FUN-RAISING

IDEAS FOR A GREAT CAMPAIGN

United Way of Lee County

Low or No Cost Events

Dessert Cart/Bakery Cart

Wheel a cart of bagels, doughnuts, danish, cookies, brownies, etc., through the office, collecting United Way donations in exchange for the goodies. Everyone wants something sweet after lunch.

Craft and Bake Sales

This popular activity gives everyone a chance to share their hobbies and special baking talents. All the items are donated, and sales go to the Campaign.

Chili Cook-off Contest

Employees cook their favorite recipe and enter it into a cook-off contest. Charge an entry fee and a tasting fee. A panel of "chili experts" selects the Official Chili Champion. Talk to a hotel representative about donating a one-night or weekend stay at their hotel for the winner.

Balloon Pop

Employees donate prizes for this event—a variation of a traditional raffle. Before filling a balloon with helium, put a note inside with the name of the prize. Employees pay $1-$5 to buy a balloon and pop it to find out what prize they've won.

Employee Cookbook

Collect and group recipes into a customized cookbook. Employees' children create illustrations for the cookbook, including cover. If possible, print and bind books by a local business, pro bono. You set the price, and proceeds go to United Way.

Raffle

Hold a company-wide raffle! Employees turning in pledge forms before a certain date receive 3 raffle tickets. Employees turning in pledge forms after the early date but before the end of the campaign receive one raffle ticket. Employees who make a certain dollar pledge receive two additional raffle tickets. Some ideas for prizes:

- Homemade pies/cakes
- One day of vacation
- Prizes donated by vendors
- Car wash
- Tickets to a local event
- Premier parking spot

Pumpkin Carving or Decorating Contest

Plan a Halloween theme and hold a pumpkin-carving contest. Try to have pumpkins donated by a local business, then sell them to employees for use in the contest or for themselves, their families, and friends. Employees enter carved or decorated pumpkins individually or by group. Charge $5 to enter and $1 to vote. Award prizes in various categories, e.g.:

- Best traditional pumpkin
- Most creative pumpkin
- Best effort by a group
- Best effort by an individual
- Scariest pumpkin

Bingo

Sell bingo cards; have prizes donated from local stores.

Ugly Lamp

Have employees decorate a lamp and make it as ugly as possible. Employees pay $5 to have the lamp removed from their desk and put on someone else's desk (their choice).

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 into employees' talents and resources for themed baskets.

Flowers

Work with a local florist to donate flowers that employees buy for $2 to send to coworkers or bring home for a special someone. For a special touch, have a couple of employees deliver the flowers in tuxedos.

Tricycle Relay Race

Create teams with three or four riders. Teams are named and publicized in advance, allowing employees to make pledges or bets on the winning team. Team members ride large tricycles (rent or borrow) through a predetermined course throughout the office or outside. Have the course marked with signs or tape on the floor. Fans are able to watch and cheer from different areas. The race is designed as a relay; team members pass of a flag, pinwheel, teddy bear, or similar item to their succeeding team member. Charge an entry fee to ride, and remember to take photos!

Spelling Bee

Hold an event during staff meetings or over lunch. Contestants pay a $5 entry fee. Gallery observers place $1 bets on their favorite participants. The winner walks away with the coveted "Who Needs Spell Check?" award.

Pie in the Face

Employees pay $5 for a pie to be thrown in the face of the executive of their choice.

Name That Tune

Employees pay $5 to participate. Contestant 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 it around during lunchtime for people to purchase and make their own tacos. Or use a bag of Fritos and place meat and toppings in the bag. This is great for people who don't have a long lunch break.

Sports Team Day
Have employees pay a certain amount (at least $1) to be able to wear their favorite sports team apparel.

Slipper or Shorts Day
Have employees pay a certain amount (at least $1) to be able to wear their slippers or shorts to work.

Jeans Day
Have employees pay a certain amount (at least $1) to be able to wear jeans to work for a day.

Push-up Contest
Ever want to find out who the strongest person in the office is? Contestants pay a $5 entry fee. Observers pay $1 to wager on who they think will do the most push-ups.

Jump Rope Contest
Contestants pay a $5 entry fee; observers pay $1 to bet on who they think will last the longest jumping rope.

Talent Show
Put on a talent show during lunch. Contestants pay a $5 entry fee; observers pay $1 to attend. Consider charging $10 to be a judge.

Karaoke
Employees pay to vote on the executive they want to sing karaoke. If the executive doesn't want to sing, he or she can pay a hefty fee to pass the task to someone else.

Lunch Box Auction
Have each participating employee pack a special lunch. Encourage them to get creative and make deluxe sandwiches or wraps. Include delicious sides and desserts. Auction the lunch boxes just before lunchtime.

Popcorn Sales
Sell popcorn! Who can resist the smell of fresh popcorn popping?

Egg Baby
A single egg is given to each participating staff member, who must treat the egg with attention and care, just as if it were a human baby. They may choose to keep the baby all day long or pass it to another person for a babysitting charge of $2. If the egg is dropped, a $5 hospital fee is charged.

Cake Walk
Have employees bake cakes and hold a cake walk—pay to play.

Order Up!
Take orders for lunch from an area restaurant. Pick up the food, but charge a delivery fee.

Pick an Egg, Any Egg
Fill plastic eggs with prizes or cash; charge for the opportunity to pick one.

Put Your Best Foot Forward
Line up senior managers and/or other employees for some unique mug shots—shoes only! Hold a contest before campaign kickoff to see if employees can figure out who's who. Charge a fee to guess.

Major Events

Flashback Carnival

Invite employees to an old-fashioned carnival, complete with cake walks, bake sales, bubble-blowing, and 50-cent hot dogs. Hold a hula-hoop contest and hoop shoot to really give it that flashback flavor. Set up a dunk tank with all your dunkable executives (charge $3 for 3 balls). Throw pies at all your favorite executives. Beanbag toss, $1 for 3 throws. Charge participants a fee to enter the contests.

CEO/Executive Car Wash

Employees donate $10 to have their car washed at high noon by the boss in business clothing. Charge extra for special services like cleaning the interior or polishing the rims.

Potluck Luncheon

Participating employees bring a covered dish, appetizer, salad, side, dessert, etc. to be shared. Paper products are also needed. There is no sign-up; items brought are completely random. Employees pay $5 to fill their plate.

International Food Day

Employees team together to create tasty treats from around the world. Employees decorate their own booths/tables and dress in appropriate costumes. Hold the event over the lunch hour, allowing employees to purchase tickets redeemable for food at the booths. A panel of “celebrity” judges awards prizes.