

# Fun Ideas for Your Campaign

## Tricycle Races

Staff or members of management race tricycles outdoors or through the building.

## Putt Putt Tournament

Set up a miniature golf course throughout the office. Have various departments design each hole, using United Way information and materials. Give a monetary gift to the winning department's United Way agency. Employee teams also compete for prizes.

## Game Show

Have a host and use United Way trivia questions. Have participants use bicycle horns when the answer is known. Give United Way promotional items as prizes.

## Oh, Baby!

Post baby pictures of managers and have employees identify the babies. The employee with the most correct matches wins a prize. Consider collecting diapers, baby food and other baby related items for a United Way agency as part of this contest.

## Balloon Pop

Employees donate prizes for this event (a variation of traditional raffle). Before filling a balloon with helium, put a note inside with the name of a prize. Employees pay \$1 to buy a balloon and pop it to find out what prize they've won.

## Let's Make a Deal

Go around the office and ask random United Way related questions ("Name two agencies that help the elderly, children, etc." or "Which United Way agency is closest to our office?") Each time someone gets the answer right, give them a prize on the spot. Ask your CEO to go with you and hand out prizes.

## Pumpkin Carving Contest

How about a Halloween theme for your campaign this year? Have a pumpkin carving contest. Charge a nominal fee to enter and vote. Award prizes in categories including best traditional pumpkin, most creative, best effort by group or individual and best entry involving multiple pumpkins.

## Silent Auctions

There are several varieties of auctions. Silent auctions have been the most effective, fun and easy. Have staff auction off services, such as washing someone's car in the parking lot, cooking a three-course meal or any crafts/items your talented staff can donate. Or, have executives auction off their parking spaces, etc. In addition, solicit businesses and vendors for prizes.

## Casual for a Cause

Allow employees to pay a fee to dress down for a day (i.e. Friday jeans day).

## Chili Cook-Off

Employees cook their favorite chili recipe to be judged by co-workers. Create a cook book containing all of the secret chili recipes and give a copy to each investor. Make sure to feed the entire staff after the judging is completed.

## Build Your Own Sundae

Create a sundae bar with an assortment of ice creams and a wide variety of toppings. This can also serve as a thank you event.

## Staggered Lunch

Perfect for businesses that take lunch hours at specific times. Organize three time slots when three different groups come in for lunch and listen to a United Way speaker. Make it fun and

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enthusiastic with prizes awarded and a free gift for all.

## Cookie Exchange

Have each employee bring a plate of their favorite cookies to work and swap them with another employee.

## Candy/Balloon Grams

Sell candy-grams and/or balloongrams for employees to send to other staff members.

## Auction

Ask vendors and employees to donate items or services to be auctioned.

The auction can be done either as a silent auction or an on-line auction.

Variation: Have employees create baskets of items to be auctioned. The baskets can revolve around a theme (i.e. Spa, Hair Care, Kitchen, etc.).

## Car Wash

Track which employees invested in United Way, then draw for employees to get their car washed by the CEO or a member of management. Variation: Allow employees to pay to have management wash their cars.

## Early Bird Gets the Worm

In the middle of your campaign, treat investors who have already turned in a pledge form. Place a balloon on their desk with a note of thanks. This encourages employees to turn in their pledge forms early, while recognizing individuals who are eager to give.

## Employee Cookbook

Employees donate their favorite recipes to be collected and published into a bound book. Employees' children can illustrate the cookbook. A variation of this is to sell a "hint" book (i.e. hints on food, gardening, camping, golf, decorating, etc.).

## Jail-N-Bail

Hold in correlation with an employee

picnic or festival. Have a booth where employees pay to have co-workers, supervisors, managers or executives incarcerated for short periods during the event.

## Penny Wars

Divide into teams, obtain large jars (ask area water cooler companies for a donation of jars that are no longer watertight), and have the teams decorate them. Put pennies into your jar to increase the score and sabotage others by adding silver coins and dollar bills, which decrease the score.

## Special Incentives

Vacation days, extended lunch hours and donated items from places with which you conduct business are great ways to offer incentives without spending a lot of money.

- Sleep in late awards
- Flee @ 3:00 coupon
- Prime parking spaces
- Paid time-off
- Open soda & candy machines
- Free oil changes
- Gift certificates
- Big screen television
- Casual Fridays
- Free dinner catering
- Tickets to sporting games
- Airline tickets
- Call in "well" day
- Free hotel stay
- Computers—new or gently-used
- Lottery tickets
- Movie tickets
- Theater or museum passes

## Saying "Thanks"

After a successful campaign, it is very important to say "thanks" to all the employees who helped make your campaign a success. People want to feel appreciated when they have done something positive, and helping the community by giving to United Way is no exception. There are many different

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ways to say thank you to all of your coworkers who helped make it possible.

## Thank You Sack Lunch

Order sack lunches for every contributor. Include a thank you note from your CEO or, include thank you drawings or letters from children served by a United Way agency.

## Prize Patrol

Have management or the campaign committee wheel the prizes around the office on a cart until they reach the winner for public recognition. If you do this once a day during your campaign, it serves as a reminder to others to turn in their pledge card.

## Waffle/Pancake

### Breakfast

Have management serve up breakfast for everyone who contributed.

## Milk and Cookies

Design a special cookie wrapper with a thank you message. Place the wrapper around a package of cookies. Homemade cookies would be a special treat.

## Balloons or Flowers

Surprise each contributor the last day of the campaign. Place a balloon or flower at their desks to thank them for their thoughtfulness.

## Candy Gram

Show your employees a little appreciation with a treat for their sweet tooth! Distribute candy bars with a thank you message attached to all participants who contributed to the United Way campaign.

## Scooping Up Success

An ice cream social to help celebrate the campaign is a great way to say thank you. Have the management team scoop up the ice cream and personally thank each employee.

## “I Contributed”

### Cookout

Offer a cookout to all who contributed. Have the cooks wear aprons with the United Way logo.

### Jeans Stickers

This is an oldie but a goodie. Sell stickers for jeans days. Some companies will sell stickers that are good for the entire year!

### Name that Tune

Employees pay \$5 to play. Contestants then go up against each other to test their song skills.

### Amazing Race

Host a scavenger hunt competition and include United Way of the Midlands' Community Impact Partner Agencies as part of the hunt.

### Basketball Bracket

Turn March Madness brackets into a fundraiser for United Way. Fifty percent of the proceeds go to the bracket winners and