

### **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, sausage, butter etc. Each department can donate an item. The proceeds will go to United Way.

### **Sports related**

#### **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. Spectators can place bets on the winner.

#### **Hold an Atlanta Falcons or Georgia Bulldogs day**

Sell buttons that allow employees to wear their Falcons gear on a Friday or any game day during the season. Host a "Tailgate Party" during the lunch hour asking employees to bring their favorite dish to pass. For even more fun, play Football Trivia.

#### **Bowl-a-thon or miniature golf**

Employees pay a fee to participate in the event. Hold challenges among other departments.

### **Other fun events**

#### **Balloon pop**

Ask business partners to donate prizes. Before filling a balloon with helium, put a note inside some of the balloons with the name of a prize. In other balloons, put a note with a United Way fact. Pledge forms and other office notices can be shaped like balloons. Have employees purchase and pop balloons. Have the end prize be a donated hot-air balloon ride.

#### **Flower event**

Ask a local florist to donate flowers. Sell the flowers at the office to employees. This works well in conjunction with Secretary's Day or Valentine's Day.

#### **Vacation day**

This is probably the most effective and appreciated event. Have employees "buy" a vacation day by contributing a day's wages to United Way. Employees also have the option to donate unused vacation days to the campaign.

#### **Half & half**

Employees each donate a dollar to be kept in a plastic container. Hold a drawing where the worker receives half the funds in the container and United Way receives the other half. Employees were also able to buy "Jeans on Friday" coupons for \$5, \$10 or \$20, each which allowed for variable lengths of wearing time.

#### **Late meeting fee**

Employees who arrive late for meetings pay a nominal fee of 25 cents.

## **Fun ideas for your United Way campaign**

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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.

#### **Tune into 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.

#### **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 donate are awarded life preserver vests to wear at the next meeting and lifesavers candies in their offices.

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.

#### **Reality campaign**

Get "real" with your employees and conduct your campaign with a theme centered on the Reality TV shows that have taken over the world! Hold daily activities with a tie to the numerous reality shows that are out there ie. Survivor picnic, Weakest Link putt putt contest, Who Wants To Be A Millionaire trivia...

#### **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."

#### **Campaign games**

#### **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.

### **Trivial Pursuit/Chess/Scrabble contest**

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 card.

### **Ugly tie or ugly earring contest**

Have contestants pay to enter the ugliest tie or earring contest. Take pictures of the participants with their tie or earrings and have employees "vote" on the ugliest tie and earrings by contributing a dollar.

### **Executive chair or tricycle races**

Set up a relay course for executives to go through, either sitting in a chair or on tricycles. Let observers "bet" on their favorite contestants.

### **Children's drawing contest**

Give employees photographs of 1 or 2 top executives to take home for their children under 12 to draw. Charge a \$5.00 entry fee to vote for the best portraits. Display the winning portraits as part of the organization's permanent art collection. Variations of this event- have children paint depictions of people helping other people. Poems, collages, and photography can also be submitted.

### **A dollar an inch**

Employees pay to cut an inch off their favorite executive tie each time they give to the community. Executives participate in an all-day competition to end the day with the shortest tie.

### **Back to school**

Relive the glory years of school (without all the homework). Collect school supplies for a United Way grantee partner (FISH, The Alcove, Boys & Girls Club). 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 winning team receives a prize.

### **Joke books**

Employees submit their favorite jokes. Compile the jokes and sell the books.

### **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.

### **Corporate challenge**

Take on another company in your field in a campaign goal challenge.

### **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 i.e. "Blue Suede Shoes", "These Boots Were Made For Walking."**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 who's legs belong to which co-workers.

### **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.

### **United Way jingle contest**

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

### **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.

### **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 provide gift certificates to a pet store for the owners who look the most like their pets!

### **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. Organize a scavenger hunt or hula-hoop contest.

### **Employee cookbook**

Have employees donate their favorite recipes to be published in a company cookbook. A variation of this theme is to sell hint 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 to coincide with football season. Hold the party in the parking lot. Serve hot dogs, chips, soda and peanuts. Play a game of flag football or video football with participants donating an entry fee.