

CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES

LIVE UNITED®

Contests

- **Pie-eating contest:** Choose employees or managers to compete in a pie-eating contest. Tie participants' hands behind their back and time them to see how many cream pies they can eat in a designated time.
- **Best celebrity or employee impersonation:** Hold a contest for employees to dress or act as their favorite celebrity or fellow employee. Be sure to put together a good judging panel and award prizes.
- **Mystery hunt:** Clues (sent via e-mail) lead hunters to a United Way agency or co-worker who is connected to United Way Committee or an agency. This is a great way to educate employees about United Way's involvement in the community.
- **United Way trivial pursuit:** Distribute printed questions about United Way and its programs every day for a week. Then ask trivia questions based on the information. Those completing all questions are entered into a drawing.
- **Executive dare:** Challenge the staff to meet a goal. If they can meet the goal, a manager or CEO will perform a dare. Examples: a losing department manager can cook lunch for the winning department. The CEO can dress crazy for a day.
- **United Way jingle/video/commercial contest:** Have each department create a jingle about United Way. Have them perform for a judging panel or other employees.
- **Dollar an inch contest:** Employees donating over \$100 can cut an inch off of the boss' tie. Give prizes for the shortest tie, ugliest tie, etc.
- **Create a game:** Hand out a United Way quiz which compliments materials in the campaign packet. Those answering correctly are eligible for prizes.
- **Pumpkin carving contest:** Plan a Halloween theme and have a pumpkin carving contest. Employees buy the pumpkins, then pay to enter the contest. Award prizes in a variety of categories such as most creative, scariest, best effort, or most traditional.
- **Scavenger hunt:** Make a creative list and have employees find the items within the company.
- **Matching game:** Have the ECC take pictures of employee's heads and legs and employees pay to guess at matches. Men can wear stockings and women wear wigs or odd shoes. Offer prizes.
- **Basketball shooting contest:** Charge each employee for a three minute time period to shoot baskets with a prize going to the winner. Another take would be to do a Bozo style "Grand Prize Game."
- **Ugliest tie or hat contest:** Have employees wear their ugliest hats or ties and solicit votes (\$1 per vote) from employees. The person with the most votes at the end of the day wins.
- **Company IQ test:** Make up an IQ test based on your company's history or products. Have employees pay to complete it and offer a prize to the winner.
- **Look-alike contest:** Employees dress up as famous personalities such as Elvis, Madonna, etc and co-workers pay to vote on the best look- alike. Award a prize to the winner.



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Miscellaneous ideas

- **Top ten list:** Have a contest among employees to make a list of the top ten reasons to support the United Way. Post winning list in bathrooms, break rooms, or publish in the next newsletter.
- **Payday reminders:** Hand out Payday candy bars as a reminder that employees can pledge with payroll deductions.
- **Change jar:** Encourage employees to drop their change in a United Way campaign box in the break room.
- **Drawings:** For every \$10 pledged to United Way, the employee's name will go in a drawing for a prize. The drawing will be held on the last day of the campaign.
- **Dunk tank:** Set up a dunk tank in the parking lot and have employees pay to dunk managers or co-workers.
- **Create an employee cookbook:** Collect employee recipes and helpful hints. Print the recipes, bind and charge for books.
- **Trick or treat party:** Invite children from a United Way partner program to tour the office in a costume. Give out pencils, candies, and other treats.
- **Compliment-o-gram:** Send anonymous compliments (for a small charge) to co-workers.
- **Balloon-o-gram:** Send balloons with messages to co-workers.
- **Soak the boss:** Pay to throw wet sponges at the boss.
- **Executive shoeshine:** Company executives set up a shoe shine booth and employees pay for the service.
- **Goblin goodies:** Buy treats to send to others (or any other name based on your theme)
- **Have an all-day scrapbook crop:** Find a location to donate space for a day or use your company space. Charge a set amount (\$25-\$30) to allow people to scrapbook all day (on weekends) or Friday nights. Mom's love this kind of getaway! Do raffles and giveaways hourly and provide food.

Food related

- **Soup Kitchen:** Create a big pot of soup and have a big soup and bread line for your employees. On the tables have facts about the agencies that United Way supports that benefit the homeless and hunger.
- **Latte stand:** Offer a latte stand. Remind employees what a latte costs and show them how donating that amount daily (or weekly) can benefit the programs that United Way funds. Call us for this information.
- **Progressive breakfast (or lunch):** Have each department bring a breakfast item. Employees rotate throughout the office to sample each department's contribution.
- **Ice cream or shake social:** Mix up shakes or have a build your own sundae bar. This is great for a thank you event.
- **Midnight breakfast:** Don't forget about third shift employees! Provide breakfast at midnight, served by executives.
- **Cookie exchange:** Have employees bring a plate of their favorite cookies and swap with other employees.
- **International food day:** Invite employees to create tasty treats from around the world. Hold the event over a lunch hour and charge for tickets to the tasting. Award prizes for the best food items in categories such as treats, snacks, main dishes, side dishes.
- **Spaghetti Dinner:** Provide take home meals for sale too.
- **Host a tailgate party:** Sell hotdogs, chips, and drinks.
- **Potato Bar:** Sell baked potatoes with all of the toppings.
- **Lunch box auction:** Have employees create gourmet lunches to be auctioned off to the highest bidder. Give prizes for the most creative, nutritious, elegant, or humorous.



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Sports events

- **Tug of war:** Management team vs. staff or interdepartmental. Each team pays an entry fee.
- **Team sports:** Organize tournaments with any of your favorite games. Consider ping-pong, video games, volleyball, thumb wrestling, Rock Paper Scissors, or board games.
- **Wheelchair race:** Race on wheelchairs using plungers to move yourself.
- **Bowling Tournament:** Get a bowling alley to reduce fees. Charge full rates. OR host a Wii Bowling contest.
- **Office Olympics:** Set up an obstacle course in the office. Have them make paper clip chains, pencil sharpening contests, typing contests.
- **Fun races:** Three legged race, wheelbarrow races, etc.
- **Bike or walk-a-thon:** Collect pledges

Auction and sales

- **Silent auctions:** Have staff auction off services such as car washing, cooking, or donated crafts. Have executives auction off their parking places or dinner with them. Solicit local vendors and businesses for prizes.
- **Craft, food, bake sale:** Employees donate baked goods, items from their gardens, or even meals with proceeds going to United Way.
- **Employee raffle:** Employees donate items to be raffled off during the campaign. Donated items can include food items, homemade craft items, use of a vacation home, or tickets to a special event. Raffle tickets can be purchased or handed out based on completing pledge forms
- **Themed baskets:** Have each department create a theme basket to be auctioned via silent or live auction. Themes can include movie night, crafts, golfing, sports, family game night, spa package, scrapbook kits, or baking.
- **Services for a day:** Auction off employees, supervisors, or executives to do work around an employee's home such as mowing the lawn, baby sit, wash windows, etc.
- **Rummage sale:** Employees donate items to sell. Hold the sale in a cafeteria or conference room. Can be private or open to public. Specialize for just kids and baby items.
- **Plantsale:** Have employees dig up their extra perennials and have a fall plant sale.

More Ideas!

Create and sell college survival kits

Cook off contest

Concession stand

Candy Sale

Dessert tasting extravaganza

Valet Parking

Guess how many jelly beans or M&M's in jar contest

Coloring contest

Recycle cans for cash

Sidewalk chalk art show

Ice cream social

Guess the company grand total

Host humorous photo contest

Lip sync contest

Purdue or Colts ticket Raffle

Executives shave their heads if donations reach a set amount

Gift wrap service

Cubicle decorating