

## **Fun Ways to Raise \$\$\$\$ for the United Way**

### **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.

### **‘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.

### **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."

### **Mardi Gras**

Everyone loves a party so why not model your campaign after the biggest party in the world —Mardi Gras. Play jazz music at your kick-off event. Hold a parade float contest, with departments decorating shoeboxes as floats. Sell bead-o-grams, which are beads with thoughtful messages attached. Host a Cajun potluck.

### **Hang It On Your Manager**

Employees bring odd fashion accessories like scarves, goofy glasses, bit ties, etc., and place them in a box. Throughout the day, employees may pay \$1 for an accessory they would like their favorite manager to wear. The manager can pay \$2 to take any item off.

### **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 such as “Temptation Island picnic, Weakest Link putt putt contest, Who Wants To Be A Millionaire trivia”.

### **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.

### **Employee Raffle**

Ask Employees to contribute something special for a raffle prize. Suggestions could be: homemade pies/treats, lunch with a co-worker, car wash, tickets to a special event, weekend stay at a vacation cabin or condominium, 50/50, gift certificates.

### **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.

### **Corporate Challenge**

Take on another company in your field in a campaign goal challenge.

### **Lunch Box Auction**

Have employees create gourmet lunches to be auctioned off to the highest bidder. Give prizes for the most creative, nutritious, elegant or humorous meals.

### **Half & Half**

Employees each donate a dollar to be kept in a plastic container. Hold a drawing where the worker receives half the funds in the container and United Way receives the other half. Employees were also able to buy "Jeans on Friday" coupons for \$5, \$10 or \$20, each which allowed for variable lengths of wearing time.

**Jeans Week:** Charge \$1 for dress down day.

### **Vacation Day**

This is probably the most effective and appreciated event. Have employees "buy" a vacation day by contributing a day's wages to United Way. Employees also have the option to donate unused vacation days to the campaign.

### **Hold a Kansas City Chiefs or St. Louis Rams Day (or your favorite NFL team)**

Sell buttons that allow employees to wear their favorite team's gear on a Friday or any game day during the season. Host a Chiefs or Rams "Tailgate Party" during the lunch hour asking employees to bring their favorite dish to pass. For even more fun, play Chiefs or Rams Trivia.

### **Departmental Penny Wars**

Each department collects pennies in a jar. The department that collects the most pennies wins. Each penny is worth one point. Other coins and bills subtract from the total. You may put coins and bills in other department jars.