



**United Way**  
Central & South  
Okanagan Similkameen  
Change starts here.



## **SUGGESTED UNITED WAY CSO WORKPLACE SPECIAL EVENTS**

### **Balloon Pop**

Employees donate prizes for this event, which is a variation of a traditional raffle. Before filling a balloon with helium, put a note inside with the name of a prize. Employees pay \$2 to buy a balloon and pop it to find out what prize they won.

### **Barbecue**

Advertise well in advance what you will be serving at the barbecue. Have your tickets on sale a week ahead of time so you will have an idea of how many steaks or hamburgers/hotdogs you'll need. You should be able to purchase your meat/buns at a reduced cost based on volume. Visit a wholesale distributor to negotiate a donation of supplies (plastic plates, utensils, etc.). If you are serving a large number of people, have at least 4 to 5 gas barbecues. Encourage senior management to cook. Provide chefs with United Way aprons.

### **Casual Day/Jeans Day**

Sell Casual Day stickers or "I'm Dressed this way for United Way" stickers (available from UWCSO) allowing employees purchasing them to dress casually on certain days (usually Fridays). Employees purchase stickers for \$2 to \$5 each.

### **Employee Raffle**

Ask employees to contribute something special for a raffle prize: homemade pies, lunch with a co-worker, or a weekend stay at a vacation cabin or condo. Those employees who turn in pledge forms early receive three raffle tickets. Employees turning in pledge forms after the "early" date, but before the campaign's final event, receive one raffle ticket.

### **Silent Auction**

Ask each department to pitch in to sponsor a theme basket (golf, chocolates, spa day), and then hold a silent auction to give the baskets away. Or hold a silent auction for talents and services donated by employees: car detailer, golf lessons, personal training, etc.

### **Win the CEO/President's Parking Spot**

Raffle the use of his/her parking spot for a week.

## **Bake Sale**

Arrange for employees to donate baked goods. Advertise well in advance with posters, memos and bulletins. Have volunteer employees available to help set up, serve and clean up afterwards.

## **Bake Auction**

Arrange for donated baked goods to be auctioned off at a lunch hour. Auctioneers to dress up and MC the event. Advertise well in advance with posters, memos and bulletins. Have volunteer employees available to help set up, collect successful bids and clean up afterwards.

## **Pancake Breakfast**

Create awareness of the breakfast in the community by distributing flyers to the neighbouring houses and let the media know. Employees are asked to sell breakfast tickets to family members. Negotiate with your cafeteria or a wholesale distributor for a donation of supplies or a discount. Advertise well in advance in the community, especially if there is a school or other workplaces nearby, with posters, flyers and letters. Approach the CEO and senior management to serve breakfast.

## **Chili Lunch Cook Off**

Invite employees to bring in a batch of their best chili. Then have coworkers judge each chili based on taste, texture and fire value. Then offer dishes of chili for a price to all employees for lunch. The Cook Off Champ is the recipe that sells the most bowls. Give packs of Roloids or Tums to all employees at the end of the event.

## **Coffee Cart**

Arrange for volunteers to bring a coffee and snack cart throughout the office one day. You should advertise in advance. Solicit donations of coffee and snacks from suppliers or ask co-workers to contribute baked goods. If you do have to purchase items, make sure you sell them at a profit. While selling coffee and snacks, distribute UWCSO campaign information.

## **Miniature Golf**

Build a nine-hole course featuring ramps, water and sand around the office. The lowest score will take home a tacky golfing sport coat. Interested twosomes return an entry form, bring a putter the day of the event, and pay an appropriate entry fee.

## **Ticket Giveaway/Gift Certificates**

Give free tickets to movies, theatre productions, amusement centres and other local attractions for pledge incentives. Give movie passes to every employee who meets the challenge of pledging a certain dollar amount. Enter the names of all employees who turn in a signed pledge form during the first hour following the kickoff into a special drawing.

## **Executive Fantasy Auction**

Executives at your organization create "fantasy" packages, which employees can bid on at a special auction: cooking the winning bidder a special dish, singing at a wedding, party or special event, mowing the winner's lawn, changing the winner's car oil, baby-sitting the winner's children, washing the winner's car, washing the winner's windows, etc.

## **Best Shoes Contest**

Line up senior management and/or other employees for some unique mug shots – shoes only. Hold a contest before your campaign kicks off to see if employees can figure out who's who, then have them vote for the "Best Shoes" at the company kickoff.

## **Scavenger Hunt**

Adaptation of another familiar game. This is always fun. Ask participants to look for items beginning with the letters U-N-I- T -E-D W-A-Y. Provide prizes.

## **'Canadian Idol' Contest**

Employees can conduct an Idol/contest, based on the hit TV show American Idol. Employees make a donation to vote for the management-singing group of their choice. The duo or group that attracts the most will sing a song of their choice in front of an audience.

## **Book, Music and Video Sale**

Have employees donate old books, CDs and videos for a company or department-wide sale, with proceeds earmarked for UWCSO.

## **Comedy Hour**

Ask a local comedian or improv group to donate their services over the lunch hour. Have employees buy tickets to attend.

## **Sock Hop**

Invite employees to kickoff "50s Style." Give prizes for most authentic dress.

**Give. Volunteer. Act.**  
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## **Baby/Pet Picture Match Game**

Invite employees to try their luck at matching baby or pet pictures to pictures of employees. Charge employees to vote and award a fun prize to the entrant with the most right answers.

## **A Dollar an Inch Contest**

Executives participate in an all-day competition to end the day with the shortest tie. Employees cut an inch off their favourite executive's tie each time they give to the community. Give prizes for the shortest tie, the ugliest tie, etc.

## **Ugly Tie or Ugly Earring Contest**

Contestants pay \$5 to enter the most awful earrings or ugly ties they own (or can make or borrow). Have a parade of all the contestants, offering a last chance to vote at the end of the day. Circulate the names of the entrants the day before the event so employees can anticipate the voting. Bring a Polaroid/digital camera and charge for photos taken of employees with their favourite contestants.

## **Volunteer Day**

Employees who give at or above a certain level are rewarded with eight hours they can use volunteering in the community any way they wish.

## **Vacation Day**

Employees "buy" a vacation day. When an employee chooses to participate, their wages from a day's work are deducted from their paycheque. The organization may choose to match the amount deducted, with all proceeds donated to the community. Win-win situation: the organization achieves high participation, the employees get a vacation day, and the community is helped.

## **International Food Day**

Employees team together to create tasty treats from around the world. Employees decorate their own booths and dress in costumes. Hold the event over the lunch hour, allowing employees to purchase tickets redeemable for food at the booths. A panel of "celebrity" judges awards prizes.

## **Lunch Auction**

Different departments donate lunches to auction every day for a week. Use your organization's intercom system, or other employee communication system, to tempt your co-workers.