

*Working here, every day!*

## FUN EVENT IDEAS

---

### FOOD

- **Themed Food Day**

Employees cook their favorite dishes and pay to eat – with proceeds going to United Way. Have a contest for the ‘Best Dish.’ Get a trophy at the Dollar Store and give the trophy to the winner.

  - Chili or Soup Cook-Off
  - Spaghetti Dinner
  - International/Ethnic Food Day
  - Side Dish Day
- **Bake Sale**

Homemade or store bought items are brought in such as: cookies, pies, muffins, bars, cupcakes, fudge, and candy. Arrange baked items on a table to be seen and purchased throughout the day.
- **Christmas Cookie Sale**

Call bakeries for cookie bids or make your own. Determine the cost and selling price. Have sign-up sheet to take preorders.
- **Potluck Luncheon**

Participating employees bring a hot-dish, appetizer, salad, side, dessert, etc. to be shared. Paper products are also needed for this event. Employees pay to fill their plate and sample everything in the room.
- **Root Beer Float Sales**

Seek donations or purchase root beer and vanilla ice cream. This popular event works well during lunch and breaks in the summertime. Remember a freezer will be needed to store the ice cream if the event is held all day.
- **Snack & Dessert Cart**

Employees donate items; several carts travel around the building in the morning and afternoon and offer treats at a minimal cost. A new twist on the traditional bake sale.
- **Top Managers Cook for Employees**

Have top managers cook a special breakfast for all donors. Another way to demonstrate employee appreciation.

- **More Food Ideas**
  1. Hot Dog Topping Bar
  2. Top Your Sundae Bar
  3. Baked Potato Bar
  4. Smoothie Bar

Food Truck - Get a food truck to come on site (Swenson's, Orange Truck, etc.) Some will donate a percentage back to the company.

## GAMES/CONTESTS

- **“Fear Factor” Game**

Group of executives are challenged to face off in events ranging from eating food blindfolded to picking items out of jars full of worms.
- **Identify the Baby Photo Contest**

Employees bring in a favorite baby picture, writing their name on the backside. Pictures are numbered and posted on a bulletin board. Employees purchase a chance to match co-workers with baby pictures. When purchasing a chance, give purchaser a numbered sheet with blanks to write their guesses. Have them put their own name at the top and turn in. Employee with the greatest number correct wins a prize!
- **Indoor Mini Golf**

This indoor event is great for swinging away those winter blues! To make the event a contest, have each department design a creative hole using only materials already in their department. Examples include: wastebaskets, letter trays, reams of paper, machine parts, etc. If possible, include a shot from the roof. The employee committee rounds up some clubs and staffs the course during the lunch hour for the week of the campaign. Employees play the course as often as they like for a small fee. Prizes are awarded to the department with the most creative hole and to the best mini golfers.
- **Kiss Our Community**

Purchase a large helium balloon in the shape of kissing lips and attach the balloon to a gift-wrapped brick. Lay this ‘kiss’ on the desk of one of your co-workers and let the fun begin. Each person that gets ‘kissed’ will need to donate to your cause. For example, they could donate \$1 to remove the kiss from their office and return to the coordinator; donate \$2 to remove the kiss and THEY get to choose the next person to kiss; a \$3 donation allows someone to steal the kiss from the current victim and choose the next person to kiss; a \$25.00 donation means they will never be ‘kissed’ again. Those who have donated \$25 will get a notice on their door/desk so everyone is aware of who is still kissable. Be sure to put a time limit on moving the kiss so it will not sit on one desk too long.
- **Let the Race Begin**

For this auto-racing theme, create a large goal poster that looks like an Indy racetrack to set the pace of your campaign race. Use Velcro cars to measure progress along the track as the company moves closer to the finish of the campaign. Decorate main room with race flags, jerseys and racing posters. Hold your own auto race with radio-controlled cars in the parking lot.

- **Life is Not a Spectator Sport - Go the Distance**  
At the start of the campaign, hold a kick-off meeting explaining touchdowns (accomplishments of previous years), penalties and receptions (areas needing improvement), and huddles (ideas for the coming campaign). To launch the campaign, hold a tailgate party in the parking lot or at a park. Arrange to have the party at the same time as a local baseball game and cheer on your home team. Throughout the campaign hold sport fundraisers such as a slam dunk/shootout contest, volleyball tournament, football toss, etc. RubberDucks, Browns, Indians or Cavs tickets or tickets for other local teams make great prizes.
- **Movie Trivia Quiz**  
This quiz can be completed at workstations & returned to an appointed person to tally the scores. You can match the actor/actress with the movie, match the quote with the movie, or combine. The highest score wins a prize. In case of a tie, a drawing will be held. Winners can be announced at a group lunch at the close of the campaign.
- **The Price is Right**  
Let employees guess the “retail value” of services provided by United Way’s funded agencies. The one who guesses closest without going over gets to come on down to play a game based on the classic Price is Right game show.
- **Pumpkin Decorating Contest**  
Employees form teams and create their own unique design using pumpkins. The pumpkins are displayed in the company cafeteria and employees vote for their favorite pumpkin by placing money in that team’s container. The winning team is awarded a prize pack containing gift certificates and other goodies.
- **Jeopardy**  
Have 5 - 10 answers about United Way, the agencies, etc., on a board. Make up play cards/answer sheets and have the employees write down the questions & drop them in the box.
- **Wheel of Fortune**  
Have several puzzles related to United Way, such as the campaign chair, funded programs, theme for that year, etc., (give them vowels for free) and have employees write down their guesses & drop them in the box.
- **Family Feud**  
Using a statement from the campaign materials like: “United Way agencies that support Older People.” Have the employees list the agencies on a sheet (assign equal points to them).
- **In Bad Taste**  
Executive team members wear their ugliest ties, jewelry, shoes or hats. Employees vote for the ugliest item, paying \$1 per vote. The executive with the most votes at day’s end is declared the winner and may be awarded a prize.
- **Look-A-Like Contest**  
Employees are encouraged to dress up like famous personalities. Co-workers then pay to vote on the best costume with the contestant receiving the most votes winning a prize.

- **Department Penny Jar**  
Each department is designated a jar. Employees are encouraged to fill their own department's jar with pennies, each equaling one point. Opposing departments may then add other coins to their jars that are equal to their value only negative (ex: A dime is minus 10 points). The department with the most positive points at the end of the week is awarded a prize.
- **Kiss the Pig**  
Employees vote through contributions to executive labeled piggy banks for the boss who must kiss the pig.
- **Traveling Trophy**  
Companies with multiple locations have found that using a traveling trophy generates friendly competition and is a great sign of pride for the location. Trophies may be used for any number of contests including location with the highest participation, raising the most special event dollars, etc.
- **Silent Auction**  
Simply gather items and create bid sheets, being certain to provide a minimum bid for each item.
- **Dress-up the Boss**  
Boss wears a costume voted on by all employees if the campaign goal is reached. Examples: tutu, animal costume, devil costume, etc.
- **Guess How Many**  
Guess the number of jellybeans, M&Ms, pennies or other items in a jar. Buy chances to guess. Closest guess receives a prize.
- **Recycled Goods**  
Turn in recycled paper, cans, bottles, etc. and exchange them for money for the United Way.
- **Best Photo Contest**  
Employees submit photographs taken at campaign and celebration events. Photos are displayed on a bulletin board and judged by committee, with the best photo receiving prizes such as a new camera, photo album, or a camera carrying case.
- **Food Fight**  
Divide into two or more teams and elect captains. Team members collect money and turn in to captain. Team raising the most money is awarded a pizza/sub party, which they may verbally throw into their competitor's faces.
- **Tourney Time**  
Hold a broomball, softball, tee-ball, kickball, racquetball, tennis, volleyball or ping-pong tournament.
- **Karaoke Contest**  
Hold a contest to determine who has the best and worst karaoke talent. Coworkers may buy votes ahead of time to elect the "Star of the Show" who will sing the first song. Charge an entrance fee for the show.

- **Jail and Bail**  
Hold in correlation with an employee picnic or carnival. Have a “Catch and Cuff ‘Em” Jail booth where employees pay to have co-workers, supervisors, managers or executives incarcerated for short periods during the event.
- **Slogan Contest**  
Employees develop in-house campaign slogans/themes. The committee picks the top ten, which are then voted on by the entire company, the winner receiving an award.

## TEAMBUILDING

- **Reach for the Goal**  
Tie together the title with an Olympic theme. The company wins the gold medal when the campaign goal is reached. Create a poster with a bronze, silver and gold medal goal. The Opening Ceremonies are the kick-off to the campaign, explaining the goal and theme. Symbolic passing of the torch from last year’s campaign chair to the new chairperson.
- **Tricycle Races**  
Create teams each with of three to four riders. Teams are named and publicized in advance, allowing employees to make pledges or bets on the winning team. Team members ride large tricycles (rent or arrange to borrow from a cooperating store) through a predetermined course through the office. Possibilities include: through hallways, lunch/break rooms, around cubicles, chairs, and in and out of offices. Have course marked with signs or tape on the floor. Fans can watch and cheer from different areas around the office. The race is designed as a relay. Team members may pass off a flag, pinwheel, teddy bear or similar item to their succeeding team member. Remember to take pictures for the company bulletin board or newsletter!
- **5K Run or 1 Mile Walk**  
Plan a route and hold the event at lunchtime or after work. Charge \$5 to participate.

## THEME PARTIES

- **Caribbean Party**  
For those who don’t want to grow up like Peter Pan, this event will be a lot of fun. Decorate meeting room or lunchroom with cut out palm trees, starfish, waves, etc. Bring in shells and fishnets to add to the decor. Bring in a chest with a key that will be your treasure chest, fill it with secret prizes. Otherwise make a treasure chest out of a large cardboard box with gold and silver foil pasted on the outside. Employees purchase a key (either real or cut-out cardboard keys) from a volunteer dressed in a pirate costume. Cutout keys are numbered and the winner of the treasure chest is determined by a drawing. Real keys are tried in the lock, the winner is the person with the actual chest key. Make a treasure map and mount it on the wall. The display shows the progress toward campaign goal with a pirate ship crossing an ocean, in search of desert islands, with an “X” to mark the spot (goal).

- **Grease**  
Have employees cast ballot for which members of the Executive Team should dress up like which characters in the musical Grease (or any other popular movie/play). Have them stand in front of the assembly of employees and let employees pick the best look-alike by loudness of applause.
  
- **Ugly Holiday Sweater Party**  
Everyone dresses in their favorite ugly holiday sweater and the ugliest wins a prize.