

# Fun-raising Ideas for the Workplace

Watertown Area United Way  
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## Fun Workplace Events to Raise Money

### Reward or Incentives To Give

Talk to management to see if there is the possibility of giving employees incentive days- jeans days, long lunches, half days- for specific pre-planned donation amounts.

### Dessert Cart/Bakery Cart/Popcorn Sales

Wheel a cart of bagels, doughnuts, Danish, cookies, brownies, etc., through the office, collecting United Way donations in exchange for the goodies. Everyone wants something sweet after lunch. Popcorn sales work too- no one can resist the smell of popcorn!

### Pancake breakfast or ice cream social

Take your pick, served by the management team.

### Craft and Bake Sales

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

### 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 into employees' talents and resources for themed baskets. Could combine with a used book sale.

### Walking Taco

Set up a cart with taco ingredients and have an employee push it around during lunchtime for people to purchase and make their own tacos. Or use a bag of Fritos and place meat and toppings in the bag. This is great for people who don't have a long lunch break.

### Chili or Spaghetti Cook-off Contest

Employees cook their favorite recipe and enter it into a cook-off contest. Charge an entry fee and a tasting fee. A panel of "experts" selects the Official Chili or Spaghetti Champion.

### Apple Pie Bake-Off

Find out which employee can make the best apple pie. Hold a competition in which employees can put their best family recipes to the test. On the day of the event, sell taste tickets and have employees vote on the best apple pie maker in the company. Award a prize for the winner.

### You could follow this up with a Pie Eating Contest

### Soup Kitchen

Heat up a big pot of soup and hold a soup and bread line for your employees. On the tables have table tents with facts on homelessness and hunger in your community.

### Ugly Lamp

Have employees decorate a lamp and make it as ugly as possible. Employees pay \$5 to have the lamp removed from their desk and put on another person's desk (of their choice).

### 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.

### Raffle

Hold a company-wide raffle! Employees turning in pledge forms before a certain date receive 3 raffle tickets. Employees turning in pledge forms after the early date but before the end of the campaign receive one raffle ticket. Employees who make a certain dollar pledge receive two additional raffle tickets. Some ideas for prizes:

- Homemade pies/cakes
- One day of vacation
- Prizes donated by vendors
- Car wash
- Tickets to a local event
- Sleep in late certificates

### Basket Auction

Ask each department at your organization to sponsor, create and fill a theme basket (spa day, chocolate, golf, cooking). The baskets are then auctioned off. This event has been very successful at several companies and is a great way for folks to show off their creativity and caring.

### Lunch Box Auction

Have each participating employee pack a special lunch. Encourage them to get creative and make deluxe sandwiches or wraps. Include delicious sides and desserts. Auction the lunch boxes just before lunchtime.

### Potluck Luncheon

Participating employees bring a covered dish, appetizer, salad, side, dessert, etc. to be shared. Paper products are also needed. There is no sign-up; items brought are completely random. Employees pay to fill their plate.

### Order Up!

Take orders for lunch from an area restaurant. Pick up the food, but charge a delivery fee.

### Name That Tune

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

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

### **Pie in the Face**

An executive agrees on the amount to be earned, and employees pay towards a pie being thrown in the face of the executive.

### **CEO/Executive Car Wash**

Employees donate \$10 to have their car washed at high noon by the boss in business clothing. Charge extra for special services like cleaning the interior or polishing the rims.

### **Executive Receptionist**

Put together a board with head shot pictures of company executives. Place an envelope below each picture for “votes.” The executive who receives the most contributions of money in their envelope wins the honor of being “receptionist for the day.” As the time period, you may see large contributions being made to ensure a certain executive wins!

### **Karaoke**

Employees pay to vote on the executive they want to sing karaoke. If the executive doesn’t want to sing, he or she can pay a hefty fee to pass the task to someone else.

### **Casual Day**

Have employees pay a certain amount (recommended \$5) to dress down for the day. Ideas are slippers, shorts, jeans, sports team apparel.

### **Push-up Contest**

Ever want to find out who the strongest person in the office is? Contestants pay a \$5 entry fee. Observers pay \$1 to wager on who they think will do the most push-ups. Another variation of this would be a Jump Rope contest.

### **Turkey Giveaway**

Thanksgiving holiday is a great inspiration for special events. Raffle off a turkey for Thanksgiving dinner. Purchase a turkey or ask employees to donate their points earned from shopping at local grocery stores.

### **Hallway bowling or putt-putt**

Set up a fun course in a hallway or extra office. Use bowling pins or paper towel rolls, and kids plastic clubs for putt-putt. Employees pay to play the game, prizes awarded if you’d like.

### **Egg Baby**

A single egg is given to each participating staff member, who must treat the egg with attention and care, just as if it were a human baby. They may choose to keep the baby all day long or pass it to another person for a babysitting charge of \$2. If the egg is dropped, a \$5 hospital fee is charged.

### **Pick an Egg, Any Egg**

Fill plastic eggs with prizes or cash; charge for the opportunity to pick one.

### **Put Your Best Foot Forward**

Line up senior managers and/or other employees for some unique mug shots—shoes only! Hold a contest before campaign kickoff to see if employees can figure out who’s who. Charge a fee to guess.

### **Employee Picture Contest**

Ever wonder what colleagues or company executives looked like when they were babies – or even better, when they were in high school? Employees bring in a baby picture, class or prom photo of themselves 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.

### **Quiz show**

Use company and United Way factoids to create a Jeopardy style game where employees pay to play and win a prize.

### **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.

### **“How many jelly beans in the jar?”**

or another counting contest

### **Bingo**

Sell bingo cards; have prizes donated from local stores.

### **Ongoing 50/50 Raffle**

### **Department Party**

For the department with the most pledges. Desserts to be donated.

### **Round Up for United Way-**

ask the business to round up transactions, with proceeds going to UW