

# **FUNDRAISING IDEAS**

## AND SUCCESSFUL YEAR-ROUND INVOLVEMENT

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**COMBINED  
GIVING  
CAMPAIGN**

A GUIDE TO MAKING YOUR WORKPLACE

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**CAMPAIGN EFFECTIVE**

# THEMES

// spice up your campaign and make it cohesive //

**1970s (or other era):** Dress up in 70s garb. Sell headbands, smiley face pins, tie-dyed shirts, etc.

**Wild West:** Employees dress in Western clothes. Use a cactus as your thermometer.

**Cookie Caper:** Each pledge card is passed out with a cookie and the slogan “help us bring in the dough.”

**Hawaiian Theme:** Each person turning in a pledge card gets a plastic lei. At campaign’s end, hold a potluck where employees wear their leis and dress Hawaiian. Come up with fun events for the potluck, like a limbo contest. Use a palm thermometer.

**Mardi Gras:** Everyone loves a party, so why not model your campaign after the biggest party in the world — Mardi Gras. Invite a jazz band to play at your kickoff event. Hold a parade, float contest, or sell beard-o-grams (beards with thoughtful messages attached.) Host a Cajun potluck.

**Beach Bash:** Decorate the cafeteria or break room with beach balls, etc. Serve hot dogs and fruit kabobs. Tell everyone to wear their favorite “beach wear” and then vote the best one. Award prizes for best outfits.

**Patriotic Theme:** Use an All-American theme complete with apple pie tosses, picnics, and red, white, and blue!



## NEW IDEAS



**I. Pet Match Day:** Employees bring a photo of their pet to the office, and co-workers try to match the animal to their owner.

**II. Dollar an Inch:** Executives participate in an all day competition to end the day with the shortest tie. Don't forget ladies can wear ties, too! Employees cut an inch of their favorite executive's tie every time they make a donation. At the end of the day, award prizes for shortest tie, ugliest tie, etc.

**III. Children's Drawing Contest:** Ask employees' children to draw what "helping others" or "hope" mean to them. Charge \$1 for the rest of the office to vote for the best drawings. Give a little prize to all participants.

## SPREAD THE GOOD VIBES

**Compliment Grams:** Design notes of thanks or congratulations for co-workers to buy and send to each other.

**Balloon Grams:** Sell balloons with notes of recognition inside and deliver to co-workers.

**Thank You Drawing:** Collect a variety of gifts — either donated, purchased, or intangible goods such as vacation days, lunch with the boss, one month front-row parking, etc. To encourage employees to pledge, every contributor to the campaign is entered into the drawing.

**Pledging Participation:** The department, location, division, etc. with the highest percentage of participation will have the pleasure of viewing their supervisor in a funny outfit. If they choose not to wear the costume, they have to buy pizza for the victors.

**Dress Down Day:** Let your co-workers relax by paying a certain amount to wear casual attire to work. Get as casual as possible: jeans, tennis shoes, sports apparel, hats, slippers, etc.

**Flower Sale:** Sell flowers by the stem. Charge for inter office delivery.

**Executive Chef:** Auction off dinner for two or more at the home of an executive (with their permission!)

## THE CLASSICS

**Spare Change Jars:** Place empty jars near vending machines or gathering places. Ask your co-workers to deposit spare change throughout the year for the campaign. This can be made a competition between departments to see who collects the most change in a set time frame.

**Entertainment Drive:** Employees donate new or slightly used books, movies, board games, puzzles, etc., and hold a sale to benefit the campaign.

**Themed Baskets:** Ask individuals or departments to create theme related baskets, and auction off baskets to the highest bidder.

**Lego Guessing Game:** Large glass is filled with Legos and employees pay a fee to guess how many are inside. Prize is awarded to the closest guess.

**Trivia Contest:** Employees pay a fee to answer a daily trivia question and the first one with the correct answer wins.

**Garage/Sidewalk Sale:** Solicit donations of gently used items from co-workers. Promote your sale both internally and to the general public.

**Pick an Egg, any Egg:** Fill plastic eggs with a variety of prizes. Charge a fee for the opportunity to participate and win.

## SPORTS & COMPETITION

**Golf Putt:** Supply a putting green and club. Employees pay per putt for a chance to win prizes.

**Office Olympics:** Fire up the Olympic Torch (or grill) and let the games begin. Have a tricycle or office chair race. Use items around your work location for golfing, shooting baskets, etc. Have spelling contests, typing contests, competitions to develop the most persuasive or most complimentary memo, etc. Devise rules for each race in advance and seek participants, and combine the event with a cookout as an incentive, as well as designing award medals to display in the cubicles of winners.

**Guess the Number:** Fill a clear jar with candy and have employees pay for a chance to guess the number of pieces in the jar. The most accurate guess wins the candy.

**Penny Wars:** Divide the office by department or teams and have a money jar assigned to each. Members of each department deposit pennies, nickles, and dimes into their own jar and place quarters or “green” into the jars of the other departments. Pennies count as positive while quarters and “green” are negative. The department with the highest number (or often the case, the least negative number) wins a lunch provided by the company.

**Sports Day:** Charge employees a fee to wear their favorite sports team’s jersey or t-shirt.

**Bean Bag Toss Tournament:** Charge an entry fee for a single elimination bean bag tournament. Winner receives bragging rights for a year or different prize.

**Wii Olympics:** Organize a series of one-on-one Wii sport challenges among your co-workers.

## EVERYBODY ♥ S FOOD

**Ice Cream Cart:** On a hot day, visit employee cubicles and offices selling popsicles, ice cream sandwiches, and other cold snacks. Donate proceeds to the campaign.

**Potluck:** Post a sign-up sheet for employees to bring entrees, salads, and desserts to ensure a variety of good food. To decorate the room with a theme can be a nice touch. Adjust entry fees for those who bring an item.

**Root Beer Float Sale:** Buy necessary ingredients for employees to make their own root beer floats. Floats made and served by executives can be a fun treat!

**Donut Eating Contest:** Employees raise money for the campaign by sponsoring contenders on a per-donut-eaten basis. The winner is determined by either eating the most donuts in a time frame or the first to finish a set number of donuts.

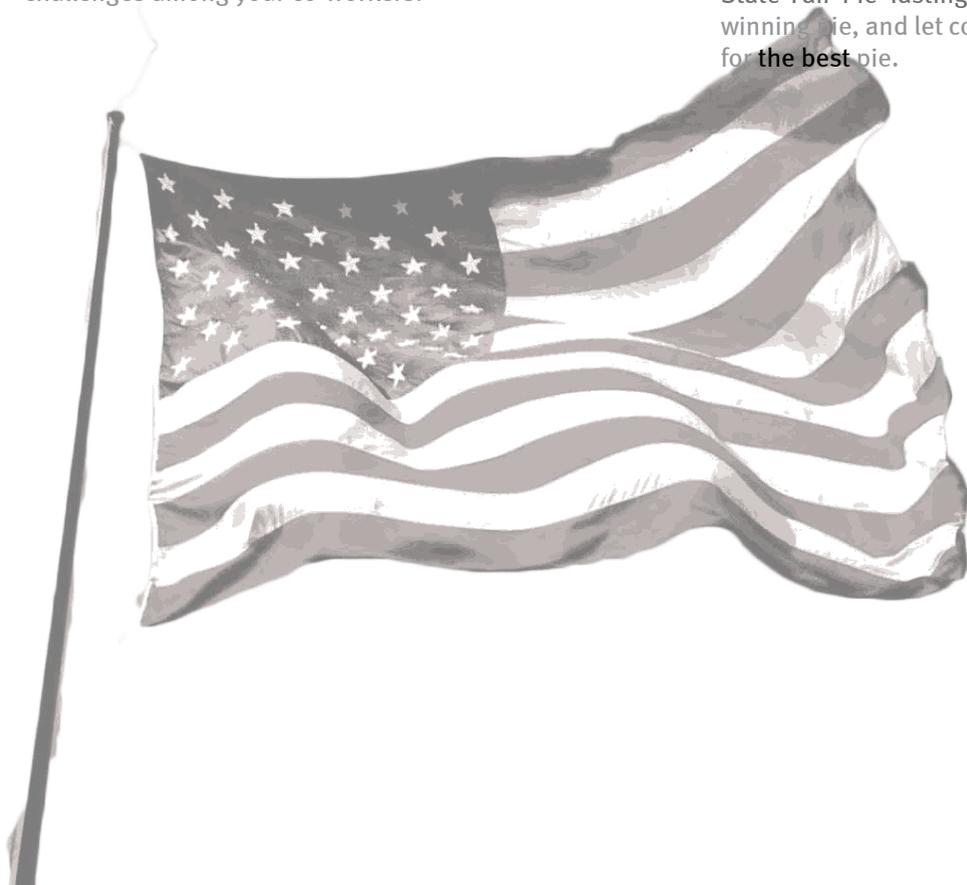
**Soup Line:** Employees sign up to bring their favorite soup or bread. Set up at lunch time, and charge participants fees for a bottomless bowl to try one or all! (Bring your own reusable bowl.)

**Warm Beverages:** To help offset the chilly winter weather, why not host a specialty warm beverage day with flavored hot chocolates and coffees in addition to fun toppings.

**Mashed Potato Bar:** Make mashed potatoes and sell in plastic martini glasses with a variety of toppings.

**Order Up!** Take orders from your co-workers for take out from their favorite restaurant. Pick up the food and charge a delivery fee benefiting the campaign.

**State Fair Pie Tasting:** Invite employees to bake a prize winning pie, and let co-workers pay a fee to taste and vote for the best pie.



# SUCCESSFUL YEAR-ROUND INVOLVEMENT

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Are you having trouble keeping your co-workers engaged throughout the year? Let us help. The next few pages consist of fun tips, month by month, so that your workplace can pull off a long-lasting campaign.

## JANUARY

### Holidays // serious & bizarre

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
Book Blitz Month  
National Mentoring Month  
National Soup Month

### Suggested Activities

- Soup Line: Employees sign up to bring their favorite soup or bread, which is set up at lunch time. Employees are charged a fee for a bottomless bowl to try one or all!
- Plan a Book Drive
- Sign up to participate in a volunteer activity posted on our website.
- Go to an MLK event.

## FEBRUARY

### Holidays // serious & bizarre

President's Day  
National Black History Month  
National Hot Breakfast Month  
Great American Pie Month  
14th: Valentine's Day

### Suggested Activities

- Host a Pancake Breakfast in honor of Hot Breakfast Month and charge a small fee with proceeds going to the campaign.
- Organize Valentine's Day Balloon Grams: Sell balloons with notes of recognition inside and deliver to co-workers.

## MARCH

### Holidays // serious & bizarre

Employee Spirit Month  
National Reading Month  
National Peanut Month  
National Frozen Food Month

### Suggested Activities

- To recognize the infamous National Frozen Food Month, have co-workers bring frozen fruits and berries and arrange for a smoothie-making competition. Charge a fee for employees to taste the smoothies and vote for the best one.

## APRIL

### Holidays // serious & bizarre

Math Awareness Month  
Volunteer Appreciation Week  
Sexual Assault Awareness – Denim Day  
National Humor Month

### Suggested Activities

- Host a Denim Day in awareness of sexual assaults, and charge a fee for co-workers wanting to participate. Combine the day with a speaker from a relevant agency.
- Thank all of the volunteers who help you with the campaign.
- Hold a math supplies drive and donate items to a partner.
- Tutor a student.

## MAY

### Holidays // serious & bizarre

Memorial Day  
National Family Month  
National Barbeque Month

### Suggested Activities

- In honor of National Family Month, have co-workers bring in photographs of their children and/or pets, and let employees pay a fee to enter a competition to match the photos to their owners. The person with the most correct answers wins a prize.
- Organize an office barbeque to celebrate National Barbeque Month with proceeds going to the campaign.

## JUNE

### Holidays // serious & bizarre

National Fruit and Veggies Month  
Stamp Out Hunger  
Candy Month  
World Environment Day  
Waffle Iron Day

### Suggested Activities

- Show appreciation for America's Dairy Land and have employees bring in their favorite cheeses for their co-workers to enjoy for a fee, with proceeds benefitting the campaign.
- Honor the highly important holiday of Waffle Iron Day by making and selling waffles in the office. Throw in an additional relevant holiday of Candy Month by selling candy to go with the waffles.

## JULY

### Holidays // serious & bizarre

Independence Day  
National Ice Cream Month  
National Hot Dog Month  
National Country Music Day (4th)  
National Junk Food Day

### Suggested Activities

- Organize an “America Day” — charge a fee for co-workers to wear jeans and casual wear in red, white, and blue. Play country music in the break rooms or during lunch, while selling hot dogs, anything fried, and ice cream.
- On a hot day, visit employee cubicles selling popsicles.

## AUGUST

### Holidays // serious & bizarre

National Backpack Awareness Month  
Back-to-School Season  
National Picnic Month

### Suggested Activities

- Plan a school supply drive in your office.
- Boost your campaign: put out penny jars around the office common space; next to the vending machines, in the lunch room, etc. It’s time to collect with all forces!

## SEPTEMBER

### Holidays // serious & bizarre

Labor Day  
Season of Caring  
All-American Breakfast Month  
Hispanic Heritage Month

### Suggested Activities

- Hold a breakfast buffet in honor of All-American Breakfast Month and ask co-workers to bring in canned or dry breakfast goods to donate to a food bank.
- Hold an agency fair du educate co-workers on the charities and their invaluable work.
- Participate in a Season of Caring activity.

## OCTOBER

### Holidays // serious & bizarre

Bullying Prevention Month  
Breast Cancer Awareness Month  
Domestic Violence Awareness Month

### Suggested Activities

- Have a bake sale with proceeds going to the campaign.
- Organize “Bring A Pet to Work Day” (see “New Ideas” on page 2.)

## NOVEMBER

### Holidays // serious & bizarre

Veterans Day  
Thanksgiving Day  
Military Family Appreciation Month  
Child Safety Protection Month

### Suggested Activities

- Send letters to active service members.
- Give thanks for all you have.
- Bake for a family in need.

## DECEMBER

### Holidays // serious & bizarre

National Tie Month  
National Brownie Day (8th)

### Suggested Activities

- Hold a Tie Drive (and other clothing) to donate to a men’s shelter for future interviews.
- Coordinate a Giving Tree benefiting a charity or family.
- Have a brownie bake sale.

**HAPPY FUNDRAISING!**