

Great Ideas for Special Events

United Way
of Marathon County



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.

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. 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. A variation of this theme is to sell books on golf, gardening, etc. Request employees' children provide illustrations.

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.

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.

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.

Potluck Payoff

Organize a potluck lunch and have everyone bring a favorite dish. Charge employees to have lunch. Or better yet, ask for a donation. Many companies find they raise more in donations than by setting a price.

Bakery Cart

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



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.

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".

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.

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. Your trash may be someone's treasure.

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.

Who Is It?

Invite employees to try their luck at matching baby pictures, high school pictures, pet pictures or celebrity pictures to executives. Contestants pay a fee to take part. Award the entry with the most right answers a fun prize.

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.

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 tailgating dish.



Ugliest Apparel Contest

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

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.

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 or a United Way Quick Fact, as a consolation 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.

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.