

# LIVE UNITED<sup>®</sup>

## Big Box Of Ideas

totally awesome  
**80's**  
party



United  
Way



United Way of the Ozarks

# Fun Ideas to Create Your Own LIVING UNITED Campaign



## '80S THEMED ACTIVITIES:

*GET CREATIVE WITH YOUR ACTIVITIES & THROW  
BACK TO THE '80s!*

- GUESS WHO'S WHO FROM THE '80S
- GUITAR HERO CONTEST
- ROCK BAND CONTEST
- AWKWARD FAMILY PHOTOS
- SPIRIT WEEK
- '80S INSPIRED FOOD DAY
- RUBIK'S CUBE COMPETITIONS
- BREAK-DANCING CONTEST
- MOON-WALKING CONTEST
- FLASHBACK FASHION WEEK
- LIFE-SIZED GAME OF PACMAN

## OTHER ACTIVITIES:

- BACKYARD/PARKING LOT BAR-B-Q
- CHILI COOK OFF
- BROWN BAG DAY
- CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE
- BAKE SALE
- ROOT BEER FLOAT SALES
- POTPOURRI LUNCHEON
- VOICES OF UNITED WAY
- CHOCOLATE CHALLENGE BACK-OFF
- POTLUCK
- TEAM WEIGHT LOSS
- IDENTIFY THE BABY PHOTO CONTEST
- BALLOON BUST
- GOLD FISH RACE
- TRICYCLE RACES
- REACH FOR THE GOAL!
- LET THE RACE BEGIN!
- LIFE IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT - GO THE DISTANCE!

- THEME BASKET RAFFLE/AUCTION
- PENNY WAR
- INDOOR MINI GOLF
- BINGO -- 5 A Week for 5 Weeks!
- SCAVENGER HUNT
- EMPLOYEE COOKBOOK
- EMPLOYEE CAR WASH
- HARVEST FESTIVAL
- APPRECIATION GRAMS
- MOBILE BOOK FAIR
- ORNAMENT RAFFLE
- CRAFT SALE
- TEAM CHIA PET CONTEST
- QUILTING CONTEST
- BUILDING FOR OUR FUTURE
- THE POWER OF YOU
- BUILD A HOUSE
- GIVE FROM YOUR HEART / LET YOUR HEART LEAD THE WAY
- CATCH THE SPIRIT / LET'S MAKE IT FLY TOGETHER
- PAINT A BRIGHTER TOMORROW / FOLLOW THE RAINBOW
- PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN VOICES OF UNITED WAY
- RAT (RANDOM ACT OF TRAGEDY)
- MOVIE TRIVIA QUIZ
- WHERE IN THE WORLD IS CARMEN SAN DIEGO?
- KARAOKE PARTY
- GIVE LIFE A LIFT / RISE TO THE CHALLENGE
- CASUAL DAY
- "PUT YOURSELF IN THEIR SHOES"
- DISNEY DAY FOR UNITED WAY
- SHAVE THE BOSS
- GAME SHOW GIVING

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## **BACKYARD/PARKING LOT BAR-B-Q**

1. Determine costs of set-up. Set a sale price for the Bar-B-Q. Pre-sell tickets to the event.
  2. The event may also be set up as a potluck picnic with everyone bringing a dish to share.
  3. Items needed to be purchased include: paper products, meat and fixings, buns, beverages, grill, lawn chairs, tables.
  4. Set-up outside. You may wish to include volleyball net, Frisbee, music, etc. as time and space allow.
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## **CHILI COOK OFF**

1. Employees sign up to bring homemade chili for lunch at the office. For those who would like to help but are not master chefs, napkins, utensils, and bowls also need to be brought in.
  2. Donations such as breadsticks, cheese garnish, sour cream, and beverages may also be added to the luncheon.
  3. Spice up the event by encouraging a western theme with employees dressing up in cowboy hats and bandanas.
  4. Bowls of chili are sold for a set price such as \$2 a bowl.
  5. Hand out blue ribbon prizes for the winners with a fake sheriff's badge (found at toy stores) attached to the top.
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## **BROWN BAG DAY**

1. Choose a day to designate as "Brown Bag Day." Hold the event every month or alternating months.
  2. Staff brings bag lunches on the designated day. Money ordinarily spent on lunch out of the office is collected.
  3. Post quarterly results of "Brown Bag Day," enabling employees to see the results of their efforts.
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## **CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE**

1. Call bakeries for cookie bids. Determine the cost and selling price. (charge \$0.75 more per dozen than the cost.)
2. Check to be sure the bakery will package in dozens, if not the committee will need to package.
3. Have sign-up sheet to take pre-orders. Selling hints: they make great gifts, saves time from baking and buying at a store.
4. Order, then have committee pick-up cookies in the morning and deliver treats to work.



## **BAKE SALE**

1. Homemade or store-bought items are brought in such as: cookies, pies, muffins, bars, cupcakes, fudge, and candy.
  2. Event is held on one day; chance ticket sales begin that morning.
  3. Employees buy chances for \$0.25 a piece. Chances may be sold at the reception desk, in the lunchroom, and during lunch.
  4. Arrange baked items on a table to be seen throughout the day.
  5. Committee members draw names of winners at the end of the day and deliver items to the winners.
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## **ROOT BEER FLOAT SALES**

1. Seek donations or purchase root beer and vanilla ice cream. Other items needed include straws, spoons, cups, and ice cream scoopers.
  2. Have committee schedule work shifts. This popular event works well during lunch and breaks in the summertime.
  3. Remember a freezer will be needed to store the ice cream if the event is held all day.
  4. Charge \$0.50 a float (depending on size).
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## **POTPOURRI LUNCHEON**

1. Participating employees bring a hot-dish, appetizer, salad, side, dessert, etc. to be shared. Paper products are also needed for this event.
  2. There is no sign-up for this event. Items brought in are completely random.
  3. Employees pay \$5 to fill their plate and sample everything in the room.
  4. If your company has their own cookbook, the theme could be "A Potpourri of Company Recipes." Participants must make a dish out of the employee cookbook.
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## **VOICES OF UNITED WAY**

1. Hold a breakfast meeting as part of the campaign kick-off.
2. Have several managers seated throughout the audience, equipped with microphones.
3. As the campaign program progresses, each person stands and shares their commitment to being personally involved with a designated agency, the work they have personally seen the agency accomplish, and the unmet needs of the agency.
4. Then explain the critical role the United Way plays in seeing that the services are provided.



## CHOCOLATE CHALLENGE BACK-OFF

1. Employees enter a chocolate dessert or candy into competition.
  2. Entries judged and prizes awarded for Most Exquisite, Most Chocolatey and Old-Fashioned Favorite.
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## POTLUCK

1. All you can eat for a set price (example \$5) a plate.
  2. A sign-up sheet is passed around to sign up for a dish to bring.
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## TEAM WEIGHT LOSS

1. Develop teams (4-10 people) of employees willing to lose pounds for profits.
  2. Each team member pays a fee (a United Way contribution) to enter the competition.
  3. At the start date, all employees' weigh-in & record their starting weight (honor system may be used). Pick an ending date for the final weigh-in. The team that together loses the most pounds wins.
  4. Employees may choose to weigh themselves at various times throughout the competition to "brag" to competing teams, encouraging competition.
  5. Elect a team captain to tally final weight loss results of the team. Give the winning team a lunch out as their reward!
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## IDENTIFY THE BABY PHOTO CONTEST

1. Employees bring in a favorite baby picture, writing their name on the back side.
  2. Pictures are numbered and posted on a bulletin board.
  3. Employees purchase a chance to match co-workers with baby pictures.
  4. When purchasing a chance, give purchaser a numbered sheet with blanks to write their guesses. Have them put their own name at the top and turn in.
  5. Employee with the greatest number correct wins a prize! Remember to have more than one prize on hand in the event of a tie.
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## BALLOON BUST

1. Employees may purchase balloons throughout the week but they will not get them until Friday to bust. Put notes in some balloons indicating prize won (i.e. gift certificate, etc.)
2. The finale will be breaking the balloons in a special manner to see if your balloon has a prize in it.

## **GOLD FISH RACE**

1. Gold Fish are ordered from a pet store ahead of time, picked up on racing day, and sold to employees (minnows or rats work as well). Employees may be asked to place orders ahead of time to determine exact Gold Fish needs, yet remember to include the chance of casualties in your order.
  2. Nets for catching fish and small plastic bags for putting individual fish in (especially if employees are to take them home) are also needed for this event. Serve Gold Fish crackers and punch as a snack.
  3. Each fish is given the opportunity to race down a gutter section (with end caps) which can be purchased from a hardware store. An example would be to have five fish in five separate gutter sections go at one time.
  4. Winners are determined by a process of elimination leading up to a final heat. First, second, and third place winners are awarded ribbons and fish bowls to take their prized fish home.
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## **TRICYCLE RACES**

1. Create two or more teams of 3 to 4 riders per team. Teams are named and publicized in advance, allowing employees to make pledges or “bets” on the winning team.
2. Team members ride large tricycles (rent or arrange to borrow from a cooperating store) through a predetermined course through the office. Possibilities include: through hallways, lunch/break rooms, around cubicles, chairs, and in and out of offices.
3. Have course marked with signs or tape on the floor. Fans are able to watch and cheer from different areas around the office.

The race is designed as a relay. Team members may pass off a flag, pinwheel, teddy bear or similar item to their succeeding team member. The winning team chooses which agency receives money raised. Remember to take pictures for the company bulletin board or

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## **REACH FOR THE GOAL!**

1. Tie together the title with an Olympic theme. The company wins the gold medal when the campaign goal is reached. Create a poster with a bronze, silver and gold medal goal. Track progress.
2. The Opening Ceremonies are the “kick-off” to the campaign, explaining the goal and theme. Symbolic passing of the “torch” from last year’s campaign chair to the new chairperson.
3. Hold a mini-Olympics with employees forming teams of three or more. Events include hula-hoop relay, tricycle race, basketball dribble, tug-of-war, 100 yard dash, mile relay, and sack race. Winter Olympic events include cross-country ski relay, the luge (fastest sled), tug-of-war in the snow, best snow sculpture, team members push-pull each other in a sled race and snow football.
4. Charge an entry fee for teams, offering prizes for the winning team along with souvenir gold medals.
5. Conclude the Olympic campaign with an awards ceremony, awarding Olympic winners as well as all employees for their campaign efforts.



## LET THE RACE BEGIN!

1. For this auto-racing theme, create a large goal poster that looks like an Indy racetrack to set the pace of your campaign race. Use Velcro cars to measure progress along the track as the company moves closer to the finish of the campaign.
  2. Decorate main room with race flags, jerseys and auto racing posters.
  3. Hold your own auto race with radio-controlled cars in the parking lot.
  4. Encourage competition between departments, which race to raise the most money.
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## LIFE IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT - GO THE DISTANCE!

1. At the start of the campaign, hold a kick-off meeting explaining touchdowns (accomplishments of previous years), penalties and receptions (areas needing improvement), and huddles (ideas for the coming campaign).
  2. To launch the campaign, hold a tailgate party in the parking lot or at a park. Arrange to have the party at the same time as a local softball or baseball game and cheer on your home team.
  3. Throughout the campaign hold sport fundraisers such as a slam dunk/shoot-out contest, volleyball tournament, football toss, etc. Vikings, Twins, or tickets for other local teams make great prizes.
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## THEME BASKET RAFFLE/AUCTION

1. Employees donate/assemble a basket full of items or donate items to be assembled into theme baskets.
  2. Themes could be: Treat yourself, children, kitchen, pets, music, movies, stress relief, sports, hobbies, sweets, pasta, date, movie lover, handyman, angel, trick or treat, etc.
  3. Use baskets as raffle items or silent auction.
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## PENNY WAR

1. Departments are assigned to teams and given jars to collect pennies.
2. The goal of each team is to collect as many pennies possible. (You can even drop in nickels, dimes and quarters!)



## INDOOR MINI GOLF

1. This indoor event is great for swinging away those winter blues! To make the event a contest, have each department design a creative hole using only materials already in their department. Examples include: wastebaskets, letter trays, reams of paper, machine parts, etc. Have a different United Way or agency program fact at each hole.
2. The employee committee rounds up some clubs and staffs the course during the lunch hour for the week of the campaign.

Employees play the course as often as they like for a small fee.

3. The CEO serves as the “pro”, challenging the employee with the winning score to a sudden death playoff on the final day of mini golf.
  4. Prizes are awarded to the department with the most creative hole and to the best mini golfers.
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## BINGO -- 5 A Week for 5 Weeks!

1. When employees turn in their pledge card at the start of the week, they receive a Bingo card in return. The sooner the card is in, the more chances there are of winning because a new Bingo game is called each week for five weeks.
  2. The week’s winning numbers are pre-determined and only one winning card is made each week. Make enough different cards so that it is not obvious who holds the winning card, then make copies.
  3. Each day of the week a number is posted and players mark their cards. By Friday a winner is determined and he/she receives a prize.
  4. At the end of the week, dead cards are exchanged for new ones. This game continues for “five a week for five weeks.”
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## SCAVENGER HUNT

1. Teams must stay together. They pay an entrance fee to play.
2. They need to find pre-determined items. You can “plant” some items: Examples:
  - Something orange
  - Something used
  - \$5.00 in change to donate to United Way
  - A screw or nail
  - A colored paperclip
  - A 1986 penny
  - Something that smells like new
  - Something that shines
3. Awards to team that is fastest and for the team that used the most creativity.



## EMPLOYEE COOKBOOK

1. Ask employees to bring in their favorite recipes from home.
2. Research publishing companies to print the collected recipes in a book format, or do it in-house.
3. Plan on a two to six month time period for the preparation and printing of the project.
4. Take pre-orders after determining price per copy with the publishing company. Profit earned from the sale can be added to the United Way donation from your company.
5. Order extra books for last minute shoppers. (Those who have done this always run out!)



### EMPLOYEE CAR WASH

1. Recruit a team of car-washers (consider involving managers) and determine shifts.
2. Team members bring sponges, rags, soap, buckets, hoses, radio, etc. on day of event.
3. Set up wash site in employee parking lot.
4. Wash tickets may be purchased in advance (\$3-\$5) or simply recruit cars on wash day.
5. Car washers get keys from co-workers, pick up vehicle and bring to the wash site to be cleaned. Return washed cars to parking places. Workers never have to leave the office!
6. Another option is to set aside a reserved parking area for employees to park in the morning, leaving keys in the car to be moved if necessary.

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### HARVEST FESTIVAL

1. Employees bring their products (plants, fruits, vegetables, bouquets of flowers) from their home gardens to the office on the day of the event.
2. Other employees purchase the goods with proceeds benefiting the United Way. The event can also be made into a raffle by selling chances for each item, or a silent auction by creating bid sheets.
3. Old books, movies, cassette tapes, and CDs may be brought in and sold in the same way for an "Oldies but Goodies" Day.



### APPRECIATION GRAMS

1. Appreciation grams are sent to co-workers in the office on an ordinary day or in connection with a holiday such as Valentine's Day, Easter, Halloween, May Day, etc.
2. Appreciation grams consist of little notes with words of thanks, recognition, or good wishes. Along with the note include a bag of candy, a mylar balloon or flowers. Some examples: jelly beans for Easter, Hershey Hugs for Valentine's Day, pet rocks for a 70's theme, candy corn for Halloween.
3. Take pre-orders for one week in the break-room. Write down the names of the sender and receiver so they can be delivered at a later date. Notes can be computer printed generic messages, or at time of purchase, purchaser can hand write a note of appreciation.

## MOBILE BOOK FAIR

1. Contact the “Books Are Fun” company, which specializes in “book-mobile” sales. They will handle all the set-up and sales, with approximately 10% of the profits contributed to the UW campaign. Call the United Way office at 954-7210 for the contact name & number.
2. Find a space in which the “book-mobile” can set up their books so the fair is easily accessible to employees on their lunch and breaks.
3. Ask the company for promotional materials, such as posters, that may be placed in the office to advertise and promote the book fair.

The rest is easy -- let the bookworms browse & buy!



## ORNAMENT RAFFLE

1. Buy or have donated an artificial tree which can be stored and used annually.
2. Employees bring in ornaments—either purchased or handmade—to hang on the tree.
3. Tree may be kept up and ornaments collected for the entire Christmas season.
4. After all ornaments are collected, most valuable ornaments are selected to be raffled first, giving all a fair chance at high valued ornaments (Hallmark Keepsakes, Precious Moments, etc.)
5. Employees purchase chances for the ornament raffle (example: \$0.25 or 5 for \$1.00) and names are drawn.

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## CRAFT SALE

1. Advertise the craft sale ahead of time in the company newsletter, bulletin board, e-mail enabling participants time to make (or buy) crafts.
2. Place items on a display table, each with its own jar to place purchased chances.
3. Employees purchase chances, fill out name and place it in a jar corresponding to the item they desire (example: \$0.25 each or 5 for \$1.00).
4. Run sale for a week, allowing employees to check each day on their odds by looking at the number of tickets in the jars.
5. Committee draws names and delivers items to winners.



## TEAM CHIA PET CONTEST

1. Employees will need to divide into Teams. Each team will be given a Chia-Pet.
2. Each team cares for their Chia-Pet. The Chia's hair may be cut, primped, styled.
3. Prizes will be awarded for:
  - Fullest growth
  - Longest single sprout
  - Most original

## QUILTING QUEST

1. Employees “purchase” a 10x10 cloth square. The square becomes their piece of the larger quilt. Instead of purchasing, pieces of quilt may be given upon returning one’s pledge card.
2. Employees decorate their piece with photos, drawings, embroidery, words, pieces of fabric, etc. which identify their personality. Use your imagination!
3. The pieces are collected and displayed together on a wall in an entryway. Yarn, colored tape or similar material is used to section off the individual square on the wall.
4. An ambitious Sewing Bee may sew all pieces together as well.
5. Quilt shows how each individual “unites” with others in the “quest” to make a difference in the community. Raffle off finished quilt.



## BUILDING FOR OUR FUTURE

1. Play on the construction and building theme, decorating a meeting room with bricks, tools, and a poster board with the foundation of a house drawn in. The house is built as the company becomes closer to reaching its campaign goal.
2. Campaign committee members may wear hard hats and tool belts at the kick-off meeting. Set a toolbox out on display. Refer to the staff as the “tools of the community” which have come together to build for our community’s future.
3. Arrange a day in which employees may 1) participate in United Way Day of Caring or 2) volunteer to assist with a United Way agency construction project in place of work for that day.

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## THE POWER OF YOU

1. Committee members dress as Power Rangers at the company rally. Use power tools as part of the theme, recognizing the employees as the tools of the community.
2. Play off of the gladiator theme. Hold power contests such as sumo wrestling match (renting costumes).
3. Give reminders to turn pledge cards in with bags of cheerios, enforcing the “Power of Little O’s.”
4. Hand out Power Bars with thank you notes or donation reminders.



## **BUILD A HOUSE**

1. Every employee is given Popsicle sticks. A number of employees are also given “bonus” pieces such as trees, glue, etc.
  2. Leadership/Managers must go to employees and tell them why they should contribute to United Way. Then the employee has to write three qualities about themselves that they bring to the company (honesty, integrity, etc) on a stick and give them the stick.
  3. The leadership/manager teams must build a house out of the sticks and supplies they earned by a specified deadline to be judged.
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## **GIVE FROM YOUR HEART / LET YOUR HEART LEAD THE WAY**

1. Hold an aerobic exercise workshop over the lunch hour with YMCA staff members leading the sessions and giving a brief presentation on fitness and health tips.
  2. Create a Heartstation booth for blood pressure checks and healthy heart information.
  3. Hold “A Fair of the Heart,” inviting agencies to set up information tables and explain the services of their agency.
  4. Feature songs with the word heart in their titles and hold a “Name that Tune” contest.
  5. Give away thank you’s with candy hearts or heart shaped cookies.
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## **CATCH THE SPIRIT / LET’S MAKE IT FLY TOGETHER**

1. Arrange a kite-making, kite-decorating or kite-flying competition. Hold awards for the smallest, largest, most creative and highest flying kite.
2. Create office displays with kites, windsocks and mobiles. Afterwards, donate exhibit items to a youth related agency.
3. Team up with a United Way funded youth program. Adults and children spend the day together making and flying kites.
4. Order a kite shaped cake to celebrate the start or finish of the campaign.

## **PAINT A BRIGHTER TOMORROW / FOLLOW THE RAINBOW**

1. The Rainbow is traditionally a symbol of hope for the future. Create a poster board with a Rainbow and Pot of Gold at the end, the campaign goal serving as the gold.
2. Hold a viewing of the United Way campaign video. Serve rainbow colored popcorn during the video.
3. Create a rainbow by layering jellybeans in a clear jar. Hold a “guess how many” contest, with the winner receiving the jar of jellybeans as his/her prize.
4. The big event is a team relay race. Each department wears a different color T-shirt so that all colors of the rainbow are represented. Each color/department represents a particular United Way agency.
5. Encourage employees’ children and grandchildren to participate in a rainbow-coloring contest. Display the poster entries throughout the building. Use rainbow-colored strands of lights for further decoration.



## **PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN**

1. For those who “don’t want to grow up” like Peter Pan, this event will be a lot of fun. Decorate meeting room or lunchroom with cut out palm trees, starfish, waves, etc. Bring in shells and fishnets to add to the decor.
2. Bring in a chest with a key that will be your treasure chest, fill it with secret prizes. Otherwise make a treasure chest out of a large cardboard box with gold and silver foil pasted on the outside.
3. Employees purchase a key (either real or cut-out cardboard keys) from a volunteer dressed in a pirate costume. Cutout keys are numbered and the winner of the treasure chest is determined by a drawing. Real keys are tried in the lock, the winner being the person with the actual chest key.
4. Make a treasure map and mount it on the wall. The display shows the progress toward campaign goal with a pirate ship crossing an ocean, in search of desert islands, with an “X” to mark the spot (goal).

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## **VOICES OF UNITED WAY**

5. Hold a breakfast meeting as part of the campaign kick-off.
6. Have several managers seated throughout the audience, equipped with microphones.
7. As the campaign program progresses, each person stands and shares their commitment to being personally involved with a designated agency, the work they have personally seen the agency accomplish, and the unmet needs of the agency.
8. Then explain the critical role the United Way plays in seeing that the services are provided.



## **RAT (Random Act of Tragedy)**

1. RAT is a role playing exercise that brings the United Way message close to home.
  2. Select employees at random during a campaign meeting (marking an X on the bottom of chairs works best) and have them pick a “tragedy” from a hat. Create “tragedies” that are every day occurrences such as the loss of a job.
  3. Employee reads dilemma to audience and determines the long and short term needs/situations that need to be addressed and which United Way agencies can help to meet those needs. Do this with a few different employees with different tragedies until the point comes across.
  4. Explain at the end of the exercise that tragedies happen every day to people who don’t think it could happen to them. Reinforce that by contributing to United Way you are insuring these agencies will be available when you need them.
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## **MOVIE TRIVIA QUIZ**

1. This quiz can be completed at work stations & returned to an appointed person to tally the scores.
  2. You can match the actor/actress with the movie, match the quote with the movie, or combine.
  3. The highest score wins a prize. In case of a tie, a drawing will be held.
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## **WHERE IN THE WORLD IS CARMEN SAN DIEGO? (OR WHERE IS YOUR CEO OR PRESIDENT?)**

1. This is a twist on the kid’s educational program “Where in the World is Carmen San Diego?”
2. Have the company’s CEO or President go to five United Way agencies and get their picture taken doing something at the agency.
3. When taking the picture, be sure not to have the name of the agency showing (can show “part “ of a sign as a clue if needed).
4. Post one photo each day (on poster board, in an e-mail, Intranet, photocopied hand-out, etc.) with clues.
5. Have employees guess where their President or CEO is in the picture.
6. All correct answers are entered into a drawing for a half-day off, free lunch, or other prize.
7. Use information from the campaign materials (broadsheets, brochures, video, etc.) for the clues you give.
8. This game is fun, it shows employees that their CEO/President is a supporter, and it gets them to read through the marketing materials. It’s a Win-Win.

## KARAOKE PARTY

1. Hold a contest to determine who has the best and worst karaoke talent.
  2. Co-workers may buy votes ahead of time to elect the “Star of the Show”, who will sing the first song, or may pledge to support entries.
  3. At the event, have a box of hats, costume items, and props available for the participant to use.
  4. Charge an entrance fee for the show.
  5. Variation of this activity: Executive Karaoke where employees pay money for executives to get up and sing songs of their choice.
  6. Videotape the event and sell copies.
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## GIVE LIFE A LIFT / RISE TO THE CHALLENGE

1. Explain that by giving, employees are “lifting their community.” Start with a hot air balloon lift off. Check with local radio stations, airports or hot air balloon or aeronautic clubs to see if they have a balloon to feature.
  2. Hold a balloon launch at your work site. Staff purchase a postage paid tag card for \$1.00. The person puts their name on the card, along with the company name and address, and a short message asking finder to return card. Person whose name is on the card returning from the farthest distance (by a set date) receives a prize. The launch is a great way to tell the world that you company supports the work of UW.
  3. Host a balloon artist, decorate office with balloons and hand out thank you’s attached to a balloon. Create a balloon trivia contest, consulting the local library for information on the history of balloons and flight.
  4. Hold a prize incentive drawing for a hot air balloon ride with a United Way banner attached to the basket.
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## CASUAL DAY

1. Every Friday, employees have the opportunity to purchase coupons for a Jeans Day or Casual Wear Day for the following work week.
2. Cost is \$1 for one day of casual attire or \$4 for a week’s worth of casual days.
3. Give stickers that state “Casual Day for United Way.” This publicizes campaign among co-workers and offers customers an explanation for the casual attire.



## **“PUT YOURSELF IN THEIR SHOES”**

1. Encourage the wearing of crazy/funky shoes the week of the campaign.
  2. Hold a campaign kick-off lunch with FOOTlong hot dogs, SHOEsting taters, CORN chips, SOFT SHOE drinks and SOLE music (“Blue Suede Shoes,” “These Boots Were Made for Walking”).
  3. To start the campaign and to get across the meaning of the theme, host guest speakers from United Way funded agencies, or have guest speakers from within the company, speakers relate their experiences with United Way and personally ask people to “put yourself in my shoes.”
  4. Keep track of fundraising progress with a poster board designed with a track and moveable (Velcro, magnetic board, etc.) racing shoes that come closer to the finish as the campaign evolves.
  5. Hand out thank you's at the end of the campaign, tied with shoelaces.
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## **DISNEY DAY FOR UNITED WAY**

1. Cut out “badges” in the shape of a Mickey Mouse head, write “Disney Day for United Way” on them, and sell them for \$1. (Money goes to United Way.)
  2. Allow employees who buy the badges to come to work in jeans and encourage them to wear a T-shirt or sweatshirt with a Disney character on it.
  3. They must wear the badge if they wear jeans.
  4. Encourage anyone who has Mickey Mouse ears / hats to wear them also.
  5. Hold drawings for Mickey Mouse items - cups, pens, hats, etc.
  6. If possible, get “Mouseketeer Club” theme song and play over the PA system as employees arrive for work.
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## **SHAVE THE BOSS**

1. Employees attempt to reach company goal. If they succeed or exceed the goal, boss agrees to shave off his or her hair (heads of hair or mustaches and beards for men).
2. Create a chart to keep track of set company campaign goal. Have a photo image or drawing of boss without hair at the top, displaying result of reaching goal, or show progress posters with the slow removal of hair as the employees get closer to the goal.
3. Employees who make contributions are given the opportunity to vote on whether or not the CEO will have to shave.
4. Host a celebration party with the boss shaving his or her head/mustache/beard at the event.



## GAME SHOW GIVING

1. During the campaign, have a new "Game Show" theme every day for a week. Use the information in the campaign materials (broadsheets, brochures, etc.) to get your answers. Let employees know ahead of time that they should keep these materials for use in the games. It's a great way to get them to read the broadsheet!
2. For each game, you must make a display board and place it in a heavily traveled area like the reception area or cafeteria. (Anywhere that's easy for all employees to get to during the day.)
3. Make up individual answer sheets for each game and place them beside the display.
4. Make a drop box for their answer sheets & place by the display.
5. Each evening, you and your committee goes through the answer sheets and from those who got 100% right, do a drawing for a prize.
6. Announce the winner of Day 1 over the intercom (if possible) or list their name near the next day's game display to get some excitement going. Do this with each day's winner.

Some game ideas:

- Jeopardy -- have 5 - 10 answers about United Way, the agencies, etc., on a board. Make up play cards/answer sheets and have the employees write down the "questions" & drop them in the box.
- Wheel Of Fortune -- have several puzzles related to United Way, such as the campaign chair, agencies, theme for that year, etc., (give them vowels for free) and have employees write down their guesses & drop them in the box.
- The Price Is Right -- using allocations information for United Way programs & services, have employees match the allocation amount with the program.
- Family Feud -- using a statement from the campaign materials like: "United Way agencies that support Older People," have the employees list the agencies on a sheet (assign equal points to them).
- Let's Make A Deal -- go around the office and ask random United Way-related questions to employees. If they get the answer right, give them a prize on the spot. (Works well if you can get the President to go along with you to hand out the prize.)
- Who Wants To Be A Millionaire -- from the list of donors, draw out names randomly to be the contestants. Ask them to name three United Way agencies that help kids (or elderly, families, etc.) Whoever writes them down the fastest and raises the paper in the air gets to play first. Using the United Way brochure or website, put together some questions about United Way and the agencies for the contestant. (Call the United Way office for help if you need.) Use play money for prizes.

# More Fun Ideas for Your Campaign

Auction – Solicit employees or businesses to donate items or services to auction. Use live auction or silent auction format. Set a minimum bid for each item.

Dress-up the Boss - Boss wears a costume voted on by all employees if the campaign goal is reached. Examples: tutu, animal costume, devil costume, etc.

Guess How Many - Guess the number of jelly beans, M&Ms, pennies or other items in a jar. Buy chances to guess. Closest guess receives a prize.

Golf Ball Sales - Collect old golf balls to clean and shine. Employees purchase golf balls (5 for \$1.00) during lunch or breaks.

Chip in for United Way- Place chocolate chip cookies on everyone's desk to let them know about an upcoming campaign and encourage them to "chip in."

Recycled Goods - Turn in recycled paper, cans, bottles, etc. and exchange them for money for the United Way.

Theme Lunches - Add fun to campaign week by hosting a theme lunch such as 50s, 60s, 70s, or 80s, holiday themes, TV shows, sports, Renaissance, etc.

Trivia - Ask Trivia questions about the United Way and United Way funded agencies at campaign meetings. Give away prizes for correct answers.

Computer Printouts - As part of campaigning, print off memos on colored paper with campaign updates, words of encouragement and/or words of thanks. Attach pieces of candy, breath mints, packs of gum or jars of colored paper clips with the notes.

Bakery Cart - Wheel a cart of bagels, doughnuts, Danishes, coffee and juice through the office, collecting United Way donations in exchange for the goodies.

Boss Cooks for You - Have a special breakfast at which top managers cook for all donors.

Wall of Fame - Put pictures on a wall recognizing employees who have been contributing for the most consecutive years.

Buck Coupons - Give everyone who attends campaign meetings a "buck" coupon that can be redeemed in the company cafeteria or company store.

Just Desserts - Campaign committee furnishes the main dish but sells desserts for \$1.50 more with proceeds going to United Way.

Best Photo Contest - Employees submit photographs taken at campaign and celebration events. Photos are displayed on a bulletin board and judged by committee, with the best photo receiving prizes such as a new camera, free film developing, photo album, camera carrying case and film.

Easter Egg Raffle - Fill plastic Easter eggs with raffle numbers. People buy eggs or "chances" for springtime prizes such as Easter lilies and gift baskets.

Food Fight - Divide into two or more teams and elect captains. Team members collect money and turn in to captain. Team raising the most money is awarded a pizza/sub party which they may verbally throw into their competitors' faces.

Buttons - Give all who donate a button stating, "I gave to United Way."

Garage Sale - Find a volunteer willing to loan garage space or use work site "after hours." Two or three weeks before the sale, employees bring in sale items which volunteers price and sell day of event. Advertise within the company and outer community.

Tourney Time - Hold a broomball, softball, tee-ball, kickball, racquetball, tennis, wallyball or ping-pong tournament.

Jail 'n Bail - Hold in correlation with an employee picnic or carnival. Have a "Catch 'em 'n Cuff 'em" Jail booth where employees pay to have co-workers, supervisors, managers or executives "incarcerated" for short periods during the event.

Team Tees - Design a T-shirt with your company logo joined with the United Way logo to give to contributing employees who "team up" in the United Way effort.

Slogan Contest - Employees develop in-house campaign slogans/themes. The committee picks the top ten, which are then voted on by the entire company, the winner receiving an award.

Ugly Hat, Tie, Suit, Bridesmaid/Prom Dress Contest- Employees pick a category and then display or model their entries, and other staff vote on what is truly "ugliest." Charge a fee for each vote. Take Polaroid pictures and charge for photos taken of employees with their favorite contestant.

Grease - Have employees cast ballot for which members of the Executive Team should dress up like which characters in the musical Grease (or any other popular movie / play). Have them stand in front of the assembly of employees and let employees pick the best "look-alike" by loudness of applause. Charge them \$1 per vote, with proceeds going to United Way.

Frozen Turkey Bowl – Use 2 liter plastic bottles filled with water for bowling pins and a frozen turkey for the ball.

Back to High School – Employees bring high school pictures of themselves. Contest to guess the year of the photo and who it is.

Paper Airplane Toss: Use hula-hoops as your targets to throw paper airplanes (you may have to show them how to fold the airplanes, lessons will cost) into. Charge per throw.

Pet Match: Match the photo of a pet to their owner.

Mini-Olympics: Don't use the traditional Olympic games. Brainstorm new ideas – roll the egg (not hard-boiled!) across the finish line with your chin, but don't break it. Walk a circle track with a full glass of water on a tray using one hand, spilling as little as possible. Use your imagination!

Kid's Coloring Contest: Great way to get everyone involved whether it be your children, nieces, nephews, or neighbors. Have kids color a United Way logo or have them make a picture that shows giving or sharing. Display the artwork. Hint: These pieces of art are great to use on thank you cards.

Marshmallow Golf: See **Indoor Mini Golf** and substitute marshmallows for golf balls.

Spelling Bee: Hold a spelling bee, charging \$5 entry fee. Galley observers place \$1 bets on their favorite participants. Present winner with a special award.

Radio-controlled Car Race: Set up a pre-determined course/race map. Use timers to see who can run the course in the shortest time.

Football Helmet Drive: Use football helmets for employees to drop in loose change all week.

Eating Contest: Who can eat the most in a given amount of time – burgers, hotdogs, pie, pickles, watermelon, etc.

Pumpkin Carving Contest: Put together a team of carvers or individuals. Set different categories for judging (most creative, scariest, funniest, etc.). Charge teams/individuals to enter.

Football Toss: Measure scores for distance and accuracy with prizes for the top Guy and top Gal winners.

Guess the Weight of the Pumpkin: Charge per chance to guess. Participant with guess closest wins prize.

Book/Video Sale: Employees donate their old books, videos, DVDs and cassette tapes to sell.

Online Auction: Set up a special voice box with weekly messages announcing auction items. Outline the items, including their face value, in a flyer. Employees can call the hotline to record their bids. Update recorded messages daily, announcing the highest bids received to date.

Crazy Olympics: Employees compete in crazy “athletic” events for silly prizes. Participants donate to enter. Observes wager bets on their favorite entrants. Examples of events: Crazy obstacle course; three-legged race, tricycle race, miniature golf using beach balls, pool cues, hammers, etc.)

International Food Day: Employees team together to create taste treats from around the world. Employees dress in appropriate costumes. Hold the event over the lunch hour. Employees purchase tickets redeemable for food at the booths. A panel of “celebrity” judges awards prizes.

Chocolate Kick-Off Rally: Print gold paper candy bar wrappers with the employee-giving theme. Put the wrappers on chocolate candy bars and distribute at kick-off.

Raisin Money for United Way: Buy a small box of raisins for each employee and attach a note to the box saying, “We are raisin money for United Way”. You can also add some facts about United Way and the company goal.

For more ideas and to find additional resources for how to create your company’s own ‘Week of Living United’ visit [www.uwozarks.com](http://www.uwozarks.com)



**LIVE UNITED® GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.**

# What does it mean to **LIVE UNITED?**

Underneath everything we are, underneath everything we do, we all are all people. Connected, interdependent, united. And when we reach out a hand to one, we influence the condition of all. That's what it means to **LIVE UNITED**.

- It takes everyone in the community working together to create a brighter future.
- Together, we can accomplish more than any single group can on its own.

## **GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER....**

### **GIVE.**

- Your contribution goes to work bringing lasting changes, right in Southwest Missouri.
- When you invest in our area, you make long lasting changes for family, friends and neighbors in our 14-county service area.

### **ADVOCATE.**

- You can make change happen with your voice. Get informed. Tell your friends about the critical issues that face our region.
- Choose to **LIVE UNITED** by speaking up for issue you are passionate about. Champion a cause, tell your friends, write a letter, be visible and engage decision makers and policy leaders to help address our most important community/area needs.

### **VOLUNTEER.**

- Community volunteers give of their time and talents to work to influence the conditions in our community and region.
- Volunteering is a great way to contribute to the overall well-being of our area. You have the chance to make friends, learn new skills and most importantly, share your talents and expertise with others. Give whatever time you have. **LIVE UNITED** by giving back one of the most valuable gifts – your time.

### **LIVE UNITED.**



**LIVE UNITED® GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.**

## 10 Reasons to Donate to United Way of the Ozarks

1. **GIVE WHERE YOU LIVE...**All your money stays right here in your community.
2. **GIVE TO ONE – INFLUENCE THE CONDITION OF ALL.** One gift helps many, 224,000 in 2010. Your donation supports 40 individual programs in United Way's 23 partner agencies and 8 initiatives.
3. **CONSISTENCY.** Your United Way gift can change lives; Year after year, your gift puts food on the table, provides a safe place for kids, or teaches someone to read.
4. **LOCAL DECISIONS.** United Way Volunteer donors work together to make the funding decisions.
5. **YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE.** Your contribution combined with others, provides a big impact on the quality of life in our community.
6. **IT'S EASY!** Your donation comes from a payroll deduction and is spread throughout the year.
7. **IT'S BIG PICTURE.** Now, more than ever, we have family and friends who are facing job, food, and housing challenges they have never had to face...United Way supports agencies that focus on our critical issues.
8. **ACCOUNTABILITY.** United Way of the Ozarks reviews each year the financial stability of our partner agencies; you can give with confidence that your donation is being used for the greatest impact.
9. **DELIVERS RESULTS.** Your United Way donation goes to partner agencies to create long-lasting change and measurable results in critical issue areas facing our area.
10. **IT'S A WIN-WIN!** With all of us working together, we create a brighter future for all.



**LIVE UNITED® GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.**

## **Your \$1 per week payroll deduction donation can provide:**

- A deployment of volunteers and resources to serve twenty-six people in the event of a natural disaster.
- The chance for two children, who have been victims of physical or sexual abuse, to tell their story to a trained professional and begin the road to healing.
- A nutritious midday meal for two people in need, every day, for one year.
- Short-term, emergency shelter for five women and children escaping domestic violence.
- Quality after-school programs for one child in a safe, structured environment surrounded by caring adults.
- New, age-appropriate books for children living in poverty, in order to foster an early love of reading.
- Access to much-needed dental treatment for three low-income, uninsured individuals.

### **United Way of the Ozarks**

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Springfield, MO 65806

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