

Virtual Ideas

Is your workplace still remote, or are some of your employees still working from home? Even if your team is in the office, a virtual fundraiser can be a cost- and time-effective way to fundraise for our community! Modify any of the below ideas however you please so that they work best for your workplace and fundraising goals.

- **FIND IT CONTEST** Select leadership to participate and select a host to say an item that could be found in a house. The first person who brings back that item receives a point. Whoever has the most points wins. Encourage employees to contribute a “cover charge” with a suggested donation for admission to attend.
- **ONLINE TRIVIA NIGHT** Run a virtual trivia competition with employees looking to have fun and test their knowledge!
- **JEOPARDY PARTY** Host and play Jeopardy on Zoom/Teams using JeopardyLabs (<https://jeopardylabs.com>). Use one of their pre-built templates. Have departments compete against each other!
- **VIRTUAL YOGA SESSION** Partner with a local yoga studio to stream an online yoga class for employees who donate to access.
- **POLAR PLUNGE** Employees pay to vote for a senior team member who has to take a plunge into their preferred cold body of water! The person with the most votes must record their plunge on video and share with the team.
- **FISHING TOURNAMENT** Choose a participation donation amount and a time frame for participants to snatch their biggest catch! Require participants to send in a photo of their catch with its measurement, and have someone review submissions to choose the winner. You can also have different submission categories, such as biggest walleye, bass or catfish.
- **STEP CHALLENGE** Team members pay to participate in this challenge which can also tie in nicely with your company wellness program. Participants use a step tracker to compete for different prizes or trophies, such as “Most Steps In A Day.”
- **SPIRIT WEEK** Use this high school throwback for a full week of virtual fun; pay a set amount to participate in things like Crazy Hair Day, Favorite Team/Jersey Day, Hat Day, Company Color Day, Opposite Day, Fun Zoom Background Day...you get the idea! Set a time for a virtual call to show your spirit, or just let it show in video meetings. Raffle a prize at the end of the week for all who participate.
- **COOKING LESSON** Find team members who have always wanted to host a cooking show; have them record or host a live cooking demonstration and charge “admission” (donations) to join the meeting or view the video link.
- **MENTORSHIP AUCTION** Bid out or raffle a virtual coffee chat with C-level executives.
- **TALENT SHOW** Line up virtual performances from your most talented team members who play an instrument, sing, dance, do comedy or have a special hidden talent. Charge “admission” to view, and vote on the winners with an extra donation.
- **DRESS UP DAY** Flip the Dress Down Day and charge a donation to wear your best suit, favorite dress, trendiest tie . . . anything to get out of quarantine-comfy clothes!
- **SPECIAL DELIVERY** Beep beep . . . have your company executives deliver lunch to the highest bidder or raffle winner (wave and door drop only, please).
- **DEPARTMENT CHALLENGE** Challenge internal departments with prizes for the most United Way campaign donors, the highest increase in average gift, or first department to complete donations.

- **BABY PHOTOS** Have employees send their baby photos to be included in a virtual document or presentation; charge a small amount for each entry and challenge team members to match the photos. Send a prize to the person who matches the most!
- **CUTEST PET CONTEST** Post pet pictures on your intranet or send via email and have people vote with dollars on the cutest furry friends.
- **RECIPE EXCHANGE** Have team members submit their favorite recipes to share in an electronic cookbook. Charge a set amount to “buy” the book.
- **LUNCHTIME BINGO** Send Bingo card documents and call numbers via Zoom. Charge for each card, and offer a prize for the winners.
- **CANDY COUNT** Send a picture of a packed candy jar and charge a small donation to guess the count. The winner will come back to their office with a big jar of candy!
- **HOME DATE NIGHT RAFFLE** Enter to win gift cards to GrubHub/local restaurants and Red Box. Maybe add a delivery from a local winery or brewery, too!
- **COMPANY “CRIBS”** Charge a donation for a virtual tour of coworkers’ homes, gardens, cool office set-ups, blinged-out BBQ areas, or interesting collections.
- **VIRTUAL VACATION** Have people submit their favorite vacation photos and a brief description for a virtual tour around the world. Charge “travel fare” to view. As an added bonus, offer a drawing for a timeshare or vacation home rental for use at a later date!
- **TIKTOK CHALLENGE** Senior leaders offer to make TikTok videos if company fundraising goals are met or between departments as a competition (dept. leader with smallest % of fundraising goal makes TikTok); the virtual equivalent of doing a dunk tank or other fun in-person activity.
- **VIRTUAL TALENT SHOW** Company offers for employees to sign up for a Zoom talent contest. The entrants would have to pay a certain amount to participate. Employees that do not want to participate but would like to watch pay a higher amount. The company finds a panel of three judges. This could be outside individuals, senior employees, or anyone else with the company.

In Person Ideas

While COVID-19 has changed a lot of workplace environments, we understand that many teams are still working in the office. Because of this, we wanted to share some classic fundraising ideas that you can modify for your needs.

- **COFFEE BAR** For more distinguished coffee drinkers, offer a latte-stand during a morning meeting. Remind them how much a cup of gourmet coffee or tea costs. Give examples of what giving up one cup of coffee, one soda or one candy bar a day can do for a person in need. Ask if they can donate that same amount (or more) each week to United Way.
- **MINI MASSAGE** Find a massage therapist who is willing to donate their time. Charge employees for a 15-minute chair massage.
- **UGLIEST OUTFIT CONTEST** Contestants pay to enter the ugliest tie, earrings, socks, or stockings contest. Take pictures of the participants and have employees 'vote' on the ugliest apparel by contributing a dollar.
- **BALLOON POP** Employees donate prizes for this event – a variation of a traditional raffle. Before filling a balloon with air, put a note inside with the name of the prize. Employees pay \$1 to buy a balloon and pop it to find out what prize they've won. Include a United Way fact in each balloon.
- **CANDY CART** Grab an office cart and fill it up with bags or containers of candy. Wheel the cart around to different departments during your campaign and charge a dollar per bag or per set number of candy pieces. Proceeds go to United Way.
- **CEO CAR WASH** Ask employees to donate to have their cars washed by management.
- **COMPANY OLYMPICS/MINUTE TO WIN IT** Teams participate in Olympic or Minute to Win It type events, such as wastebasket paper ball free throws, balance a Styrofoam cup on a service tray while navigating an obstacle course, make a paper airplane and fly it the longest distance, make the longest paper clip or staple chain in one minute, fold and stuff letters/ envelopes in one minute. Teams pay to participate and the company buys prizes or lunch for the winning team. Have a plaque, medal or stuffed animal as an incentive for the department that wins the highest per capita giving award or raises the most money. They keep said item until next year's campaign.
- **FUN OFFICE SPORTS/CONTEST IDEAS:**
 - Spelling bee
 - Pie-eating contest
 - Video/computer game competition
 - Croquet tournament on nearby lawn
 - Elevator races
 - Tricycle race
 - Halloween costume or celebrity look-alike contest
 - Hoop it up basketball competition
 - Fun run or walkathon
 - Softball game
 - Pet matching game (\$1 to enter; raffle off prize to those with the most correct answers)
 - Quiz show (use company and United Way facts)
 - Hallway bowling
 - Putt-putt/mini golf
- **SILENT AUCTION** Ask vendors to donate items, ask employees to donate handmade items, solicit gift certificates from local restaurants, etc. Put the items on display online or in a prominent location. At a

designated time, close the bidding. Then let employees know of the highest bid and continue the auction with one hour left to outbid it to win it

- **BINGO** Distribute Bingo cards to employees (pay to play). Every day, email a Bingo number to all participants. The first one to reply with “BINGO” wins. The Bingo game continues until all prizes are distributed.
- **TAILGATE PARTY** Hold a pay-per-plate cookout during lunch. Cook brats, burgers and hot dogs with condiments. Have chips, pretzels, soda and other tailgating items.
- **CHILI/SOUP COOK-OFF** Participants pay to enter their chili into the contest. Choose judges and determine prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. After judging, employees can pay to sample each chili. Remember to supply cheese, sour cream, crackers, TUMS, etc.
- **COMPLIMENT GRAMS** Design notes of thanks or congratulations for co-workers to buy and send to each other.
- **CHANGE BANDIT** A co-worker dresses as a bandit and visits employees to procure spare change.
- **SPARE CHANGE JARS** Place empty jars near vending machines or gathering places. Ask employees to deposit spare change throughout the year for United Way. This can be a competition between departments.
- **WHITE ELEPHANT SALE** Employees donate odd items for the sale. Co-workers have the opportunity to buy items and can pay to display items in someone’s workspace.
- **DONATION DRIVE** Employees donate new or slightly used books, videos, DVDs, board games, puzzles, etc. and hold a sale to benefit United Way.
- **HAUNTED CUBICLE** Offer the opportunity to “lease” an empty office or cubicle space that employee teams can decorate. The final day of the campaign, have employees vote on the best cubicle space by donating to the one they like the most.
- **EXECUTIVE DUNK TANK** Pay per ball for a chance to dunk your boss or pay a higher fee to walk up and press the “dunk” button. Participants pay extra to add a bag of ice to the dunk tank water.
- **EMPLOYEE 5K FUN RUN** Have employees and family members participate in an informal 5k run/walk and charge a fee with all proceeds going to your campaign.