

Little Book of Fun Ideas

Suggestions to Make Your United Way Campaign Fun and Successful

This booklet was created to help you interject some fun and team building activities into your company United Way Campaign. These suggestions can help your employees get involved while having a lot of fun along the way. We have put together some ideas from previous campaigns that have been very successful. You are welcome to try these ideas or tailor them to fit your company or organization.

Our experience shows that when these activities are used, it enhances team building and creates a sense of unity within the organization, while giving all of your employees an opportunity to partner with United Way of Central GA to find solutions to the most pressing problems in our communities. We have also found that companies that plan fun activities along with their fund raising campaign have experienced a much higher success rate and have increased their percent of participation dramatically.

We invite you to pick and choose the activities and ideas that will help you plan your best campaign ever. We also encourage you to think outside the box and come up with your own great idea. A little planning and brainstorming can have terrific results and create a win/win situation for everyone.

The first step in successfully planning any campaign activity is to meet with your CEO or Director to seek their approval, and ultimately their “buy-in” for this activity. Leadership endorsement and participation will improve your chances of success and give you and your committee a rewarding and memorable experience too.



Please let us know how we can help you get started. Your Campaign Executive or Account Managers are willing to help you in any way they can.

BEST PRACTICE: Make sure all Special Event activities FOLLOW your employee campaign.

Good Luck ...and have a great time!

LIVE UNITED™



Fear Factor

Fear factor is a tried and true event that has been very effective in several local campaigns. The basic rules of the game are:



- Invite some of your managers or supervisors to be a part of a contest.
- Place their pictures on money jars (can be provided by United Way)
- Ask your employees to put money in the jar of the person they would like to see hold a snake, eat a worm, hold a tarantula, eat a salad smoothie, pick worms out of an aquarium—What every yucky thing you can think of (within reason).
- The manager with the most money has to do the dastardly deed!
- If the manager/supervisor doesn't want to do the deed, they can match the money in their jar and buy their way out.

Penny War

In a penny war, the value of a penny is a positive one point. All other coins have a negative value in the denomination of the coin. For example, A jar has 100 pennies and 2 quarters. The score for that jar is:

- +100 (penny points)
- 50 (less two quarters)
- + 50 (total points)



- Invite some of your managers or supervisors to be a part of a contest.
- Place their pictures on money jars (can be provided by United Way)
- Ask your employees to put pennies in the jar of the person, department head, or team leader they would like to see win, and silver coins in the jar of the person they want to lose.
- Make sure to seal the jars so no hanky-panky can go on
- All the money goes toward your Special Event total for your campaign.

Blue Light Specials

Hold daily or weekly “Blue Light Special” rallies throughout your campaign. Have different divisions, departments, teams, etc. host each special. Serve pastries and juice and have information presentations at each special. Organize prizes and or games at each event.



Thank You Gram

This is a great way for your employees to raise money for United Way and also say thanks to a colleague for their hard work or friendship.

- Decide on a product you would like to sell such as flowers, candy, office supply baskets, coffee mugs with hot chocolate or instant coffee inside, bags of cookies or snack mix, balloon bouquets, etc.
- Recruit a committee of delivery people (can be your campaign committee)
- Put out an email or memo to all employees with an order form telling them that they can purchase a special thank you gift and have it delivered to their own special person in the office.
- Make sure you charge enough to make a profit which will be included in your Special Event money for your campaign, or ask if your company would like to donate the items as part of their United Way donation.
- Pick a special day and time to have your team deliver the gifts to the recipients.
- Attach a note (cards can be provided by United Way) with the gift explaining that this gift will also help provide funding for solutions to Central Georgia's most pressing problems or a special message of your choice, including the name of the special person that purchased the gift.



Calendar Guy/Girl

Have your employees pose in costumes

Suggestions:

- old west outlaw or saloon girls
 - 30's gangsters
 - Dr. Seuss
 - children's clothes
 - senior citizens clothes
 - athletic uniforms
-
- Create a backdrop with an old sheet, blanket, tarp, or old cloth of some kind.
 - Have someone (it's great if you know an amateur photographer) with a digital camera take their pictures
 - Create a simple calendar using the pictures you've taken (most offices have software for this, or check with your Account Manager to see if United Way can help you out)
 - Sell the calendar with the proceeds going toward your United Way Special Event.
 - You can also have a "hunky guy or foxy lady" calendar with pictures of your employees.
 - just take regular pictures of "stars" in your office that had great achievements or awards
- Use your imagination. The sky's the limit!



Sports Themes

Choose your favorite sport and design your campaign around it. For example use a baseball theme:

- Divide your employees or departments up by Major League baseball teams—Yankees, Red Socks, Rockies, Cardinals, Padres, etc.
- Use baseball terminology such as innings, strikes, double play, etc. to describe the activities
- Teams can compete against each other by the amount of their pledges (this requires some careful thought when forming the teams)
- Award prizes to the winners such as tickets to baseball games. You could ask your company to purchase the tickets as part of their United Way contribution. You could also get tickets to a Braves baseball game or to the Skybox and include a night or weekend stay in Atlanta depending on your budget for Special Events.
- You can use the same idea with football, hockey, golf, bowling, etc.
- One company used NASCAR as their team and made a race track with team names on it. The first team to the finish line won a special prize. They had a local driver bring his race car and took pictures of employees with the driver and his car.



Picture with your pet

Have a special day where employees can bring their pets to work and have their picture taken with them. Or, have your boss pose with the employee's pet. It could be a gold fish, pet rock, snake, gerbil, hamster, and of course the standard dog or cat. This activity will need to be approved by your CEO/manager.

- Animals can be dressed up for the occasion. You could gather some cute costumes ahead of time and have them available for the portrait. You might also provide some props like animal toys, etc.
- Provide a safe area for your set using a backdrop of a sheet, blanket, tarp or large piece of fabric. It could be set up outside if the weather permits.
- Use a digital camera and print them out on a color printer to save time and money. Each employee pays a fee to get the portrait. Make sure you charge enough to cover your expenses and still make a profit for your United Way Special Event.
- Ask the boss or manager if he/she would be willing to pose with the pet for the pictures
- If you have someone in your company that is an amateur photographer or has a friend that is good at taking pictures, that would be helpful, but not absolutely required.



Scavenger Hunt

A Scavenger Hunt requires some preparation and several people to help, but it is great fun and is a good way to get 100% participation. It can be confined to your office, or if approved, can be expanded to all over the city or county. Make sure you have approval before pursuing this special activity. It is a great opportunity to educate your employees about United Way.

- Divide your employees up into teams and give each team a fun name
- Have your committee decide the scope of your hunt, i.e., confined to the office, confined to the city, etc.
- Write down all the rules of the game and review them with the group before the hunt starts
- Place items in pre-selected locations in obvious view.
- Create clues for each team that forces them to figure out where the item is. You can make the places United Way partnering agencies which is a great way to educate your people on what United Way is all about
- Ask each team to pay an entry fee (optional)
- The first team to retrieve all the items and return them to the office wins a prize.
- Come up with your own variations such as
 - the team must correctly count all the money in a jar before they can move on to the next location
 - they must buy one can of food to be taken to the next location (can be the food bank)



NOTE: Because of the nature of this activity, it can be dangerous if people drive or run too fast from location to location. **MAKE SURE YOU MAKE ONE OF THE RULES—NO SPEEDING!** Make sure they know they can be disqualified if they are caught exceeding the speed limits, especially in school zones, etc.

A Dollar an inch contest

Engage executives in all day competition to end the day with the shortest tie. Employees cut an inch off their favorite executive's tie each time they donate to the United Way. Have prizes for the shortest tie, the ugliest tie, etc.



Casual Day

Sell casual day badges (as easy as labels) allowing employees purchasing them to dress casual on certain days. Badges can be purchased for an amount and added to their payroll pledge. Define what is meant by casual to avoid confusion. Invite your employees to “go crazy” during casual days. Designate days for Crazy Days such as “Stupid Hat Day”, “Silly Socks Day”, Flip Flop Days, etc.

Cook Off

You undoubtedly have a few amateur chefs on your staff who love to cook. Have a cook-off featuring the food of your choice—could be lasagna, pies, casseroles, chili, soup, cake, barbeque, cookies or candy, gingerbread house (a good one at Christmas time).



- Have your committee set up the rules of the cook-off being very specific about ingredients, amounts, time limits, etc.
- what qualities you are looking for along with judging criteria (hottest, spiciest, creative, healthiest, etc.)
- Each participant could pay an entry fee to compete (optional)
- Have all of the food prepared and completed by noon.
- Have all of the employees sample the food and vote for the best one. Provide ballots and a ballot box for voting
- Award prizes to the winners and serve the food as a luncheon.
- You could add other items such as carrot sticks, salad, relish trays, and drinks to complete the meal
- Charge employees for the meal with the proceeds going toward your Special Event United Way campaign.



Baby Baby who are you?

- Ask your employees to bring a baby picture of themselves
- Display the baby pictures in the break room or in a display case if you have one
- Number each of the pictures
- Create a voting ballot with the picture numbers and a line for each. Include the rules of the game and the potential prizes on the ballot
- The voter will identify employee and record them on their ballot. Include a list of participating employees to match up
- The voter will pay an entry fee for each ballot (\$1 each, five votes for \$4—or whatever you choose)
- You can vote as many times as you wish
- The person who gets all the answers correct wins a prize.
- If there are multiple winners, the names will be drawn out of a hat for prizes

Silent Auction

A silent auction is always a simple way to raise money and have a lot of fun too.

- Ask your employees to donate items to be sold at your silent auction
- Suggestions for items:
 - baked item (cake, pie, cookies, lasagna, cinnamon rolls, banana or zucchini bread)
 - services such as clean your house, wash your windows, mow your lawn, clean your garage
 - hand crafted items such as quilts, pillows, bird house, wood working, jewelry, painting or art work, pottery, ceramics
 - items can be purchased such as gift certificate for a massage, gift card, tea set, CDs, DVDs, dolls
- Put items on display for a few days in a secure area
- Provide a bid sheet for each item with a full description (including limitations or exclusions) with lines for each bid. We suggest bids be in a minimum of \$1 increments.
- Post the deadline for bidding and make sure someone is there to shut down the bidding. The time of the deadline should be announced at about 30 minutes prior with a page or email to everyone.
- Plan a luncheon or potluck and announce the winner after the meal.
- A variation on this idea is have all bidding done by email in a kind of “e-bay” fashion. This will require the help of your IT department and could eliminate those who don’t have access to a computer, but it is REALLY fun if it works out for your company.



Body Parts

- Take photos of body parts (arms, feet, elbows, toes, hair, ankle, ears, eyes, etc.) of your staff
- Do not include faces—DA!
- Don’t get kinky—if ya know what I mean!
- Print out the pictures
- Make a master list of what belongs to whom (keep it in a secret place!)
- Lay the pictures out on the break room or lunch room table
- Number each picture
- Provide ballots and ask your employees to match each body part to the person
- The voter will pay an entry fee for each ballot (\$1 each, five votes for \$4—or whatever you choose)
- Proceeds go toward your Special Events for your United Way Campaign
- You can vote as many times as you wish
- The person who gets all the answers correct wins a prize.
- If there are multiple winners, the names will be drawn out of a hat for prizes



Office Olympics

Office Olympics will test the skills of your office staff. This game will require your employees to do every day office tasks as a race with the winning team receiving a grand prize.

- Have your office sign-up for a team (or you can create the teams) making them as diverse in skills as possible. Make sure each team has a fun name.
- Create an obstacle course in the lunchroom, several offices, several floors of the office, or outside
- Each station will require a specific skill such as:
 - typing a memo accurately (deductions for typos!)
 - filing a stack of paperwork correctly (again, deductions for mis-files)
 - a difficult photocopying task requiring two-sided, collated, stapled, or booklet printing.
 - Create a spreadsheet with a specific set of instructions
 - Make a telephone call to get specific information such as flight times, bus schedules, scores from yesterday's baseball game
 - Proof read a document circling all of the errors
 - Print out a map from the internet for a specific location
 - Make a pot of coffee in the break room



Book Sales

Invite employees to donate books they've read and get great deals from other employees. Encourage employees to bring their donations in early. Sell paperback for \$1 and hard cover for \$2.



Have a company bring a book fair to your business; Employees can buy books and donate them back to United Way children's programs.

Executive Chair Race

Set up a relay course for executives to go through sitting in chairs. Use a stop watch to time contestants with the best time winning a prize. Observers can wager \$1 or more on their favorite contestants.

Low Budget but Fun Ideas

Treasure hunt: Prepare United Way messages on small strips of paper and attach them to give away items (pens, pins, etc.). Hide the items all over the building (places where everyone goes like bathrooms, break room, cafeteria, lobby, etc.) When that item is returned to the Coordinator (or designated person) you receive a candy bar or your name is placed in a drawing for a prize. You would need to prepare posters letting everyone know or email blasts.

Crossword Puzzle: I can create a crossword puzzle with United Way answers (really neat website). Place a display of information about United Way in a common area (lunch room, break room, etc.). The answers to the crossword will be in that material. When someone completes the crossword puzzle correctly, they can return it to a designated person and receive a prize, name in drawing, etc.

Purchase Live United Shirts or caps for a team such as a department who did a volunteer project together (on their own time), department who did a clean-up project at their office/plant, did something extraordinary for a fellow employee, or demonstrated Living United in the company.

Designate the best parking space in the parking lot as the United Way Space. Names of givers are entered into a drawing to win that space. That employee could park there for a week/month/two weeks, whatever they want. They could draw for one a month for a whole year.

Have a bike to work day (which could include motorcycles) and everyone who bikes to work and gives to UW gets a special lunch with the CEO/Manager/President of the company.

Sleep In Day – Givers can get in a drawing to win a Sleep in day or receive a forgiveness pass that can be issued. You will be allowed to show up to work up to one hour late without pay being docked. Or, you could be allowed to leave work one hour early.

Other Ideas?



LIVE UNITED Stories

Contact your campaign executive to receive stories for your newsletters, email blasts, and communications about lives that have been impacted, how people in our community are living united and more.

THEMES for Fun

Give. Thanks.

Be a Lifesaver

Help Someone Soar

Paint a Brighter Future

Sports Mania

Catch the Spirit

Share in the Miracles

The Power of One

Decades— 70's, 80's

TOP TEN REASONS TO TRY GIVING

1. Giving makes life better!
2. It makes you feel good from head to toe.
3. Helping others is pretty much the coolest thing you could ever do!
4. 100% of your giving to the community care fund goes to help people who need it.
5. There's a money back guarantee if you give to the Community Fund.
6. It's easy as pie. You can give in a variety of ways, including payroll deduction, check credit card and stocks!
7. Giving makes our community a better and brighter place to live.
8. It's better than NOT GIVING.
9. Giving alleviates tax discomfort.
10. Young or old, giving is for everyone.