

FUN-RAISERS IN THE WORKPLACE

United Way
of Missoula
County



"FUN"RAISING TIP

Hold your "fun"raiser on a payday. That will maximize the likelihood of impulse buys and participation.

Hot Breakfast Sale: Sell hot breakfast once a week until the completion of the campaign. The organizers bring in "raw materials" and then cook the orders in the break room. Employees not only have a hearty breakfast but helped in the campaign itself! There are other options in the menu you can sell in your own "Hot Breakfast Sale", like pancakes, waffles, scrambled eggs, sausages, bacon, breakfast burrito, etc.

Candy Gram Sale: For \$5.00 a bag you get an assortment of candies and chocolate bars. They are placed in decorative plastic bags, the kind you see used for kids' birthday party tokens. To add fun, the bags are intended to be inscribed with either "Thank You" or "Have a Nice Day" to be delivered in person to the intended recipient by the fund-raising organizers. This is a great way to show your appreciation to a co-worker who had helped you in your previous projects, or if you are a manager or supervisor, to give to your staff for their hard work.

Team Spirit Day: For a donation, employees wear a jersey, t-shirt or cap of their favorite sports team.

Relaxation Day: Bring in a massage therapist to perform neck and back massages for a donation.

Bring Your "Inner" Child to Work: Everyone who would want to participate to brings a copy of their childhood photo. Post these pictures on a bulletin board for everyone to see. The object of this fund-raising is to see how good anyone can guess or name who is on each photo. The names to be matched to the photos are compiled into a "guess" sheet with the corresponding letter label of their photos. The price for each "guess" sheet is \$2.00 each, \$5.00 for 3 "guess" sheets. The person who submitted a sheet with the most matches will win the game.

Chili Cook off: Charge an entry fee and have your favorite recipe judged in a competition. Categories could include "spiciest", "most unique", etc.

Diet for United Way: Hold a contest to see who can lose the most weight over a month-long period. Each person pays a set amount for every pound lost or gained. BONUS: healthier employees!

Guess the Number: Fill a jar with whatever. For a donation, co-workers can guess the correct number to win the filled jar.

Intraoffice Mini-Golf: Set up a mini-golf course at the workplace, using slinkies, ramps, "water hazards" and more. Enter teams and have a mini-golf outing just like one on a real course!

Pie-in-the-Face Contest: Place money in jars with department manager's faces. The manager with the most/least money in the jar gets a pie in the face!

Pumpkin Carving Contest: Plan a Halloween theme and hold a pumpkin carving contest. Have different categories so that you can have multiple winners.

Formal Dress Day: Tired of Dress Down Days? Dress to the nines instead with prizes for the fanciest dresses and snazziest tuxedos!

PRIZES! PRIZES! PRIZES! PRIZES! PRIZES! PRIZES!

You know better than anyone what motivates your employees, but here are some additional ideas:

- Prime parking space
- Lunch with the boss
- Paid day off
- Gift cards to area businesses
- Movie passes
- Gas cards
- Arrive late or depart early passes

"FUN"RAISING TIP

Make a completed pledge form required for participation in your "Fun"raising event.

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Brown Bag Lunch Day: Pick a date and ask employees to brown-bag-it that day and donate what they would have spent had they chose to eat out.

Ice Cream Social: Set up an ice cream bar with all the toppings and sell dessert during lunches/breaks.

Garage Sale: Have employees clean out their attics and garages and set up a company-wide garage sale to benefit the United Way.



DirectTV holds an annual raffle fundraiser.

Executive Dare: Once the workplace campaign is set, challenge the staff. If they can collectively reach the goal, a manager or CEO will perform a dare such as kissing a pig, or dying one's hair bright pink.

A Little More than Jeans Day: Establish a LIVE UNITED week and encourage co-workers to dress according to a theme each day. Charge a small amount to participate. Name a panel of judges and allow them to pick a daily winner (per shift, too). You could even set up a runway and allow co-workers to "work it!" Provide prizes! Some daily themes could be: Stupid Hat Day; Outrageous Socks Day ; Sports Fanatic Day; Mismatch Day ; Dress Like 'Insert-Executive-Name-Here' Day; Pajama Day; Hawaiian Luau Day.

Penny Wars or Coin Wars: Set up jars or large water jugs representing different departments or teams. Employees can drop their spare dimes, nickels and pennies into the jar. Any Quarters or paper currency dropped in the jar is subtracted from the total. Employees may "sabotage" another department's jar by dropping quarters or dollars into it. At the end of the campaign, both positives and negative coins are counted and the group with the most \$\$\$ gets bragging rights for the year!

Quick Tips to Increase Campaign Participation

- * Have a raffle drawing for everyone who pledges
- * Give a small token gift to everyone that pledges (Ask the UW staff for ideas!)
- * Set the Participation Rate as the Company Goal (i.e. Goal is 50% employee participation)
 - Have a competition between departments based on participation rates
- * Have a pizza party, ice cream social or some other event for those that pledge
- * Award everyone that pledges with a "Casual Day" in the office
- * Provide a small gift to first time donors

"FUN"RAISERS, BEWARE!

Sometimes, campaign organizers get so caught up in planning their "fun"raiser that they forget about the most important aspect of the campaign—working on making effective "Asks", encouraging giving through payroll deduction and collecting completed pledge forms.

Also not that often, a person will buy \$5 in raffle tickets to win an item and then NOT make a pledge via payroll deduction because they consider that to be their donation. Remember that "fun"raisers should supplement the best practices that increase participation and average gifts.