



FINDING THE RIGHT RECIPE FOR YOU

Imagine you're a chef, baking up a great United Way campaign for your workplace. You are looking for the right mix of meaningful engagement ideas that inform and inspire coworkers.

The question is how to best determine the right mix of these ideas. The best recipe depends on your team, your goals, and your palate. From storytellers to program experts, we're here to help!

Below are a few new and tried-and-true ideas we can help you with so you have a recipe for a successful United Way campaign.

GROUP ENGAGEMENT

Prep Time: 20 mins. | **Serves:** 10 - 20 people

What's in it for attendees? An opportunity to connect, learn, and get more involved as community leaders.

STEAM Meet + Greet

Do you have an organization with a lot of "young" professionals? Host a Meet + Greet where employees connect while learning about UWGP's work to increase **Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math** (STEAM) opportunities for under-served children in Greater Portland.

Women United Meet + Greet

Want to engage your talented, dynamic women leaders? Host a Meet + Greet where women in the workplace can connect with one another and learn more about innovative programs that promote the advancement of under-served single mothers and their children in Portland's East Bayside community.

Directions:

1. Contact United Way at info@unitedwaygp.org to let them know the date/time of your event.
2. Invite participants. We can provide you a sample email and flyer to promote your activity.



POP-UP

Prep Time: 20 mins. | Serves: 10 - 40 people

What's in it for attendees? An opportunity to learn and have a little fun.

My Cup. My Causes.

Are you a tall non-fat latte with caramel drizzle, an iced hazelnut with soy, a black coffee, or tea? [With My Cup, My Causes](#) employees get to say who they are with more than their drink. This engaging, interactive activity allows employees to check off causes they care about and share what "fills their cup" over a warm beverage. Employees also learn how their money could make a difference locally. Your causes are our causes too!

Storytelling Pop-Up

Short on time? Invite colleagues to a pop-up meeting to hear a story of impact and learn a few tidbits of information about the topics they care about. What attendees get? In 10-15 minutes, attendees get a better sense of how their money is making a difference locally.

Hands On Pop-Up

Offer a hands on pop-up where attendees dive into specific community issues and participate in a hands-on volunteer activity.

Directions:

1. Contact your United Way Relationship Manager to set up a storytelling or hands-on pop-up meeting (choose your ingredients below).
2. Invite participants. United Way can provide you a sample email and flyer to promote your activity.

Storytelling Pop-Up Topics:

- I don't know. Please suggest!
- Educational Opportunity
 - » Early learning
 - » Healthy development + school readiness
 - » Mentoring
- Mental Health + Addiction
 - » Substance use prevention + treatment services
 - » Suicide prevention
- Homelessness
- Hunger + Poverty
- Economic Opportunity + Stability
 - » Career pathways + employment
 - » Job, credential, and accredited education or training
- Immigrant Integration
- Neglect + Abuse
 - » Domestic violence
 - » Sexual assault
 - » Independent, safe seniors
 - » Adverse Childhood Experiences
- Other _____

Hands On Pop-Up Topics:

- Economic Opportunity + Stability
 - » Includes the "breaking the cycle" exercise to help participants better understand the realities of local people living on the edge of poverty.
 - » Optional: Attendees assemble [snack bags](#) (\$3 - 5/bag). NOTE: Increases ECM prep time to purchase kit materials.
- Educational Opportunity/Literacy
 - » Includes an education/literacy activity to help participants better understand what it looks like to not read at grade level by the end of third grade.
 - » Optional: Host a book collection or employees could assemble [literacy kits](#) (\$7 - \$10/kit) or snack bags (\$3 - 5/bag). NOTE: Increases ECM prep time to purchase kit materials.



MORE ON THE MENU....

FUN INGREDIENTS FOR A SUCCESSFUL WORKPLACE CAMPAIGN

Appetizers

APPRECIATION/COMPLIMENT GAMES

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

CONTESTS! CONTESTS!

Host a window (with window-safe and washable paint), pumpkin, or Halloween office space decorating contest.

DRESS DOWN DAY (AKA JEANS DAY)

Employees pay to not wear “normal” work attire. Contact your Loaned Executive or Relationship Manager for stickers that say “I Dress This Way for United Way” and distribute for participating employees.

GUESS THE BABY/PET PICTURE

Employees bring their baby pictures to work and post the photos a few days prior to the event. Contestants pay to enter the contest and pay to match employees to their baby pictures. The employee with the highest number of correct matches wins a prize.

PENNY WARS

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

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 to see who collects the most change in a certain time frame.

Wii CHALLENGE

You don’t even have to leave the office for this one! Wii bowling, golf, and Mario Kart are a few favorites.

Main Dish

LUNCH BOX AUCTION

Employees create gourmet lunches to be auctioned off to the highest bidder. Give prizes for the most creative, nutritious, elegant, or clever meals.

BAKE SALE

Employees buy employee-donated baked goods and the proceeds benefit United Way. For an extra fee, have it delivered!

BUILD YOUR OWN ICE CREAM SUNDAES

Have a wide variety of sundae toppings (nuts, fruit, cookies, gummy bears, crushed candy bars, whipped cream, cherries, etc.) available for employees to build their own sundaes.

TAILGATE PARTY

Hold a pay-per-plate cookout during lunch with burgers and hot dogs. Have chips, pretzels, soda, and other tailgating items and games.

CHILI 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, chips, crackers, TUMS, etc.!

STONE SOUP

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!)

PEANUTS, GET YOUR PEANUTS!

Decorate a push cart with a sports theme. Stock the cart with individual bags of salted peanuts, chips, hot dogs, soda, and all necessary condiments (ketchup, mustard, relish, onion, etc.). Visit cubicles and sell items. It’s a great way to kick off any sports season. Even pair it with a pool or bracket tournament!

More on back...



United Way
of Greater Portland

Desserts

ART RAFFLE

Raffle off an original art piece donated by or even created by a co-worker.

BOX RAFFLE

Boxes are placed in highly-trafficked areas with the name of a prize on each. Employees buy tickets and put them in the boxes corresponding to the prize they want to win. A winner is drawn from each box.

EXECUTIVE CHEF

Raffle off dinner for two or more at the home of an executive.

TIME OFF

Raffle off a 1/2 day or full day of vacation. Too much, try a "flee at 3" or "sleep in late" coupon.

FOODIE RAFFLE

Raffles for restaurants, for cooking or baking classes, or around-the-world dining (pack of restaurant gift cards of different cuisines).

FRONT ROW PARKING

Raffle front row parking spots for a year or during the winter months. While you are at it, consider adding the option to have the car started and windows scraped every day in January or the car washed by boss or co-worker!

GIFT CARDS

Raffle off gift cards for gas, groceries, restaurants, etc. Get creative and do raffles for a gift card basket full of miscellaneous items. These tend to be very popular.

LUNCH WITH THE CEO

Raffle off lunch with the CEO to a group of individuals - CEO's treat!

PAID PARKING

Raffle off a year's worth of free parking.

PET LOVER RAFFLE

Raffle off treats for furry-friend. Consider also offering dog walking or pet sitting services.

THEMED BASKETS

Have departments create different themed baskets like restaurants, best of Portland, summer grilling, pool party, pets, kids, Halloween, etc. and raffle them off. Give awards for most creative or most bet on!

PROMOTIONAL ITEMS

People love swag! Offer donors promotional items co-brand with United Way, e.g. pet bowls, retractable badge holders, etc.

Contact United Way

Your United Way team is here to help you choose the right ingredients and support your efforts toward a successful workplace giving campaign.



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