

## SPECIAL EVENTS & IDEAS

### 6.3 Special Events: Bring on the Competition

Your enthusiasm and creativity make these events really special! If you're looking for new ideas this year, review the following list. Try recruiting some new people to your United Way team. It's a good idea to ask people from different departments, and it's ALWAYS important to have upper-level management, executives and CEO's on board with special events.

**Inter-Company Competition:** Contact the Employee Campaign Coordinator at another workplace and see if they are willing to engage in a little friendly competition for a good cause! If there is a disparate number of employees, you can use the average gift to determine the victor. Publicity and executive support are key to success. The winning company earns early dismissal, or some other workplace-wide reward.

**Intra-Company Competition:** Challenge departments or shifts within your company to raise the most donations!

**Vikings vs. Packers:** Set up two large change containers – one for the Vikings and one for the Packers. At the end of your campaign, whichever team has collected the most money wins a day in their honor. Fans and the CEO dress in team regalia.

**Jump Rope Challenge:** Jumpers compete in either an individual or team challenge. Entry fee charged for participation. Winners are determined based on total number of jumps within a designated period of time.

**Penny Wars:** Teams compete to gather the most spare change; pennies are worth positive points and everything else negative points. The winning team receives an incentive!

**Bean Bag Tournament:** Entry fee charged for single elimination bean bag tournament, play over lunch hour or break times throughout the campaign. Winner receives bragging rights for the year.

**Miniature Golf Course & Marshmallow Driving Contest:** Turn your office, company grounds or hallways into a miniature golf course. Charge each employee to go through the course. Marshmallow driving contest can complete the course.

**Office Olympics:** Assign employees to teams for various competitions such as Frisbee throwing, rubber band archery, water relay and paper shoot-out, with points earned.

**Candyland Tournament:** Like a poker tournament but less complicated & shorter games!

**Balloon Pop:** Ask employees/area businesses to donate prizes. Put names of prizes inside balloons. Charge employees \$5.00 to buy a balloon and pop it to find out what prize they've won.

**Pumpkin Carving or Decorating Contest:** Form teams to carve or decorate pumpkins, display in a prominent location, and have people vote for their favorite.

**Wii Olympics:** Setup a tournament of one-on-one Wii Sport Challenges

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**Spoon game:** Give a plastic spoon to each staff member to keep with them at all times. Each person is given the name of another staff member, this person then tries to find a time that their assigned person does not have their spoon with them. If caught without their spoon they must give their assigned name to the person who caught them. The last person to have their spoon wins!

**Scavenger Hunts:** Invite employees to participate in a scavenger hunt requiring them to find unusual items from around the neighborhood or office buildings. For a fun twist you could plant items with selected employees for others to discover.

**Paper Horse Race:** Employees purchase a paper horse, name and decorate it. Each day they receive one draw and the horse moves based on the draw. If an employee didn't like a draw, they could purchase a new draw. Limit redraws to one per day if you would like the game to last longer than a day.

**Get Your Goat:** Sell time-shares to employees to have something stinky put in someone's office/workspace. That person then pays to have it removed and placed in someone's space.

**Guess What?:** Sometimes it's not easy to get people to come into the office to participate in a special event. The following are designed for you to email or text your employees so they can still be a part of the fun. This also works well if you have multiple locations!

- **Guessing Game:** Fill a jar with any items you having around the office and people pay a fee to guess – take a photo and email/text to off-site staff.
- **Trivia Contest:** Employees have the opportunity to answer a daily trivia contest, the first one with the correct answer wins!
- **Whose \_\_\_\_\_ is that?:** Collect photos from employees with a particular subject matter. Have all the employees guess to see if they can match the items with the employee. You can use tattoos, pets, children, baby photos, garden, garage...etc.
- **B-I-N-G-O:** Employees can pay for a bingo sheet – or buy extra if they'd like. Each day you can call out the bingo numbers internally, through email, intranet or by text. The first one with a BINGO wins!

**Take a Chance:** We're all on time restraints, but don't let that stop you from having a special event during your campaign – they can be quick and fun!

- **Grab Bag Sale:** Fill paper lunch bags with small treats, candy, chips or items your vendors have given the company or any old merchandise you have lying around.
- **PTO (Paid Time Off) Goodie Bags:** Assemble and sell bags of goodies. In each bag, include a slip of paper with a message. Some messages say "Congratulations! You won 4 hours of paid time off," and some messages say "Sorry, you didn't win paid time off. Please play again."
- **Poker Walk:** Employees walk to five stations, all at once or one stop per day, picking up a card at each location. Best poker hand wins.
- **Pick an Egg, Any Egg:** Fill plastic eggs with prizes or cash, charge for the opportunity to play.
- **Duck Pond:** Employees pay a buck to pick a duck. Write the name of the prize on the underside of the duck. If that duck is picked, the player wins that prize.