

***Fun Ideas for your
United Way Campaign***



**United Way
of Deschutes County**

Fun ideas for your United Way campaign

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.

Blue light specials

Host daily or weekly "Blue Light Special" rallies throughout the office. Serve food and have a United Way grantee speak on a particular topic.

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 grantee during the talent competition and the audience votes by placing money in large water jugs.

'American Idol' contest

Employees can conduct an Idol contest, based on the recent hit TV show American 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.

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."

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 preservers vests to wear at the next meeting and lifesavers candies in their offices.

Mardi Gras

Everyone loves a party so why not model your campaign after the biggest party in the world —Mardi Gras. Invite a jazz band to play at your kick-off event. Hold a parade float contest, with departments decorating shoeboxes as floats. Sell bead-o-grams (beads with thoughtful messages attached). Host a Cajun potluck.

Zoo-Mobile

Rent the Zoo-Mobile. A van that brings various small animals to children's birthday parties to a company. It touches employees "inner child" makes them excited about United Way.

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.

Comedy hour

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

Casino night

What are the ingredients for a successful Casino Night? A few gaming tables, one bingo table, a snack table, employees and their families. Have local businesses donate prizes for winners.

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. Temptation Island 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."

Academy Awards night

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

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 will be put into a drawing to win a prize, possibly donated from a travel agency or cruise line.

Campaign games

International Olympics

Celebrate diversity by transforming departments into various countries with décor and dress to match. Organize an international potluck luncheon where employees bring their favorite ethnic dishes. Host a mini-Olympics tournament. Invite United Way speakers to talk about various cultures throughout Oregon. Showcase music from around the world.

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. 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. Or e-mail United Way pop quizzes to employees with winners receiving a prize. Give away customized lunchboxes. Have employee's kid's help in the decoration of flyers and custom printed materials.

Joke books

Employees submit their favorite jokes.

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.

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.

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!

Tasty treats

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.

A Taste of (your company name here)

Create "A Taste of Oregon". Invite local restaurants out in the area to set up their best dishes for employees to sample and purchase in order to raise funds for your campaign.

International food day

Employees team together to create taste treats from around the world. Employees decorate their own booths and dress in costumes. Hold the event at lunch, allowing employees to purchase tickets redeemable for food at the booths. Have a panel of "celebrity" judges award prizes.

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.

Have a "good neighbor" barbeque

Join with other companies near your business to have a cookout with games and giveaways. Have a grantee speaker present or invite families from area agencies to partake in the festivities.

"Breakfast of Champions"

Decorate with athletic gear, flags and banners. Company departments become teams, campaign progress is marked by moving teams across a playing field poster towards goal, campaign chair or CEO "coach" gives a pep talk at a kickoff "Breakfast of Champions" where Wheaties is served.

Wine tasting

Hold a wine tasting and select five wines to be rated. All employees and their spouses/guests in attendance are given rating sheets. Special drawings are also held for contributors to the United Way Campaign, throughout the week. The larger the contribution, the more chances for prizes.

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.

Touchdown for United Way

For any High School or University –Donate \$5 from every \$15 football ticket when the ticket purchaser mentions United Way during their ticket purchase. It's a great way to support United Way and a local football team.

Bowl-a-thon or miniature golf

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

Playing the field

Use baseball, basketball, football, golf or hockey themes. Teams of employees advance around bases or down the field. Include sports-related competitions and prizes for participants.

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.

Auction hotline

Set up a special voice mailbox or web page with weekly messages announcing auction items. Outline the items, including their face value in a flyer. Employees can call the hotline to record their bids. 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.

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.

Theme ideas

Playstation, X-Box contest
Pizza party
Pumpkin carving contest
Croquet tournament
Tennis or Racquetball tournaments
Flea market
Book fair
Executive shoe shine

Category ideas

Senior support
Kick off
Education
Fundraisers
Thank you
Awareness fundraisers

United Way of Deschutes County

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