

in-person

FUN-RAISING IDEAS

Check out these great fundraising ideas for in-person workplaces. They can be done for free, or you can use them as an additional fundraising opportunity.

AWARENESS

Appreciation/Compliment Grams

Design notes of thanks or congratulations for coworkers to buy and send to each other.

Balloon Grams

Sell balloons with notes of recognition inside and deliver to coworkers.

Spare Change Jars

Place empty jars near vending machines or gathering places. Ask employees to deposit spare change throughout the year for United Way. This can be a competition between departments to see who collects the most change in a time frame.

White Elephant Sale

Employees donate odd items for sale. Coworkers should have the opportunity to buy items and stipulate in whose workspace these items should be displayed. Set a time frame for which objects must stay in that location.

Entertainment Drive

Employees donate new or slightly used books, videos, DVDs, board games, puzzles, etc. and hold a sale to benefit United Way.

Dress Down Day

Employees pay to not wear "normal" work attire. Get as causal as needed: jeans, tennis shoes, sports apparel, hats, slippers, etc. Contact your Account Manager for stickers that say "I Dress This Way for United Way" and distribute to participating employees.

Guess the Number

Fill a clear jar with candy and have employees pay for a chance to guess the number of pieces in the jar. The most accurate guess wins the candy or another prize.

Penny Wars

Divide the office by department and assign a money jar to each one. Members of each department deposit pennies, nickels, and dimes in their own jar and place quarters or "green" in other departments' jars. Pennies, nickels, and dimes count as positive, while quarters and "green" are negative. The department with the highest positive number wins a lunch provided by the company.

Charge Late Fees

Employees who arrive late for meetings, or any other tardiness, pay a fee to be donated to United Way.

Bingo

Purchase bingo cards and distribute to employees. Every day, email a bingo number to all participants. The first one to reply with "BINGO" wins. The bingo game continues until all prizes are distributed.

Guess the Baby Picture

Employees bring their baby pictures to work and post the photos a few days prior to the event. Contestants pay to enter the contest and match employees to their baby pictures. The employee with the highest number of correct matches wins a prize.



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FOOD & FESTIVITIES

Lunch Box Auction

Employees create gourmet lunches to be auctioned off to the highest bidder. Give prizes for the most creative, nutritious, elegant, or clever meals.

Bake Sale

Employees buy employee-donated baked goods with donations benefiting United Way.

Build Your Own Ice Cream Sundaes

Have a wide variety of sundae toppings (nuts, fruit, cookies, gummy bears, crushed candy bars, whipped cream, cherries, etc.) available for employees to build their own sundaes.

Ice Cream Cart

On a hot day, visit employees' cubicles and offices selling Popsicles, ice cream sandwiches, and other cold snacks. Donate proceeds to United Way.

Peanuts, Get Your Peanuts!

Decorate a push cart with a sports theme. Stock the cart with individual bags of salted peanuts, chips, hot dogs, soda, and all necessary condiments. Visit cubicles and sell items. This is a great way to kick off any sports season.

Potluck

Post a sign-up sheet for employees to bring entrées, salads, and desserts to ensure a variety of foods. Decorate the room with a theme. Adjust entry fees for those who bring an item.

Tailgate Party

Hold a pay-per-plate cookout during lunch. Cook brats, burgers, and hot dogs with condiments. Have chips, pretzels, soda, and other tailgating items.

Chili Cook-off

Participants pay to enter their chili into the contest. Choose judges and determine prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. After judging, employees can pay to sample each chili. Remember to supply cheese, sour cream, crackers, TUMS, etc.

Donut Eating Contest

Employees raise money for United Way by sponsoring contenders on a per-donut-eaten basis. The winner is determined by either eating the most donuts in a time frame or the first to finish a set number of donuts.

Soup Line

Employees sign up to bring their favorite soup or bread. Set up at lunch time, and charge participants fees for a bottomless bowl to try one or all. Bring your own reusable bowl.

ACTIVITIES

TV Game Show

Do your own version of the Price is Right or Jeopardy, but the focus is on community issues.

Health and Giving

Have each department host a health event such as a yoga class, stress reduction workshop, or personal trainer consultation. Charge employees to attend each event.

Office Olympics

Fire up the Olympic Torch (or grill) and let the games begin. Have a tricycle or office chair race. Use items around your work location for golfing, shooting baskets, etc. Have spelling contests, typing contests, contests to develop the most persuasive or most complimentary memo, etc. Devise rules for each race in advance and seek participants. Combine the event with a cookout. Design award medals to display in the winners' cubicles.

Karaoke Contest

Each location, department, or team nominates one employee to sing a song. Choose a variety of music or "spotlight" a particular theme or music. The winner is chosen by audience applause or a panel of judges.

Balloon Pop Surprise

Put a prize note in each balloon (soda, jeans day, gift card, candy bar, sports tickets, etc.). Be sure to have one big prize. Place balloons in a contained area and have participants pay to pop balloons for prizes.



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AUCTION & RAFFLE

Informative Meeting Incentives

Hold a workplace meeting and have a representative from United Way and/or member of United Way's Speaker's Bureau give a presentation. Offer donuts, coffee, or raffle tickets to attendees.

Box Raffle

Boxes are placed in highly-trafficked areas with the name of a prize on each. Employees buy tickets and put them in the boxes corresponding to the prize they want to win. A winner is drawn for each box.

Silent Auction

The company donates auction items such as office furniture, printers, scanners, computers, corporate box seats at a sporting event, company apparel, etc. Employees can also donate items/services. All proceeds go to United Way.

Executive Chef

Auction off dinner for two or more at the home of an executive.

Front Row Parking

Raffle front row parking spots for a year or during the winter months.

Paid Parking

Raffle/Auction off a year's worth of free parking.

Getaway

Have coworkers donate time at their vacation cottages to the highest bidder.

Lunch with CEO

Raffle/Auction off lunch with the CEO—CEO's treat!

Extra Vacation Day

Raffle/Auction off a day or ½ day of vacation.

Rubber Duckies

Write numbers on the bottom of rubber ducks and have prizes corresponding to those numbers. Charge participants for each time they pick up a duck.

ENGAGING MANAGEMENT

Executive Butler or Maid

Executives donate an hour to serve lunch to employees. Have employees pay to enter.

Dollar-an-Inch Contest

Executives participate in an all-day competition to end the day with the shortest tie. Anyone can wear a tie! Employees cut off an inch of their favorite executive's tie each time they give to the community. Prizes go to the shortest tie, the ugliest tie, etc.

Costume War

Choose an executive to wear a costume for the day by placing money jars outside the office doors of willing participants.

Executive Dunk Tank

Pay per ball for a chance to dunk your boss, or pay a higher fee to walk up and press the "dunk" button. Participants pay extra to add a bag of ice to the dunk tank water.



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SAY THANKS

Participation Goals

Set realistic participation goals for workplace giving. Have various awards for reaching each participation goal (pizza party, cookout, jean day, time off, etc.)

Thank You Drawing

Collect a variety of gifts—either donated, purchased, or intangible goods like vacation days, lunch with the CEO, or one year of front-row parking. To encourage employees to pledge, every contributor to United Way is entered into a drawing.

Pledging Participation

The department, location, division, etc. with the highest percent participation will have the pleasure of viewing their supervisor in a funny outfit. If they choose not to wear the outfit, they have to buy pizza for their department, location, division, etc.

Happy Holidays to Your Clients

Make corporate donations on behalf of your clients to United Way. Send clients a holiday postcard communicating the generous gift to the community.

THEMES

The Big Shot

As a variation on the standard thermometer graph to monitor agency progress, use a hypodermic needle design. Great for healthcare organizations.

1960s (or other era)

Dress up in “60s” garb. Sell headbands, smiley face pins, tie-dyed shirts, etc.

Wild West

Employees dress in Western clothes. Use a cactus as your thermometer.

Hawaiian Theme

Each person turning in a pledge card gets a plastic lei. At campaign's end, hold a Hawaiian potluck where employees wear their leis and dress in tropical patterns. Have a limbo contest. Use a palm tree thermometer.

Mardi Gras

Everyone loves a party, so why not model your campaign after the biggest party in the world? Use a Mardi Gras theme! Invite a jazz band to play at your kickoff event. Hold a parade, float contest, or sell bead-o-grams (beads with thoughtful messages attached). Host a Cajun potluck.

An Hour of Power

Use a stopwatch as a thermometer. Publicize what services are provided from a donation equal to one hour's pay.

Beach Bash

Decorate the cafeteria or break room with beach balls, etc. Serve hot dogs and fruit kabobs. Tell everyone to wear their favorite “beach wear” and then vote on the best one. Award prizes for the best outfits.

United We Stand, United We Give

Use an All-American theme complete with apple pie tosses, picnics, and red, white, and blue.

INCENTIVES

- Complimentary hotel stay and/or airline tickets
- Around-the-world dining (pack of restaurant gift certificates of different cuisines)
- Call in “well” day or “sleep in late” coupon
- Car started and windows scraped every snow day in January
- Car washed by boss or coworker
- Causal day
- Company promotional items
- Computers, new or gently used
- “Flee @ 3” coupon
- Free babysitting
- Free meal or dessert from the employee cafeteria
- Free oil change
- Gift certificates
- Golf with the boss
- Lottery tickets
- Lunch with your manager, their treat
- Tickets to local sporting events or movie passes
- Open soda and candy machines
- Pizza party
- Play or concert tickets
- Use of company car and/or reserved prime parking spaces
- Vacation day



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