

Fun in fund raising

Create a World of Difference!

United Way has searched high and low for some new, innovative and fun ideas for your campaign! Themes capture attention, build enthusiasm and personalize your campaign message so it is meaningful to your employees. Themes will add fun and involve others so your organization's campaign becomes "their" campaign. Bringing out the competitive side of your employees can boost their enthusiasm for your campaign. Additionally, contests make it more fun and visible and can REALLY encourage participation!

Bon Voyage

With a traveling theme, you can host a "bon voyage" party as a victory celebration. Everyone who gives through United Way gets a "passport" to get into the party. Top contributors' names will be put into a drawing to win a prize, possibly donated from a travel agency or cruise line.

Survive This!

The office is transformed for the duration of the campaign into a wild jungle (or other location). Employees are each given an identity and throughout the campaign vote (pledge) others out of the jungle. Challenges (trivia, games, and contests) can be held throughout to help decide who leaves. The goal is to become the office Survivor.

Be a Life Saver

Have some fun, beach style! Sand, sunglasses, beach balls and The Beach Boys music make your workplace feel like you are on the beach. Employees who donate are awarded life preservers vests to wear at the next meeting and lifesaver candies in their office.

Have Campaign, Will Travel!

Have an office that is too small to gather everyone together? Do a traveling kickoff! On each floor or department of your workplace, have a different country theme with decorations, food, costumes and music. Each workspace can have information on different areas of United Way and the campaign.

Workplace Olympics

Employees are grouped according to department and compete as a team throughout the Olympics. Employees compete in events such as 3-legged races, football punting and throwing, longest drive competitions and other games. The winning department receives a prize, and medals to wear while at work.

Viva Las Vegas!!

What are the ingredients for a successful Casino Night? A few blackjack tables, card games, a lot of dice, a bingo game and number wheel. Invite employees and their families. Give employees "Monopoly" money to play with. Once that money runs out, if they wish to continue to play, they purchase more "funny money," but the real money is donated to United Way. Keep the stakes low -- \$1 real money could be worth \$500 in "funny money."

United Way 007

Clues are given to employees in the form of riddles. The department or individual who figures out all of the riddles receives a prize at the end of the campaign.

Baby Picture Match Game

Invite employees to try their luck matching baby pictures of the management or each other. Award the entry with the most right answers a prize or some other fun incentive. Charge employees \$1 per ballot.

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Say Cheese!

This event would be an office version of the television show America's Funniest Home Videos. Encourage employees to bring in their funniest photos or videos for all to see. A vote is taken and the funniest video/picture wins a prize. All those entering the contest would be asked to contribute to the campaign and information on United Way can be presented between the videos.

Bowl-A-Thon

Employees pay \$2 entrance fee to participate in this event. Give each participant a special pledge form in advance to use when asking for their support. Encourage fan support, fun and enthusiasm.

Balloon Pop Coin War

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

Book/Video Sale

Employees donate their old books, videos, CD's for employee book sales. Sell paperbacks for \$1, hardbacks for \$1 and CD's and videos/DVD's for up to \$5.

CEO Car Wash

Employees donate \$5 to have their car washed at high noon by their "Boss." Charge extra for special services like cleaning the interior or polishing the rims. Charge for photos of the employees and the boss washing their cars.

Street Party!

Hold a carnival or outdoor picnic complete with entertainment, agency booths, drawings, dunking booths, and cakewalks. Hold a prize-filled rally and great food to pump up the spirits and get the campaign off to a great start.

Coin War

Each department or team has an empty water bottle (the BIG kind). Employees drop their spare dimes, nickels and pennies into the bottle. These coins are counted as a positive. A quarter counts as a negative. Employees may "sabotage" another department's bottle by dropping a quarter into their bottle. At the end of the campaign, both positive and negative coins are counted, and the group with the most \$\$ raised wins. All proceeds go to United Way.

Chair Race (Or "Worker-Glide")

Set up a relay course for employees to go through sitting in chairs or riding tricycles. Use a stop-watch to time contestants. The best time wins a prize. Observers wager \$1 on their favorite contestants.

Karaoke Party

This has the potential of being a BIG fundraiser and a GREAT team builder! Participants pay \$2 to enter and are given a list of songs and a pledge sheet in advance. Participants ask employees to support them by pledging an amount of money. At the event, has a big box of funny hats, boas, and other costume items available for participants to use. Pass the hat at the party to receive even more pledges.

Reserved Parking

Hold a drawing for one month of a premier company parking space – maybe even the boss' spot!

Ugly Tie & Ugly Earring Contest

Encourage your employees to wear their tackiest ties and earrings for the day. Solicit "votes" (donations) from employees. The person with the most votes at the end of the day wins a prize – maybe a gift certificate to the mall!

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Animal House

Pucker-Up Pig

For a set donation amount, employees can cast votes for the co-worker who will “kiss the pig” at the end of the campaign. This would work with goats, cows ... or any other animal!

Catch and Release

Managers have to stay in a giant “fish tank” until they raise ten or more dollars in donations. Decorate with an “under the sea” type décor!

And They're Off

Sponsor a horse race among the different departments in your company. As pledges come in, move horses forward toward the finish line. The winning department can be awarded prizes shaped like horseshoes.

Puppy Love

Ever hear that a lot of pets look like their owners, and vice-versa? Test this theory by having employees pay for a chance to try their luck at matching a pet picture to its correct owner. Award a prize to the contestant with the most right answers, and maybe provide gift certificates to a pet store for the owners who look most like their pets!

White Elephant Sale or “E-bay for United Way”

White elephant sales or silent auctions are a great way to raise money and clean our closets! Have employees bring in items they have made or donated. Then hold a live or silent auction during break times, lunches or via your company’s intranet.