

## Ideas to Thank and Appreciate Employees

Use these creative ideas to thank employees for participation in the United Way campaign through their donations, committee work or volunteering in other ways.

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**CEO or Top Leadership Involvement-** CEO participation is a huge factor in achieving a successful campaign. If your top executive is on board and ready for some fun, employees will love it.

- Try these as incentives for meeting your goal: CEO performs someone else's job, washes an employee's car, kisses a pig, shaves his/her head, takes a pie in the face, etc.
- If they have a vacation home, ask them to offer it up for a weekend as a special prize.

### United Way/Corporate Merchandise

- Give United Way or company T-shirts, pens, or note pads.
- Sponsor an employee contest to design unique campaign images, slogans or logos.
- If your budget permits, concert or sporting event tickets are great incentives.

### Thank You Breakfast/Lunch

- Have your management serve breakfast or prepare lunch for employees who have made a contribution.
- Host an appreciation breakfast or luncheon at a local restaurant.
- Schedule an after-hours wine and cheese party for employees and their spouses/special guest.

### Scooping Up Success

- Ice-cream parties are always fun. Have your management team scoop up sundaes and personally thank each employee. Provide yogurt and fruit for employees on special diets. They'll appreciate your extra consideration and concern.

### Giving is "Sweet"

- Attach a small box of Raisins to the following note: "THANK YOU for helping us with "Raisin" \$\$\$\$."
- Attach an Almond Joy candy bar to the following note: "Thank You for supporting our community and helping to put "Joy" in people's lives."
- Attach a pack of gum to a note: "Thank You for "chewzing" United Way. Your support is helping to improve lives 365 days a year. Together, united, we can inspire hope and create opportunities for a better tomorrow."
- Attach a Lifesaver to a note: "Your gift to United Way will be a "Lifesaver" to thousands of families in our community."

## **Balloons and Flowers**

- On the last day of the campaign, surprise and thank donors with a balloon, flower or other small gift at their desk.

## **Time Off**

- There are multiple approaches to this popular incentive: Sleep-in-late awards, call-in "well" days, early-dismissal Fridays or bonus vacation days.
- Consider pairing time off with hotel or airline vouchers (don't forget the company's frequent flyer miles).
- Offer a week of extended lunch breaks or a single two-hour lunch break.

## **Incentives on a budget**

- Contact vendors your organization does business with and ask for a donation
- Auction prime parking spaces
- Convenient parking is a major incentive for many employees. Offer prime parking spaces or your top leader's spot for a week.
- Gift certificates donated by local merchants
- Use of a co-workers cabin
- Contests where employee's pay to play, ½ of the entry to the winning employee, and the other ½ to the United Way
- Company hats, jackets or t-shirts
- Car started and windows scraped every day for a week
- Equipment your company no longer needs, but is still in good working order.
- Use UWFC casual day stickers as an incentive for casual days, blue jean days or casual Fridays
- Traveling trophy for department with highest participation or percentage increase