

SPECIAL EVENT IDEAS

Flamingo Flock

A flock of Flamingos has escaped the Great Plains Zoo. There are reported sightings of these birds within the [name of company] offices. The United Way Employee Campaign Manager has a team of specialists available to round up the flamingos and relocate them to a more desirable location.

If you encounter the flamingos in your office, please contact Dr. [contact name] and his/her team of specialists to get the poor birds relocated. The sooner the better, these can be extremely messy birds! If you'd like to recommend a special relocation site for the flamingos, the good doctor will be accepting suggestions.

Now seriously, here's the scoop on this special event:

The flamingos will appear in offices throughout [company name]. If you find the flock in your office, notify [contact person] at [telephone number]. To have the birds removed from your office, a donation to United Way is requested, but not required. You can make suggestions as to where you think the birds should land next. Of course these requests are heard best when a donation accompanies the suggestion.

We ask that you help us out by letting us know if people are on vacation or out of the office so we don't leave those birds sitting in any one place for too long.

Office Olympics

Set up an obstacle course in the lunchroom, several offices, several floors of offices, or outside. Time your contestants as they work through the obstacles. One station can be for typing a couple of paragraphs, another station for filing, another for photocopying, etc. (Be sure to add in a few fun stations too, like making paper clip chains, sharpening pencils, etc.) The contestants pay an entry fee and the winner gets a prize.

Video Game Contest

Set up several video games in the break room. Employees pay to play and try to beat the previous players score. This can take place over several days with many repeat players. Highest score at the end wins a prize. Or you could have tournament play with a game like basketball or baseball and have people compete against each other on the same game and then winners play winners and so on.

Oldest Company T-Shirt Contest

Dust off those old company t-shirts and model them proudly in this fun special event. Charge a \$3 entry fee and have a fashion show to display the history of logo changes and company mergers. Award new company gear or clothing gift certificates to winners.

Best Appetizer Contest

Employees bring in their best appetizer and compete for the best one. Employees pay \$2 to sample all of the appetizers and vote for their favorite one. Cookbooks could also be created with all of the appetizer recipes and sold for \$5. This could also be done with soups, desserts, salsas, etc.

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Miniature Golf

Each department or floor designs a putt-putt hole through out the building. Employees pay to play the course. Prizes are awarded for best score, worst score, best hole design, etc.

“Show Your Spirit” Day

One day during campaign encourage employees to show their spirit by digging into their closets and pulling out their letter-jackets, team jerseys, and old uniforms. They could also wear their children’s jackets and jerseys.

On that same day have your United Way rallies, a potluck, or some sort of special event allowing the employees to interact and share.

Team Fitness Challenge

Break participants up into teams, or have them compete individually based on numbers. Each participant determines how much s/he wants to lose during a determined amount of time and for each pound s/he puts \$5 into a pot.

Each person weighs in. Each day there could be special lunches planned and motivational quotes posted around in support of the efforts as a reminder.

On the last day everyone weighs in again. For every pound lost they receive \$5. All left over money goes to United Way.

Penny Wars

Get your departments to compete against one another in the spirit of United Way. Each department is given a jar or some other container. The object is to have the most money in your jar. Pennies are added to the total and silver coins (the nickels, dimes and quarters) are subtracted from the total.

One department can sabotage other departments by putting silver into their jars. A department will retaliate by putting more pennies in their jar and putting silver in the other department’s jars. This will go on throughout a designated number of days. The jars should be kept in a central location where they can be monitored by a neutral party, most likely the Employee Campaign Manager.

At the end of the designated time (often a week) the neutral party will total the jars and the department with the highest total receives a prize or incentive.

Children’s Drawing Contest

Give employees “official photographs” of one or two top executives to take home for their children to draw. Or, children can draw what “helping others,” what “hope” or what another theme means to them. Contest is limited to children under 12 who are related to any employee. There is a \$5.00 entry fee. Employees vote for best drawing. Give prizes to all participants and display winning portraits during campaign time.

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ChocoLotto

Purchase a Hershey's Candy Bars for a chance to win exciting prizes! Each candy bar will have a United Way fact on in it and a few lucky winners will get candy bars that will be winners of prizes!

Basket Auction

Each department puts together a theme basket, i.e. chocolate lovers, movie lovers, auto care, romantic, sports, etc. The auction can be in a breakroom, through email, or available at rallies.

Swap for United Way

Employees bring in gently used books, CDs, DVDs, etc. and hold a rummage sale with proceeds going to United Way.

Put Your Best Shoe Forward

Line up senior managers 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.

Latte Stand

Offer a latte stand during a morning rally, reminding them how much a cup of gourmet coffee cost and how giving up just one cup a week could help someone in need.

Other Fun Campaign Event Ideas

- Car Wash
- Ice Cream Social
- Book Fair
- Hula Hoop Contest
- Tricycle Races
- Slogan or Poster Contest
- Flag Football Competition
- Potluck
- Casino Night
- Candy Grams
- Tailgate Party