



## Workplace General Special Events

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### ***A Dollar An Inch Contest***

Executives participate in an all-day competition to end the day with the shortest tie. Employees cut an inch off their favorite executive's tie each time they give to the community. Give prizes for the shortest tie, the ugliest tie, etc

### ***Academy Awards Night***

Have employees dress as their favorite celebrities. Create video movie "skits" using your favorite movies with a United Way twist.

### ***Auction Hotline***

Set up a special voice mailbox with weekly messages announcing auction items. Outline the items, including their face value, in a flyer. Update the recorded message daily, announcing the highest bids received to date. Each Friday announce auction results for the week and next week's items

### ***Auction Off A Friend***

Ask a friend if they would be willing to auction off their services. Employees bid on those services in either a live or silent auction setting.

### ***Baby/Pet Picture Match Game***

Invite employees to try their luck at matching baby or pet pictures to pictures of employees. Charge employees to vote and award a fun prize to the entrant with the most right answers.

### ***Baby Pool***

Have employees pay a \$2 fee to guess the day, weight and sex of a baby due and the closest correct guess wins half the pool with the campaign getting the other half.

### ***Back to School/Food Drive***

Relive the glory years of school (without all the homework). Collect school supplies/food for a United Way agency. Hold a spelling bee or e-mail United Way pop quizzes to employees with winners receiving a prize. Give away customized lunchboxes. Have employees' kids help in the decoration of flyers and custom printed materials.

### ***Balloon Pop***

Employees donate prizes for this event, which is a variation of a traditional raffle. Before filling a balloon with helium, put a note inside with the name of a prize. Employees pay \$1 00 to by a balloon and pop it to find out what prize they won.

### ***Battle of the Sexes***

It's the men against the women in the company to see which one gets the highest percent participation. At the kick-off meeting, have a short game show in which 2 men and 2 women "volunteer" to be contestants. Women have to answer questions about topics that men know a lot about, and vice versa. Example: One man can be asked the name of a product used to slough dead skin cells off the face (exfoliate) and a woman can be asked what was the "house of Ruth" (Yankee Stadium, made famous by Babe Ruth).

## ***Be an Everyday Superhero***

Employees dress as heroes: Batman, Superman, Spiderman, etc. Serve hero (sub) sandwiches.

## ***Be a lifesaver***

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

## ***Best Shoes Contest***

Line up senior management and/or other employees for some unique mug shots -- shoes only. Hold a contest before your campaign kicks off to see if employees can figure out who's who, then have them vote for the "Best Shoes" at the company kickoff.

## ***Bingo***

Sell bingo cards for employees to purchase. Have management call bingo numbers. Get a local store to donate prizes for all winners. This event requires a gaming license.

## ***Bon Voyage***

With a traveling theme, you can host a "bon voyage" party as a victory celebration. Everyone who returns their United Way pledge form gets a "passport" to get into the party. Attendees will be put into a draw to win a prize, possibly donated from a travel agency or cruise line.

## ***Book, Music and Video Sale***

Have employees donate old books, CDs and videos for a company or department wide sale, with proceeds earmarked for United Way.

## ***Bowl-a-Thon***

Employees pay a fee to participate in the event. Have the team do costume contest. Encourage departmental challenges

## ***'Canadian Idol' Contest***

Employees can conduct a contest based on the hit TV show Canadian Idol. Employees make a donation to vote for the management-singing group of their choice. The duo or group that attracts the most will sing a song of their choice in front of an audience.

## ***Carnival and Talent Show***

Hold a carnival and talent show to kick off your United Way campaign. As a part of the program, have a group of executives perform songs, with written lyrics to fit United Way. An executive dunking booth is part of the carnival games, giving employees the chance to dunk their favorite executive. Employees can participate in traditional carnival games such as the egg/spoon race, ring toss and ducky races. The finale event is the Mr. or Mrs. United Way Pageant where divisions nominate a contestant to compete in the pageant. Each pageant contestant must educate the audience about one United Way program during the talent competition and the audience votes by placing money in large water jugs.

## ***Casual Day***

Sell Casual Day stickers (available from your United Way office) allowing employees purchasing them to dress casually on certain days (usually Fridays). Employees purchase stickers for \$1.00 to \$5.00 each. As well, designate certain casual days as “Crazy Days” and encourage your employees to show their wild side clothing.

## ***Children’s Drawing Contest***

Give employees “official photographs” of one or two top executives to take home for their children to draw. Or, children draw what “helping others” means to them. Or, what another theme means to them. Contest is limited to children under 12 who are related to any employee. Employees vote for the best drawing by paying \$1 per vote. Give prizes for all participants. Display winning portraits as part of the organization’s permanent art collection. A variation of this event is employees submit photography, drawings, paintings, poetry or collages depicting people helping people.

## ***Coin War***

Set up large, empty bottles for each department or floor in the cafeteria. Have employees drop their spare change into the bottle. Coins are positive, while paper money is negative. Employees can sabotage other bottles by dropping paper money into them. The department with the most money in their bottle wins, with the money going to United Way.

## ***Comedy Hour***

Ask a local comedian or improv group to donate their services over the lunch hour. Have employees buy tickets to attend.

## ***A Colourful Event***

Encourage everyone to wear red on a specified day. Have a designated “red spotter” awarding prizes and/or penalties. Tie into a raffle for those wearing red and have a red prize.

## ***Coupon Books***

Many organizations that sell “entertainment” coupon books will sell the books at a discount to other organizations that are fundraising. Generally, you only pay for the books that you sell. There are many different types of coupon books available. Sell books that appeal to your employees, such as coffee coupon breaks.

## ***Crazy Tie Day***

The committee rounds up ugly ties at garage sales and secondhand stores. Employees pay \$1 to wear the ties that day, with proceeds going to United Way.

## ***Employee Guessing Events***

Employees guess the organization’s grand total given to the community, the per capita gift of the organization, community need questions (How many homeless people live in our community) the amount of candy in the jar.

## ***Employee Raffle***

Ask employees to contribute something special for a raffle prize. Homemade pies. Lunch with a co-worker. Weekend stay at a vacation cabin or condo. Prizes donated by vendors. Employees make contributions using a raffle donation form. Those 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.

### ***Executive Fantasy Auction***

Executives at your organization create “fantasy” packages, which employees can bid on at a special auction; Cooking the winning bidder a special dish, singing at a wedding, party or special event, mowing the winner’s lawn, changing the winner’s car oil, baby-sitting the winner’s children, washing the winner’s car, washing the winners windows.

### ***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 of the chosen location. Host a lunch with theme-related food. Organize a scavenger hunt or hula-hoop contest.

### ***Flashback Carnival***

Invite employees to an old-fashioned carnival, complete with cakewalks, bake sale, bubble blowing and 50 cent hot dogs. Hold a hula-hoop contest to really give it that flashback flavor and charge participants a fee to enter the contest. Set up dunk tank with all your favorite “dunkable” executives. Charge \$3 00 for three balls

### ***Good Clean Fun***

Arrange to have the CEO or top executives wash cars. Schedule the car wash over lunch hours to maximize employee participation. Hold the car wash in the company parking lot where employees can have their cars washed by company executives at a charge of approximately \$3 to \$5. Advertise well in advance with posters and memos.

### ***Games (Carnival Style)***

Set up old-fashioned carnival games such as a ring toss, fishpond and balloon dart throw. Prior to the carnival, ask staff to donate old stuffed animals as prizes. Award these prizes to those that do well at the “games of skill”.

### ***Garage Sale***

Send an email to all employees asking them to donate some of their gently used articles. Then set up a booth during your campaign and give co-workers the chance to purchase these items. After all, one man’s junk is another’s treasure. An interesting twist; At one United Way, employees brought in their used articles and the organizers created little stories about each item and auctioned them off. For example, they claimed that an old Hawaiian shirt was once owned by Elvis. The little stories helped make it more fun and profitable.

### ***Get out of Jail For a Fee***

Give employees the opportunity to send other staff members to “jail” during their lunch hour or coffee break (or both). Have someone on the campaign team act as warrant officer. The person having someone arrested will go to the warrant officer and purchase a warrant for the arrest of a coworker at a cost of \$2. The warrant officer then advises the prisoner-to-be that there is a warrant for their arrest. The individual may then pay bail to avoid jail time (\$2). If three people purchase a warrant for the same person, the prisoner will have to pay bail three times to stay out of jail (\$6 in this case).

## ***Greeting Card Sales***

Have your marketing department design various greeting cards (Congratulations, Birthday, Thank you, Anniversary, and personalized) and sell them with proceeds benefiting United Way. Have a contest between different departments to see which can sell the most!

## ***Historical Eras***

Go back in time to the Wild West, Psychedelic Sixties, Roaring Twenties or Renaissance. Have staff dress up in clothing from your chosen era and decorate your office. Transform an office into a jail cell, round up executives who have to post “bail” for their release.

## ***In Hot Pursuit Of Cool Millions***

Campaigners dress up as spies wearing trench coats and carrying magnifying glasses. Pass out United Way informative messages in code and offer a prize for the employees who can decode the messages.

## ***Karaoke Party***

This has the potential for being BIG fund-raiser and a GREAT team builder! Participants pay \$2.00 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, have a big box of funny hats, bags, and other costume items available to dress up in. Pass that hat at the party for even more pledges. A variation on this activity is “Executive Karaoke” Employees pay money for executives to get up and sing the song of their choice. Videotape the event and sell the copies.

## ***Kiss the Pig***

Get your CEO and top management to participate in this great fundraiser. Place a picture of each on a container. Employees will determine who will kiss the pig by placing votes and \$2 in the container of choice. Employees can vote as often as they want. Votes are counted and the one with the most gets to pucker up for the pig.

## ***Laugh Olympics***

Employees complete in crazy “athletic” events for silly prizes. Participants donate a \$5 00 fee to enter. Observers wager bets on their favorite entrants.

## ***Lights!Camera!Action!***

Have employees dress up as their favorite characters from movies or TV shows. Act out a plot that involves United Way. Incorporate movie plots or famous lines into flyers and e-mails. Raffle off movie tickets, TVs and video gift certificates.

## ***Makes Cents***

Advertise a penny collection competition between department/classes. Identify a drop location for rolled pennies. Award prizes to those departments /classes collecting the most pennies (per capita), If possible exchange pennies for bills at a local bank.

## ***On a Clear Day***

Company executives and committee members wash every car window in the parking lot and attach a balloon with a flier explaining that they want everyone to have a ‘clear’

picture of what United Way does for the community.

### ***Paycheck “Pocket Change”***

For a period of time, employees donate any change above an even dollar from their paychecks.

### ***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 the most like their pets!

### ***Put Your Best Food Forward***

Employees are asked to wear a crazy pair of shoes and enjoy a wild and crazy lunch. Menu to feature FOOT-long hot dogs, SHOESTRING potatoes, CORN chips, ARCHway cookies, and SOFT SHOE drinks. What better music to accompany the event than “sole” music - “Blue Suede Shoes”, “These Boots are Made for Walking”, etc. Thank you cards to employees can be tied with a shoelace, and read “Thanks for helping us tie-up our United Way drive by putting yourself in the ‘shoes’ of those less fortunate than ourselves.”

### ***Quilts, Quilts, Quilts***

Employees donate a quilt featuring a theme of giving to the community and being involved. Sell raffle tickets.

### ***Rose Event***

Local florists donate roses or carnations that employees buy for \$2.00 to send to fellow coworkers. As an added incentive, the organization matches each \$2 00 donation. Try the same event with cookies, as a variation, with employees donating the cookies to the event. Sell the cookies for \$1 00 to send to friends or co-workers in the organization just to say thanks

### ***Scavenger Hunt***

Adaptation of another familiar game. This is always fun. Ask participants to look for items beginning with the letters U-N-I-T-E-D W-A-Y. Provide prizes.

### ***Shave the Boss***

Have the CEO challenge his staff, “if we make our goal, you can shave my head!” and bring an antique barber chair into the office. Employees take turns shaving his head as customers look on. An alternative could be to shave off his mustache or beard.

### ***Sock Hop***

Invite employees to kickoff—”Fifties Style.” Give prizes for most authentic dress. Hang posters that tell what “fifty cents more per week can do for our community.”

### ***Spelling Bee***

Organize a spelling bee with participants paying an entry fee. Have other employees pay to place bets on the winner. Award the winners with a special incentive.

### ***Team Chia Pet Contest***

Employees divide into teams. Each team is given a Chia Pet, which they care for. The Chia's hair may be cut, primped and styled. Prizes awarded for: fullest growth, longest single sprout, most original.

### ***Team Weight Loss***

Develop teams (4-10 people) of employees willing to lose pounds for profits. Each team member pays a fee to enter the competition. At the start date, all team members' weight-in and record their starting weight. Pick an ending date for the final weight-in. The team that together loses the most pounds wins a prize for all team members.

### ***Tennis Ball Racing***

This is a different twist to "duck racing". Obtain tennis balls and write consecutive numbers on them with matching numbered cards. Sell the balls and have participants fill-in the cards. Find a hilly area, build a "funnel" at the end of the hill. On "race day", put the balls in a large scoop such as front-end loader, drop them and the first ball that gets to the bottom wins. You can have 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> (or more) prizes.

### ***The Ups and Downs of Having Fun***

Get management's approval to charge a toll for all those using the company's elevator on a particular day, Have an employee collect a toll from every patron using the elevator. Give each toll payer a United Way sticker/pin to wear to avoid being charged on his/her return trip up or down.

### ***Theme Baskets***

Each department sponsors a theme basket (golf, chocolate, day of pampering, etc.) by purchasing products to fill it up. The baskets are then auctioned off via live or silent auction. Another option is for employees to buy tickets and they can choose which basket they would like to draw for. Each basket has its own draw.

### ***Ticket Giveaway/Gift Certificates***

Give free tickets to movies, theater productions, amusement centers and other local attractions for pledge incentives. Enter the names of all employees who turn in a signed pledge form during the first hour following the kick-off into a special draw.

### ***Toonie Toss***

Get a small wading pool filled with water. Place a dinner plate in the center. The object of this game is to toss a Toonie onto the plate to win a prize. The difficulty level can be adjusted by increasing/decreasing the distance between the plate and the Toonie tosser.

### ***Top Ten***

Have a contest among employees to name the top ten reasons for giving to United Way. Publish the winner's reasons in your next company newsletter or post on the bulletin board.

### ***Tune into the Community***

Music is a great way to get everyone moving to the United Way beat. Hold a karaoke kick-off party. Have participants and volunteers dress up as their favorite musicians. Sell employees' old CDs. Hold a musical talent show. Organize a sock hop. Raffle off stereos or CDs.

### ***Ugly Tie or Ugly Earring Contest***

Contestants pay \$5.00 to enter the most awful earrings or ugly ties they own (or can make or borrow). Have a parade of all the contestants, offering a last chance to vote at the end of the day. Circulate the names of the entrants the day before the event so employees can anticipate the voting. Bring a Polaroid/digital camera and charge for photos taken of employees with their favorite contestants

### ***United Way Goes Hollywood***

Use a series of colorful, creative and humorous posters to publicize the campaign. Hold a bake sale with slogans like “The Pies of Laura Mars” and “Romancing the Scones”. Hold a bowling party with slogans like “Bowl Durham” or “Honey, I Struck the Pins.”

### ***United Way Jingle Contest***

Employees write jingles for United Way. There is \$5 entry fee and voting fee for the best jingles.

### ***United Way Pursuit***

Based on Trivial Pursuit. Companies feature information on different United Way agencies/ services on bulletin boards or in other prominent locations. Employees called at random are asked a question about information posted that day or week. If they answer correctly, they win a small prize. As a part of an event, teams who have studied the literature can be set up for a match to see who knows the most. Questions should be formulated based on questions most likely to be raised by contributors during the campaign. Or design a game board on the floor. Players walk from square to square trying to fill up their pie with tokens by correctly answering questions. Pie wedges can be traded for prizes of the same color. Use your imagination to create a version that suits your company.

### ***United Way Trivia***

A United Way agency is featured each day for a week in a well-traveled area. With the display, a question about the agency is posted. Employees who turn in ballots with the correct answers are entered in a draw.

### ***Whipped Cream Sponge Throwing Contest***

Employees buy a chance to throw a sponge topped-off with whipped cream at a management person or fellow employee.

### ***White Elephant Sale***

Employees donate unique “white elephant” gifts that others can buy at affordable prices.

### ***Whose Legs Are Those?***

Line up co-workers for mug shots of their legs in Bermuda shorts, legs only. Encourage employees to pay a small fee (\$1) to guess whose legs belong to which co-workers.

### ***Who Knows the Nose?***

Take a side picture of employees’ noses, post the pictures and employees pay to guess who’s nose is who’s for prizes.