



West Central Connecticut

Entertaining Campaign Activities

‘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.

Historical Eras

Go back in time to the Wild West, Psychedelic Sixties, Roaring Twenties or Renaissance. Ask staff to dress up in clothing from your chosen era and decorate their offices.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Carnival and talent show

Holds 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.

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

Cruise for Donors

Organize a local cruise for a fundraising event/dinner dance. Use a nautical/pirate theme for decorations and invitations.

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...

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.

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."

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.

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.

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.

Academy Awards Night

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

Fun Campaign Games to Play

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 the metro Atlanta area. 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.

Bingo

Sell bingo cards to employees and play some games. Get local stores or company vendors to donate prizes.

Scavenger Hunt

Have employees pay a fee to hunt for hidden items around the office or neighborhood. Equip employees with Polaroid cameras and give them the task of taking pictures of their team in front of the office or neighborhood landmarks. Give employees a time limit. Award the winning team a prize.

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.

The Battle of the Sexes

It's the men against the women in the company to see which will get the highest percent participation. At the kick-off meeting, have a short game show in which 2 men and 2 women "volunteer" to be contestants. (Because women are from Venus and men are from Mars, the teams could be called the Venutians and the Martians.) Women have to answer questions about topics that men know a lot about, and vice versa.

Example: One man can be asked the name of a product used to slough dead skin cells off the face (exfoliator) and a woman can be asked what was the house of Ruth (Yankee Stadium, made famous by Babe Ruth). Have fun with the theme by creating United Way space posters have flying saucers on them, and for employees who turn in their pledge forms the day of the kick-off event, each one gets a little flying saucer that lights up. This is a great way to get all employee participation in your campaign!

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.

Executive Prison

Transform an office into a jail cell. Arrest managers and executives and allow them to make a phone call to their staff to "bail" them out. All proceeds go to the campaign.

Laugh Olympics

Employees compete in crazy "athletic events" for silly prizes. Participants donate a \$5 fee to enter. Observers wager bets on the contestants.

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."

Company-wide walk/run/ride with sponsors pledging per mile.

Proceeds to benefit United Way.

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

Ugly Lamp Month

Use any elephant (an ugly lamp works great) and offer the opportunity to purchase points to move the item to someone's work space or keep it out of your work area. Calculate and move daily, weekly, etc. Wherever it ends up at the end of the time period, it must stay for one month or until the next campaign.

United Way Boot Camp

Camouflage decorations, YMCA Ropes Course or Rock climbing.. "1..2..3...United Way for Me!"

In Hot Pursuit of Cool Millions

Campaigners dress up as spies wearing trench coat and carrying magnifying glasses. Pass out United Way informative messages in code and offer a prize for the employees who can decode the messages.

Male Beauty Contest

Contestants represent a United Way grantee. They receive votes at so much a bid. They can have photos of themselves with "biography" information available.

Catch and Release

Managers have to stay in a giant "fish Tank" until they raise ten or more dollars in donations. Decorate with an "under the sea" type décor.

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!

Other Game Ideas

Executive Auction
Home-Grown Auction
Playstation, X-Box Contest
Look-a-Like Contest
Penny Jar
Soak the Boss
E-mail Bingo
Draw the Management
Fun Run
Executive shoeshine
Tug-of -War
Cubicle Decorating

Other Fun Entertaining Ideas

60's, 70's, 80's
Australian
Circus
Disco
Gangsters
Hoe-down
Holiday
Medieval Times
Monopoly
New York! New York!
Seasons
Southwestern
When in Rome...
Movie Showing