

Special Events

Special Events are a fun way to boost your campaign—it can make the difference between an average and record campaign year. They offer an opportunity for everyone to participate. **Remember to invite United Way to your special events!**



Read or Walk-A-Thon

Get fit or dig into a good book! Donate for each hour of participation. Want some competition? Collect entry fees from individuals or participate as a team. Count your steps using a pedometer or count pages or chapters. Set penalties or bonuses and see which team or department wins!

LIVE UNITED: Health & Giving Events

Host special events to raise money and improve the health of employees at the same time. Yoga classes, healthy eating tips, stress reduction sessions and more.



Plant & Produce Sale

Gather all your green thumb employees to donate flowers, fruits and vegetables from their summer and fall harvest. Hold your own local gardener's market. Or take them back to the fair days to vote on best tomato, biggest zucchini.

Coin War

Set up empty containers for each floor or department. Coins are positive while paper money is negative points. Sabotage opponents by dropping dollars into their bottle. The group with the highest point value wins.

Compliment-O-Gram

Explore the power of small gestures. Make up special forms and sell them to office employees as a way to give a compliment, flowers or balloon to a fellow employee. Charge \$1 per compliment or \$2 if they wish to do so anonymously.



Baby Picture Contest

Employees bring in a baby picture of themselves (or their children) and staff guesses who is who. Charge an entry fee for employees to submit their guesses. The person with the most correct answers wins a prize.



LIVE UNITED Scavenger Hunt

Put a new twist on a familiar idea: challenge employees to find things (or people) that are examples of creating a better life for all and Give. Advocate. Volunteer. You can also hunt for black and white objects, create clues about different Partner Programs and have employees travel to each and collect signatures on their LIVE UNITED shirt.

Special Events *(continued)*



Match the LIVE UNITED Profile

Have employees write a short profile of how they LIVE UNITED. Then, post profiles and have others guess who belongs to each.

Creative Tie Contest

Divide up into different teams within the office. Each team should use its creative talent to “design” a tie. Put the ties on display for a few days or for the duration of the campaign. Put a container with each tie to collect money for the best tie. The tie with the most money wins. Designate someone within the company to model the winning tie and wear it for the entire day wherever he or she goes.



United Way Trivial Pursuit

Distribute facts about United Way by memo, e-mail or post on bulletin boards every day for a week. Then, ask trivia questions based on the information. Those completing all questions correctly are entered into a drawing or receive a prize.

Or have a marathon using the traditional game. Use entry fees and penalties for teams or individuals.

What Was I Thinking?! (Ugliest Hair, Tie, Prom Attire, Bridesmaid Dress Contest)

We’ve all looked back at pictures and uttered that phrase. Bring in those pictures and place votes for the ugliest. The brave souls can wear their ugly dress.

Formal Dress Day

Sick of casual Friday? Dress to the nine’s instead. Hold a lunch and award prizes for the snappiest tuxedo and fanciest dresses.

Silent Auctions and Raffles

Silent auctions are fun and easy. Have staff auction off services, such as gift wrapping, cooking, gardening, crafts or any other hidden talents. Have executives auction parking spaces. **If you’re doing a raffle, remember to contact United Way for the license number.**

Kite Flying Competition

Hold a kite making, decorating or flying competition. Give awards for smallest, largest, most creative or longest flying kites. Decorate your office with kites, wind socks and mobiles. Donate your projects to a youth program. Order a Kite shaped cake to celebrate the end of your high flying campaign.



Decorating Contest

Have a door, window or cubicle decorating contest, with the winning team getting a free lunch or other prizes.



2007 Figi’s Campaign:
Heroes Among Us

Special Events: Food Related *(continued)*



Bake Off or Cook Off

Be creative with your cooking! Hold a contest for the tastiest desserts, cupcakes, bread, stir-fry, hot dishes, etc. Have categories for most creative, best of show, spiciest or most unusual. The sky is the limit! Host a pot luck or auction off the entries.

Employee Cookbook

After all this cooking, compile recipes of employees, bind and present as an incentive or sell so everyone can enjoy all of these creative and yummy ideas.

International Food Day

Employees can celebrate their diversity by serving foods from around the world. Employees can purchase tickets redeemable for food items at the event. Award prizes for the best entrée or dessert.

Shake Social

Mix up shakes or serve ice cream to create a social hour for employees to sit back and relax. This event is great for a 50’s theme. Surprise attendees with a “celebrity” appearance from the movie “Grease.”

Progressive Breakfast

Have each department bring a breakfast food item. Employees rotate throughout the office to sample each department’s contribution to the progressive breakfast. This is a great chance to mix with other departments and boost communications.



Pie-eating contest

Choose employees or managers to compete in a pie-eating contest. Tie participants hands behind their back and time them to see how many cream pies they can eat in the designated time. Hot wings, cupcakes, mashed potatoes or jelly beans ... you can incorporate this concept with anything.

Chili Cook-off

Employees cook their favorite chili recipe to be judged by coworkers. Or, have a potluck for employees to bring their favorite dishes. Attendees judge the best dish.



2008 Figi’s, Inc. Chili Cook-off
A three week event with tasting and an event, complete with displays from each finalist and local celebrity judges.

Pumpkin Carving Contest

Get your creative juices flowing! Have categories for most scariest, traditional or creative pumpkins. Paint or use props if you don’t want carved pumpkins. Hold a pumpkin recipe contest for muffins, stews or other yummy pumpkin concoctions.



Special Events: Sports related (Continued)

Armchair Quarterback

Select managers to compete in a football toss from their office chairs. Hold a rally for employees and encourage them to wear their favorite football team's gear.

Employees can sponsor contestants for every yard thrown. Add an extra challenge: play a game of "catch" with extra dollars donated for each ball caught, penalties for interceptions.

Office Chair Races

Have employees race on their office chairs using their feet or plungers to push themselves along!

Set a course, create your own rules, make wagers and set penalties.



2005 Marshfield Savings Bank Campaign: Executive Chair Race



Hula Hoop/Jump Rope Contest

Let employees know that at a specified time there will be a "hula" and/or jump rope contest, & encourage them to practice during the week prior to contest date. Play some fun music. See who can hula or jump rope the longest or most hulas or jumps. Hula or jump rope towards a goal or line & back. Award prizes.



Costume Contest

Perfect for late October campaigns—or any time you want to add excitement. Pay an entry fee for each costume, have a theme or just let imaginations run wild.



Marshfield Furniture 2008 Halloween Costume Contest

Weirdest, Wildest, Ugliest Contest

Hold a contest searching for the weirdest, wildest, or ugliest: ties hats, earrings, or shoes! Laugh at yourself and encourage voters by donating \$1 per vote. Or hold a guessing contest to see which of these weird, wild or ugly objects belong to who.



Ornament Raffle

Bring in hand-made or purchased ornaments to hang on a tree. Names/numbers are chosen until all ornaments are picked from the tree. Raffle tickets are sold for \$.25 each or five for \$1.

Special Events (continued)

Frozen Turkey Bowl

Use 2-liter plastic bottle filled with water for bowling pins and a frozen turkey as a ball.

Wii Tournament

Hold a tournament using your favorite Wii games. Golf and bowling are great games even the novice can have fun with.



Survivor

Divide the office into two teams and have them battle it out to see who can raise more funds. Play games like office immunity challenges and eat gummy worms. Learn what it's like to live without necessities, as some who use United Way programs do. Quiz employees on what it's really like to survive in the Marshfield area when you are in need. (Example: You have \$100 for bills. Do you buy groceries or pay the heating bill?)

Marshfield Savings Bank Wii Tournament

Extreme Makeover, Supervisor Edition.

Set up one jar per "boss" and whoever has the most money in his/her jar at the end of your campaign will be made-over by a group of individuals.



Hot Wheels Race

Hold a Hot Wheels car race, employees sponsor their favorite car. Hold separate heats and award prizes. OR use remote control cars on an "obstacle course." Fastest car through the office, wins.

Special Events: Food related



Cookie Exchange

Have employees bring a plate of their favorite cookies to swap them with others or sell.

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.

Breakfast of Champions

Employees will arrive early for this morning treat! Serve up orange juice, coffee, lattes, yogurt, muffins and all the fixings for a good breakfast to start the morning the right way. Also works well as an incentive!



Partner Program Personal Development Center's Breakfast Stand in City Hall.

Build Your Own Sundae

Create a sundae bar with an assortment of ice creams and a wide variety of toppings. This can also serve as a thank you event.

Menu Auction

Ask employees to donate menus that they would prepare. These menus are then auctioned. For example: Specialty Coffee and Dessert for Four; Spaghetti Dinner for Six; Indian Meal for Two; Fondue for Four. As an added touch, do not reveal names of the cooks until after the menu is sold, to create suspense as to who would be cooking for meals. The date of each dinner should be negotiated between the cooks and successful bidders.

Special Events (continued)

Laugh Olympics

Employees compete in crazy athletic” events for silly prizes. Participants donate a fee to enter. **Games could include:** Egg toss, Water balloon toss, Egg & Spoon Race, Pin the Tie on the Executive and Waste basket free throw.



Family Day or Carnival

Organize a festival for your employees or families. Have age appropriate games and food.

The highlight of the day can be a dunk tank with brave employees or managers. Sell chances to sink your coworkers.

Duct Tape the Boss

Sell one-yard lengths of duct tape and duct tape the boss to a wall. Have the boss stand on a chair and after there is enough tape holding him/her, pull the chair out. Sell photos of employees standing next to the boss to raise additional funds. *Also a great incentive idea.*



Century 21 Gold Key Realty's 2008 Family Fun Day, complete with Dunk Tank.

GoodSearch Use goodsearch.com as your default search engine and select United Way—Marshfield to raise money as you search.

But Don't Forget to Inform!

We want you to have fun with your activities but we also want you to inform your associates of the programs and services supported by their contribution to United Way. It's great to have fun, but it's also important to remember we have people in our community who are working but still struggling to make ends meet. Here's what your United Way contribution is doing to help your family, friends and neighbors right here in the Marshfield area:

- Residents find support and learn how to handle life's challenging circumstances. They use these skills to become better parents and provide for themselves or their families.
- Youth participate in safe activities that will help them stay out of trouble, improve their grades and relate with adults.
- People in need receive food and clothing to stay warm and nourished.

Special Events: Sports related

Office Mini Golf

Set up a mini-golf course at the workplace, using slinkies, ramps, “water hazards,” sand traps. Enter teams and have a mini-golf outing just like one on a real course!



United Way Olympics

Employee teams compete with each other for prizes in outrageous events, including the cotton ball lift, water balloon toss or wastebasket free-throw.

Tricycle Races

Staff or management race tricycles outdoors or throughout the building.



Tailgate Party

Employees toss footballs at a target to earn prizes. As target distance increases so does the value of the prizes. Perfect for a football theme.

Frisbee Golf Tournament

Have an outing on the local Frisbee golf course and raise money like a regular golf tournament.



Poker Run – (for walkers, joggers or bikers)

Participants pay entry fee and are given a map or clues for the route. As participants check in at each periodic check point, they are given a playing card. Best poker hand at the end of the race wins.

Sports Trivia

Exercise your mind and test the sports fanatics! Who was the 2004 NBA Rookie of the Year? Who was the first round Packer draft pick the year they won the Super Bowl? How many names are on the Stanley Cup? *(Tip: Use GoodSearch for United Way for questions & encourage employees to use it to find their answers!)*

Horseshoe or Ladder Golf Tournament

Use traditional horseshoes or ladder golf (or Polish golf). Take the staff outside and start pitching. Most points win, charge entry fees or penalties when opposing team gets a ringer.

Table Sports Tournaments

Host a Ping Pong, Air Hockey or Foosball tournament. See who has the best hand-eye coordination as the battle of table top games progress.

NASCAR Racing

Start your engines! Have managers dress up as NASCAR drivers and enter the kick-off meeting on scooters. Give employees pit passes and auction NASCAR merchandise.

Volleyball Tourney

Host a volleyball (or basketball, etc.) tournament within your organization or community. Teams play an entry fee to compete. Make it interesting: Blind Volleyball, Mud Volleyball, etc. Gather together people who are playing already and have them play for a good cause!