnival Games, Dunk Tank, Cake Walk, Musical Chairs, Guessing Game– How many M&M's in the Jar, Singing/Poetry/Songwriting Contest, Pizza Party, Popcorn Sale and Watermelon Seed Spitting Contest.

Year Round Activities

Some companies are expanding their campaign and building awareness by holding an activity every month or two. Here are some great “monthly” ideas. For more special days, check out www.holidayinsights.com.

January - the 19th is National Popcorn Day. Why not turn your breakroom or conference room into a movie theater, show old movies or television shows, pop some popcorn and charge admission! Or, sell fresh– popped popcorn by the bag.

February - The obvious is Valentine’s Day. Help your co-workers with their shopping by selling chocolates or flowers, with the profits going to United Way.

March - the 23rd is National Chip & Dip Day. Celebrate by inviting co-workers to make their favorite dip or salsa recipe. Charge a fee to sample the entries and \$1 each for copies of the recipes.

April - Try an Easter Egg Raffle. Fill plastic Easter eggs with raffle numbers. People buy eggs or “chances” for springtime prizes such as potted flowers like tulips, daffodils, hyacinths and lilies.

May - the 15th is National Chocolate Chip Day. Sponsor a baking contest. Votes are cast for the best chocolate chip recipe with dollars or change.

June - An Ice Cream Social is a great event, National Dairy Month. Set up an ice cream bar with a variety of favorite toppings. Charge employees by the scoop.

July - the 23rd is National Hot Dog Day. Have a cook-out and play Hot Dog Trivia!

August - A Corn Roast is a great activity. Grill sweet corn and charge by the ear. Be sure to have plenty of salt and Wisconsin butter available!

September - Challenge your co-workers’ creativity, build team spirit and show your support by entering the United Way Community Parade!

October - Purchase a large pumpkin and charge per guess. Or ask a local business to donate pumpkins and have employees or departments carve and decorate them. Vote by placing money in a container for each pumpkin. Sell the carved pumpkins to raise more money.

November - Hold a “Frozen Turkey Bowl.” Use 2-liter plastic bottles filled with water for bowling pins and a frozen turkey as a ball.

December - Employees bring in hand made or purchased ornaments to hang on a tree. After ornaments are collected, a raffle is held. Names/numbers are chosen until all ornaments are picked from the tree. Raffle tickets are sold for \$0.25 each or five for \$1.

Educational Ideas

Use E-Mail

Distribute “20 Days of E-mail” to your employees. You can download these short statements, along with many other tools, from the United Way website. Check it out at www.unitedwaymc.org. Click on the “Campaign Resources” tab!

Mystery Hunt

Clues (sent via e-mail or memo) lead hunters to a United Way agency or co-worker who is connected to an agency. You could have a new hunt each week for a month. This is a great way to educate employees about United Way programs and services.

Bagging It

Designate a day as “Brown Bag Day” every month or every other month. Encourage staff to bring their lunches on that day and bring in a speaker to talk about a United Way funded program. After the lunch, post a brief summary of the presentation on your website, print it in your newsletter, or distribute via e-mail.

Got Games?

Educate employees about United Way and its partner programs in a fun way by incorporating a game show theme. Use information from United Way printed materials and our partners’ web sites. Play the game(s) at a group meeting, or give everyone the opportunity to play by creating a worksheet or posting questions online.

Start Right

Make United Way part of your new staff orientation. We have packets of information that will help your new employee learn more about United Way in our community. Get your new staff off to a good start and increase participation in your campaign by ordering a supply of New Hire Packets from our office today!

Leading The Way

United Way of Marathon County publishes a newsletter, Leading the Way. Encourage your co-workers to check the appropriate box on their pledge form to be added to the distribution list— either electronically or by mail. Or, remind them to read it on-line!

Literature Drop

Help your employees learn more about United Way’s impact in the community. Set up a table and make brochures, newsletters and other materials from United Way and our partner programs available. Posters, table tents and note cards are also great for building awareness.

Incentives & Prizes

- Traveling trophy for department with highest participation
- Sleep-in-late or leave-work-early pass
- Job swap (boss does winner’s job for a day)
- Bonus vacation days
- Prime parking spaces/free parking

- Gift certificates donated by local merchants
- Mugs, t-shirts, key chains, etc., with company logo
- Movie passes
- Casual days
- Department pizza party
- Day off to do volunteer work
- Chair or hand massage
- Lottery tickets
- Cafeteria coupons
- Lunch or dinner with CEO
- Gift baskets or goodie bags
- Early dismissal on Friday
- Employee-designed t-shirts
- Celebrity autographed items
- A two-hour lunch break

Incentive Items

United Way logo Incentive items can be purchased through the United Way of America Catalog or online: www.unitedwaystore.com. Please allow two weeks for delivery!

Saying Thank You

During and after a successful campaign, it's important to say "thanks" to all the employees who volunteered their time and energy.

Here are some ideas to convey your gratitude:

- Host a "thank you" breakfast or luncheon at a local restaurant or have management cook food on office premises.
- Develop a bulletin board featuring your employees' efforts: hang a giant thank you card, post a thank you from an agency or develop a collage of photos of your employees doing volunteer work or helping with the campaign.
- Hand out pens, hats, T-shirts or notepads with the United Way logo on them.
- Insert "thank you" notes with pay checks or pay stubs.
- Distribute candy with a personalized note from management.
- Display thank you messages on computer screens, bulletin boards, voice mail, etc.
- Spend a few minutes at the next staff meeting during which your CEO can congratulate employees and acknowledge campaign workers.
- Start the day on the right foot by delivering coffee and pastries to each employee's desk.
- Partner with kids from a United Way agency and have them draw "thank you" cards for employees.
- Run a thank you ad in your company newsletter.