



United Way  
of North Central Iowa

THE LITTLE BOOK OF

**BIG**

CAMPAIGN

**IDEAS**

## Low or No Cost Events

### Desert Cart/Bakery Cart

Wheel a cart of bagels, doughnuts, danishes, cookies, brownies etc. through the office, collecting United Way donations in exchange for the goodies. Everyone wants something sweet after lunch.

### Craft and Bake Sales

This popular activity gives everyone a change to share their hobbies and special baking talents. All items donated, and sales go to the Campaign.

### Chili Cook-Off Contest

Employees cook their favorite recipe and enter it into a cook-off contest. A panel of "chili experts" selects the Official Chili Champion. Talk to a hotel representative about donating a weekend stay at their hotel for the winner.

### Balloon Pop

Employees donate prizes for this event – a variation of a traditional raffle. Before filling a balloon with helium, put a note inside with the name of the prize. Employees pay \$1-\$5 to buy a balloon and pop it to find out what prize they've won.

### Department Penny Wars

Each department is designated a jar. Employees are encouraged to fill their own department's jar with pennies, each equaling one point. Opposing departments may then add other coins to their jars that are equal to their value only negative (ex. A dime



is minus 10 points). The department with the most positive points at the end of the week is awarded a prize.

### Employee Cookbook

Collect and group recipes into a customized cookbook. Employees' children create illustrations for the cookbook, including cover. If possible, print and bind books by a local business, pro bono. This event has been so popular that some organizations have not been able to fill all requests.

You set the price!

### Employee Raffle

Ask employees to contribute something special for a raffle prize:

- Homemade pies
- One-day vacation
- Lunch with a co-worker
- Prizes donated by vendors
- Car Wash
- Tickets to a special event
- Employee Parking Spot

Employees make contribution using pledge forms. Employees turning in pledge forms early receive three raffle tickets. Employees turning in pledge forms after the "early" date, but before the Campaign's final event, receive one raffle ticket. Employees who make a certain dollar pledge receive two additional raffle tickets.

### Pumpkin Carving or Decorating Contest

Plan a Halloween theme and hold a pumpkin carving contest. Find a local business willing to donate pumpkins for your organization to sell to your employees. Employees buy pumpkins for their families, their staff or to use in the contest. Employees enter carved or decorated pumpkins individually or by group. Charge \$5 to enter and \$1 to vote. Award prizes in various categories.

Examples:

- Best traditional pumpkin
- Most creative pumpkin
- Best effort by a group
- Best effort by an individual

### Bingo

Sell bingo cards for employees to purchase. Get local stores to donate prizes for all winners.

### Ugly Lamp

Have employees decorate a lamp and make it as ugly as possible. Employees will have to pay \$5 to have it removed from their desk and be able to put it on another co-workers desk.



## Low or No Cost Events

### Silent Auction

Gather gift items and create bid sheets, being certain to provide a minimum bid for each item. Put together a book that shows all items so that everyone is able to see the items available. Tap on employee's talents and resources for themed baskets.

### Flowers

Work with a local florist to donate flowers that employees buy for \$2 to send to co-workers or bring home for a special someone. As an added incentive, the organization matches each \$2.

### Tricycle Races

Create teams with three or four riders. Teams are named and publicized in advance, allowing employees to make pledges or bets on the winning team. Team members ride large tricycles (rent or arrange to borrow from a cooperating store) through a predetermined course through the office or outside. Have course marked with signs or tape on the floor. Fans are able to watch and cheer from different areas. The race is designed as a relay. Team members pass off a flag, pinwheel, teddy bear or similar item to their succeeding team member. Remember to take pictures for the company bulletin board or newsletter.



### Spelling Bee

Hold an event during staff meetings or over lunch. Contestants pay \$5 entry fee. Gallery observers place \$1 wagers on their favorite participants. The winner walks away with the coveted "Who Needs Spell Check" award.

### Pie in the Face

Employee pays \$5 for a pie to be thrown in the face of the Executive of their choice.

### Name that Tune

Employees pay \$5 to participate. Contestants then go up against each other to test their knowledge of songs.

### Walking Taco

Set up a cart with taco ingredients and have an employee push around during lunch time for people to purchase and make their own tacos. Or use a bag of Fritos and place meat and topping in the bag. Great for people that don't have a long lunch break.

### Sports Team Day

Have employee pay \$1 (your choice) to be able to wear their favorite sports team apparel.

### Slipper Day

Have employee pay \$1 (your choice) to be able to wear their slippers to work. Great for employees working in a call center.

### Jeans Day

Have employee pay \$1 (your choice) to be able to wear jeans to work for one day. \$5 if they want to wear jeans for a week.

### Push Up Contest

Ever want to find out who the strongest person in the office is? Contestants pay \$5 entry fee. Observers pay \$1 to wager one who they think will do the most pushups. The winner is the one that does the most pushups.

### Jump Rope Contest

Contestants pay \$5 entry fee. Observers pay \$1 to wager on who they think will last the longest jumping rope. The winner is the one who last the longest without messing up.

### Talent Show

Put on a talent show during lunch time. Have contestants pay \$5 entry fee. Observers pay \$1 to attend the show. Make sure to have a panel of judges.

### Karaoke

Employees pay to vote on the Executive they want to sing karaoke. If the executive does not want to sing they can pay a fee to pass the task to someone else.

# Major Events

## Flashback Carnival

Invite employees to an old-fashioned carnival, complete with cake walks, bake sale, bubble blowing and 50 cent hotdogs. Hold a hoola-hop contest and hoop shoot to really give it that flashback flavor. Set up a dunk tank with all your dunkable executives (charge \$3 for three balls). Throw pies at all your favorite executives. Charge participants a fee to enter the contests.

## CEO/Executive Car Wash

Employees donate \$5 to have their car washed at high noon by the “boss” in business clothing, Charge extra for special services like cleaning the interior or employee and the boss washing



polishing the rims. Charge for pictures of the their car.

## Pot Luck Luncheon

Participating employees bring a hot-shared. Paper products are also this event. Items brought are their plate and sample everything in

dish, appetizer, salad, side, dessert, etc to be need to this event. There is no sign up for completely random. Employees pay \$5 to fill the room.

## International Food Day

Employees’ team together to create Employees decorate their own costumes. Hold the event over the lunch hour, allowing employees to purchase tickets redeemable for food at the booths. A panel of “celebrity” judges awards prizes.

tasty treats from around the world. booths/tables and dress in appropriate

## Casino Night

What are the ingredients for a successful Casino Night?

- A few Blackjack tables
- A Roulette wheel
- A Poker table or two
- One Bingo table
- Food and drinks

Invite employees and their families. Local businesses can donate prizes and items for winners. Many party rental stores have gaming tables that give casino night a real Vegas-like experience.

## Golf Tournament

Organizing a regular charity golf tournament is a daunting task, but there are only two really critical things you have to do to make one a success.

1. Recruit a tournament organizing committee that has a big fat collective Rolodex! You need people to help you that know lots of people who can help and aren't afraid to ask them to do so.
2. Trust the golf pro at the golf course you hire for the tournament. He or she will know the nuts and bolts of the tournament. All you need do is follow their instructions and bring lots of players and sponsors.