

Fundraising Ideas from A-Z

A

Ask: The easiest way to raise money is to ask your fellow employees to make a donation to United Way of Central Washington.

Art Sales: Have preschool and elementary students produce great art and have a show. Parents and friends buy back their budding artists' masterpieces.

Auctions: You can make a whole event out of it – work with an auctioneer who will donate his/her time and hold a live auction. Collectibles are hot! Auction off the boss - have the boss or department head as your assistant for the day at work.

B

Bake Sales: Hold a bake sale at. Or have a No-Bake sale where co-workers pay so they don't have to bake goodies.

Bingo: Hold a bingo night at a local club, church hall or at your place of business.

Birthday Party with a Purpose: Individuals have had birthday parties and on the invitation they state in lieu of gifts, please bring a check made out to United Way of the Columbia-Willamette.

Block Party: Put together an old-fashioned block party in a parking lot, or close off a neighborhood street (with permission). Have a band donate a few hours, have a BBQ, do face painting, offer hay rides etc. Have fun and raise money for your team.

Boogie for dollars: Throw a company dance or even a dance-a-thon. Charge admission, entry fees, or have entrants get pledges for time danced or for the number of dances.

Book Sales: Do it in conjunction with a publishing house that will donate books or have everyone on your team bring in good condition used paperbacks or hard cover books. Set up a table to sell your books. Set it up in the break or lunch room.

Boss for the Day: Allow people to bid on being boss for the day- high bid wins.

Bowling Chance: \$1 gives you the chance to throw 2 balls (toy bowling set). If you strike your name is entered into a drawing 2 times. If you throw a spare with your second ball your name is entered into the drawing once. This one could be held on site.

Breakfast With: Put together a breakfast with Santa or the Easter bunny. Work with a local restaurant or your team can do it themselves at a hall or club. Have someone in costume and sell tickets, also have pictures taken. Could also use this as breakfast with the mayor or other high profile person.

Brown Bag Lunch Day: Everyone brings in their own lunch and donates the money they would have spent to United Way of Central Washington.

C

Can and Bottle Drive: Set up at a central location and collect cans and bottles from passers-by. Return for deposit to nearest redemption center. You will need pick-up trucks to carry the cans or ask a local redemption center or local store if you can set up in their parking lot so you don't have to carry the cans to be redeemed.

Car Washes: This is another good idea for students as well as adults, especially in the spring when everyone wants the mud off of their cars. Try saying "donations accepted" instead of charging a set price.

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Car Smash: Secure an old car and write in large bold letters POVERTY across the car. For a dollar donation you get to "smash poverty" three times with a sledgehammer.

Challenges: Challenge another department to raise more money than you. Some radio stations may gladly put your challenge on the radio.

Chili Cook Off: Have a Hot-Hot-Hot chili cook off.

Coin Drive: Set up a coin jar at the beginning of the campaign, and see how it grows.

Concession Stands: Set up a concession stand or booth during the campaign.

Cookbooks: Collect recipes from employees and have them published and sell them. Can be produced for approximately \$2 each and sold for \$7-\$8. You need to be sure that all recipes are healthy and follow nutritional guidelines.

Craft Fairs: Have your business set up a craft table or raffle at a craft fair or festival.

Cut-a-thon: Have a beauty salon or vocational school hold a cut-a-thon for you.

Cutest baby: Have a Cutest Team Baby Contest. Place a photo of each employee as a baby on the bulletin board or on a display board. People donate \$1 per vote. You decide on the appropriate reward.

D

Day of Cleaning Raffle: Employees donate a suggested five hours to spring/fall house clean your home, with tickets selling for \$5 each.

Donut Days: Get donuts donated from a bakery every Friday, and sell them at work.

Dunking Booth: Set up a dunking booth at a local event festival, fair, picnic etc. and recruit local celebrities to sit for you.

E

Email: Send email communications to remind your coworkers to donate.

Event parking spaces: Sell parking spaces for community events near your home.

F

Face Painting: Set up a booth at a local event, fair, or festival. Kids love it! Charge .50 and up.

Flower Sales: Work with a local florist or wholesaler and sell bouquets, potted flowers or individual stems (carnations or roses) at your place of work.

G

Game Day: Have a game day where everyone plays board games, charades etc. Charge an "entrance" fee.

H

Haunted House: For Halloween, organize a haunted house and charge admission. You can also sell refreshments such as donut holes and hot chocolate.

Hoagie Sale: Hold a hoagie sale at work or around town, taking orders ahead of time.

Hole-in-One: set up a portable putting green and for a donation; let people try to putt it in.

Ice Cream Social: Ask for a donation to attend. Sell ice cream for dessert.

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J

Jail & Bail: For a donation employees can be arrested. For an additional donation they can post their own bail, or employees have a bounty placed on their head, are arrested and are not set free until the entire bounty is raised (\$100 or more per inmate).

Jeans Days: Many businesses have been doing this, where their employees can dress down for a day if they make a certain donation. This is also happening at parochial schools or other schools that require uniforms. For a specified donation, the student doesn't have to wear a uniform to school that day.

K

Kiss a Pig Contest: Recruit a local celebrity to kiss a swine when a certain amount of money has been raised. Also has been done as a contest. Whoever raises the most least must kiss the animal.

L

Line Dancing: Work with a local club or facility to offer a night of line dancing. Get a DJ to volunteer his/her time to play music and get someone to teach a couple dances. It's a fun way to spend a night while collecting donations.

Lunch with the CEO: Auction off lunch or maybe a round of golf with the CEO or president of your company.

LipSync Contest: Hold a lunchtime lipsync contest. Charge an entry fee and have the audience vote for the best act (\$1 per vote). Give a prize to the winner.

Lunch Box Auction: Employees supply lunches to be auctioned off. Give prizes for the most creative or elegant lunches.

M

Massages: Have a drawing for a massage for those who donate.

Matching Gifts: Ask your company to match what you raise. Some companies have a matching gift policy, check to see if your does. If they don't, ask them for a corporate gift.

Money Jars: Set up money jars or coin boxes at your place of work.

Movie Week: Have a movie week during lunch hour at work. Charge admission and invite employees to eat their lunch while they watch.

N

Nonalcoholic Cocktail Party: Have a nonalcoholic cocktail party and ask for donations. Be sure to have your donation cans next to the refreshments.

O

Open House: Provide your company's services through an Open House. A fitness center held an Open House with a variety of toning and aerobic classes offered throughout the day. They also included a silent auction and babysitting. Ask for donations.

P

Pancake Breakfasts: Hold a pancake breakfast on specific days.

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Parking Space Auction: Auction off the CEO's parking spot or other prime spots.

Payroll Deduction: Employees can make their own contribution by having it deducted directly from their paycheck.

Percentage of Sales: Designate a percentage of one day's sales or proceeds and let the public know so they will buy more.

Personal Bake Sale: Bake some extra delicious, extra gooey brownies and sell them for dollars apiece - make the slices large. Bake a different dessert each week for your co-workers.

Pet Fashion Show: Have a pet fashion show where you give everyone's pet the opportunity to flaunt its favorite outfit. Charge admission and vote for best outfit, matching outfits (owner and pet) wildest outfit etc.

Photos: Have your photo taken with a local celebrity for a specified donation. Or use one of those realistic cardboard stand-in's.

Pie Sales: Much like bake sales, these are also popular. Especially around the holidays - take orders or set up a table at a busy grocery store or shopping center.

Pizza Sales: Work with a pizzeria to give you a percentage of the pizzas you sell. Take orders and deliver them. OR put pizza kits together yourself. Also can work with a wholesaler to get pizzas at a reduced price or donated is even better.

Place a "Plea" in your employee bulletin or newsletter: Place a plea in your employee newsletter.

Potluck Lunches: Designate every Wednesday as United Way Day, where campaign team members take turns making chili, salads, desserts, etc. and offer to employees at a set price or donation.

Pumpkin Carving Contest: Have a pumpkin carving contest around Halloween or try your luck at pumpkin bowling.

Q

Questions for a Buck: One department raised money by having their boss, who was constantly being asked questions by everyone to start charging a buck for each question. Word spread throughout the company what he was doing, and everyone started asking questions and paying up.

R

Roll Those Pennies: Roll those pennies sitting in a jar on your dresser. While you're at it roll the rest of your coins you have been collecting.

S

Sell Employee Services: i.e. get the best gourmet chef in your department to agree to go to someone's home and prepare a meal (for a fee of course) Get your VP to commit to wash an employee's car, or several if willing. Have the company photographer take a family photo for a certain amount etc.

Shave Your Head: Have someone agree to have their hair shaved once a certain amount of money has been raised.

Shoe Shines: Shine shoes for donation.

Skunk Them: As a hospital group did, put a stuffed skunk on a coworker's desk. They need to pay a donation to your team to have him go away or they need to pay to be de-skunked. Soup Sales: Especially during the cold winter months, take orders from your coworkers and have a soup at work

Story Time Reading: Have an organized story time reading. Hold it at your place of work where employees can bring their children, work with your local library to have a special time.

T

Turkey Give Away: Great way to raise money during the holidays! Get a grocery store to donate a turkey for you to use as an incentive item. You could also do the same with a ham at Easter time or a BBQ package for Memorial Day.

Tricycle Races: Everyone wants to be a kid again. Grab some tricycles and form a racecourse.

Encourage departmental competition with prizes for the first to cross the finish line.

U

Ugly Tie, Hat, or Sweater Contest: Have executive staff wear their ugliest ties or hats or sweaters and solicit "votes" (a vote is \$1) from employees. Person with the most votes wins a prize at the end of the day.

V

Vacation Day Drawing: Have a drawing for an extra vacation day or day off with pay.

Vending Machines: Coordinate with your vendor to add .05 cents to the cost of a snack or soda prior to the campaign, with the extra nickel going to United Way of the Columbia- Willamette.

Video Sale: Hold a video sale at work and have employees bring in videos they don't watch anymore- especially kid videos their children have outgrown.

W

Wrap Presents: During holiday time (Christmas or Mothers Day) set up in the lunch room, and charge your coworkers to wrap their gifts.

Walk-a-thon: Employees get pledges for distances walked with prizes for the top distances. Water Balloon Volleyball: Increase the challenge and fun of volleyball by substituting the volleyball for a water balloon.

X

Xylophone concert: Hold a music concert or recital. Pass refreshments and ask for donations or sell tickets in advance.

Y

Yard Sales: Just like the garage sales, work together as a campaign team, or have one individually.

Z

Zoot Suit Party: Hold a swing dance party and give awards for the best zoot suit there.