



UNITED WAY OF THE CAPITAL REGION “FUN”RAISER IDEAS

LIVE UNITED

United Way of
the Capital Region



“FUN” RAISER IDEAS

- **Casual for a Cause:** Participate in Causal for a Cause. Employees can pay \$3-5 to wear jeans and dress casually for the day. United Way has stickers you can hand out to employees – visit www.unitedwaystore.com to order.
- **CEO Challenge:** Ask your top executives to challenge the employees to reach a specific fundraising goal. Once the goal is reached, host an event where the CEO celebrates the success in a unique way – like shaving his/her head, working as receptionist for a half-day, cooking breakfast or washing cars for the department with the largest increase.
- **Music to My Ears:** Hold a karaoke event with a suggestion donation as an entrance fee. Then, turn up the fun by having your co-workers donate to have someone sing (or stop them from singing).
- **You’ve Got Talent:** Find your company’s hidden talent by hosting a talent show in your conference room at lunch or after work. Make sure that the executives are on board – and that they have some good acts!
- **Dunk Tank:** Rent a dunk tank for the day. Your employees will have fun and can donate for a chance to dunk their favorite executive.
- **Casino Night:** What are the ingredients for a successful Casino Night? Excited employees, a few gaming tables and snacks! Have local businesses donate prizes for winners.
- **Go for the Gold!** Bring the Workplace Olympics to your office! Use everyday office items for the competition (like office chair races and wastepaper basketball) and be creative. Don’t forget to give the winners medals (you can make them out of paper clips)!
- **Ready “Fore” Some Fun?** Set up a portable putting green. Employees buy chances to hit a hole-in-one. Those who make a hole-in-one are eligible for prizes.
- **Wii Are Ready to Party:** Have employees bring in their video game console and games. People can donate to play. Wii skiing and Rock Band are always good choices!
- **Executive Car Wash:** Employees donate \$10 to have their car washed by the organization’s VIPs. Request an extra donation for a photo to capture the moment.
- **Hooping It Up:** Hold 2-on-2 interdepartmental basketball tournaments, using a portable basketball hoop in the main lobby. Employees can “bet” on which team will win. Everyone who bets on the winning team can be entered into a raffle to win the hoop.
- **Do You Have Game?** Recruit employees to play a chosen board game. Create a pool around the winning team or allow employees to move/acquire a game piece for every returned pledge form.
- **Competitive Eating Contests:** Find your office’s competitive eating super star. You can either pick a classic food – like hot dogs or donuts – or get creative. Participants have to donate to enter.
- **Baby, Pet or Prom Picture Match Game:** Invite employees to try their luck at matching baby, pet or prom pictures of employees. Charge employees to vote and award a fun prize to the person with the most correct matches.
- **Tricycle Races:** Set up a challenging tricycle course for executives at the office. Employees can “bet” on the winner.

- **Back to School:** Relive the glory years of school (without all the homework). Collect school supplies for a United Way agency. Hold a spelling bee with managers versus employees or department versus department. Contestants must spell the word correctly or everyone on the team must pay. The winner gets a prize.
- **Joke Books:** Employees submit their favorite jokes and donate \$1 to vote on the worst!
- **Stress Darts:** As a stress reliever, offer employees the opportunity to pay \$1 for three darts. Balloons with paper inside listing a prize serve as targets.
- **Funniest Home Video Contests:** Invite employees to create their own “home” or “work” videos. Charge an entry fee at a viewing party; offer a prize.
- **Put Yourself in Their Shoes:** Ask employees to wear a crazy pair of shoes and enjoy a wild and crazy lunch. The menu: FOOT-long hot dogs, SHOESTRING potatoes, CORN chips, ARCHway cookies, and SOLE music e.g. “Blue Suede Shoes.”
- **United Way 007:** Clues are given to employees in the form of riddles. The department or individual who figures out all the riddles receives a prize at the end of the campaign.
- **Exotic Locales:** Whether you transform your campaign into a Hawaiian luau, African safari or the Australian outback, employees are sure to have a wild time. Encourage staff and volunteers to dress the part. Host a lunch with theme-related food.
- **Employee Cookbook:** Have employees donate their favorite recipes to be published in a company cookbook. A variation of this theme is to sell suggestion books on golf, gardening, etc. Have employees’ children provide illustrations.
- **Ice Cream Social:** Set up an ice cream bar with a variety of favorite toppings. Charge employees by the scoop.
- **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 meals.
- **Tailgate Party:** Create a sports theme party to coincide with football season. Hold the party in the parking lot. Serve hot dogs, chips, soda and play a game of flag football.
- **“Breakfast of Champions”:** Decorate the conference room with athletic gear, flags and banners and divide departments into teams to compete in table football. Serve Wheaties for extra energy!
- **Wine Tasting:** Hold a wine tasting and have employees donate to attend. All attendees can rate the wine – and don’t forget the cheese!
- **Waffle/Pancake Breakfast:** Sell tickets and have people sign-up for their choice of pancakes or waffles. Cook breakfast in your company cafeteria. Don’t forget bacon and sausage!
- **Mini-Indy 500:** Rent or borrow remote controlled cars and set up an “Indy 500” race. Use office supplies to make the track more interesting. Teams can be sponsored to compete and spectators can “bet” on the winner.
- **Sumo Mania!** Call a local company and rent the sumo wrestling package. Have employees and executives pay to play.

- **Pumpkin Carving Contest:** Plan a Halloween theme and hold a pumpkin carving contest. Find a local business willing to donate pumpkins for your organization to sell to your employees. Employees buy pumpkins for their families, their staff or to use in the contest. Employees enter carved or decorated pumpkins individually or by group. Charge \$5 to enter and \$1 to vote. Award prizes in various categories. Examples:
 - Best traditional pumpkin
 - Most creative pumpkin
 - Best effort by a group
 - Best effort by an individual
- **Employee Trivia:** Collect unusual facts about employees, for example, “Name the employee who appeared on the David Letterman show?” Each staff member submits their guess. There is a \$5 donation per trivia sheet. Other themes could include music, organizational history, sports, etc.
- **Midnight Breakfast:** If your organization has a third shift, invite employees to donate for a midnight breakfast served by executives and other day employees.
- **Door Decorating Contest:** Hold a door decorating contest to raise awareness of the United Way campaign. Employees can vote for their favorite by donating \$1. The winning decorators win a pizza party.
- **Game Show Mania:** Divide your staff into four teams that compete in a game modeled after “Family Feud” or “The Price is Right.”
- **24-Hour Bake Sale:** Hold a 24-hour bake sale so employees during a later shift can participate.
- **“Buy a Big Shot” Auction:** Get executives to donate a half-day to your campaign. Auction off each executive to the highest-bidding employee or department to work for them for a day.
- **Fashion Show:** Have employees ham it up and model items, such as sweat shirts, hats and jackets with your company’s logo. Employees donate to see the show.
- **Penny Wars:** Start a competition with different floors in your office for a free breakfast. You may discover some fun-spirited cheating and late night penny bottle stuffing – with additional donations.
- **Mardi Gras:** Everyone loves a party – so why not model your campaign after the biggest party in the world? Invite a jazz band; hold a “float” contest using regular office supplies, sell beads and/or host a Cajun potluck.
- **White Elephant Sale:** Ask employees to bring in a wrapped “white elephant” gift...an unwanted, but usable (although not necessarily useful) object from their home. All who donate can receive a raffle ticket and when their name is called, they can choose one of the mystery items.
- **Get “Real”:** Host your own reality show themed party. You can even extend the theme to your campaign with daily “challenges” for employees.
- **Academy Awards Night:** Have employees dress as their favorite celebrities. Create video movie “skits” using your favorite movies.
- **Dessert Cart/Bakery Cart:** Wheel a cart of bagels, doughnuts, danishes, cookies, brownies etc. through the office, collecting United Way donations in exchange for the goodies. Everyone wants something sweet after lunch.
- **Chili Cook-Off Contest:** Employees cook their favorite recipe and enter it into a cook-off contest. A panel of “chili experts” selects the official chili champion. Talk to a hotel representative about donating a weekend stay at their hotel for the winner.

- **Employee Raffle:** Ask employees to contribute something special for a raffle prize:
 - Homemade pies
 - One-day vacation
 - Lunch with a co-worker
 - Prizes donated by vendors
 - Car wash
 - Tickets to a special event
 - Employee parking spot

Employees make contribution using pledge forms. Employees turning in pledge forms early receive three raffle tickets. Employees turning in pledge forms after the “early” date, but before the campaign’s final event, receive one raffle ticket. Employees who make a certain dollar pledge receive two additional raffle tickets.

- **Bingo:** Sell bingo cards for employees to purchase. Get local stores to donate prizes for all winners.
- **Silent Auction:** Gather gift items and create bid sheets, being certain to provide a minimum bid for each item. Put together a book that shows all items so that everyone is able to see the items available. Tap on employee’s talents and resources for themed baskets.
- **Pie in the Face:** Employee pays \$5 for a pie to be thrown in the face of the executive of their choice.
- **Name that Tune:** Employees pay \$5 to participate. Contestants then go up against each other to test their knowledge of songs.
- **Walking Taco:** Set up a cart with taco ingredients and have an employee push around during lunch time for people to purchase and make their own tacos. Or use a bag of Fritos and place meat and topping in the bag. Great for people that don’t have a long lunch break.
- **Sports Team Day:** Have employee pay \$1 (your choice) to be able to wear their favorite sports team apparel.
- **Slipper or Shorts Day:** Have employee pay \$1 (your choice) to be able to wear their slippers or shorts to work. Great for employees working in a call center.
- **Jeans Day:** Have employee pay \$1 (your choice) to be able to wear jeans to work for one day. \$5 if they want to wear jeans for a week.
- **Push Up Contest:** Ever want to find out who the strongest person in the office is? Contestants pay \$5 entry fee. Observers pay \$1 to wager one who they think will do the most pushups. The winner is the one that does the most pushups.
- **Jump Rope Contest:** Contestants pay \$5 entry fee. Observers pay \$1 to wager on who they think will last the longest jumping rope. The winner is the one who last the longest without messing up.
- **Benefit Dance:** Organize an outing with co-workers and spouses to enjoy music, dancing and fun. Ask for a cover charge.
- **Chair Massage:** Bring in a massage therapist for a day and allow all those who submit a pledge form to sit down to a relaxing chair massage.
- **Cornhole Tournament:** Charge an entry fee and set up brackets like the NCAA tournament.
- **Guess the Number:** Fill a jar with a large amount of candy pieces, buttons, or some other item. For a donation, co-workers can guess the correct number to win the item.
- **Key to the Treasure:** All who submit a pledge form at a certain level get a key to unlock at treasure chest of prizes. Only one key opens it.
- **Scavenger Hunt:** Employees have to find unusual items around the office or the neighborhood.
- **Snack Cart:** Go from workspace to workspace with baked goods or candies.

Questions? We're here to help you.

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