



**United Way  
of Taylor County**

## Great Ideas for Special Events

**Root Beer Float Sale:** This is a welcomed activity for those hot summer afternoons in July and August.

**Balloon Launch:** Sell balloons filled with helium. The employee puts his/her name on a card that contains company name and address, a short message asking finder to return card by a specified date and that the balloon was launched as part of your company's United Way campaign. All balloons are launched at the same time. Person whose card is returned from the greatest distance receives a prize.

**Radio-Controlled Car Race:** Set up a pre-determined course. Use timers to see who can run the course in the shortest time. Charge per attempt. Offer prize to person with shortest time to navigate course. Good Neighbor BBQ Join with other companies near your business to have a cook out with games and giveaways. Have a speaker present or invite families from area agencies to partake in festivities.

**Latte Stand and Giving Example:** 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. Ask if they can donate that same amount (or more) each week to United Way.

**Bake Sale/Cookie Exchange:** Ask employees to bake their favorite cookies or other goodies. Sell plates of the treats to employees. Charge an additional fee for the recipe. A variation of this theme is to sell books on golf, gardening, etc. Request employees' children provide illustrations.

**Employee Cookbook:** Encourage employees to donate their favorite recipes to be collected, published and sold in a company cookbook. A variation of this theme is to sell books on golf, gardening, etc. Request employees' children provide illustrations.

**Candy Grams:** Sell candy with your company or United Way's logo on it. All proceeds go to the United Way. Eating Contest Who can eat the most in a given amount of time (hot dogs, pie, crackers, pickles, etc.)

**Chili Cook-Off:** Employees cook their favorite chili. Organize a panel of "expert" judges to decide on the best recipe. Charge employees to sample and eat lunch or even have the employees vote. Potluck Payoff Organize a potluck lunch and have everyone bring a favorite dish. Charge employees to have lunch. Or better yet, ask for a donation. Many companies find they raise more in donations than by setting a price.

**Dress Down Day:** Sell employees the right to dress casually or silly for a day. Variations include: “Silly Hat Day”, “Sport Team Day” or “Ugly Shoe Day”. Football Toss Measure for distance and accuracy with prizes for top Guy and top Gal. Charge per attempt.

**Coin War:** Set up large empty water bottles for each department in a central location. Employees drop their spare change into the bottle. Coins are positive while paper money is negative. The group with the highest point value wins. All cash collected is donated to United Way.

**Bowl-A-Thon:** Organize a bowling contest at a local bowling alley or set up makeshift lanes at the office. Participants pay an entry fee. Give the winning team a prize.

**Office Miniature Golf:** Provide putters and build a nine-hole course featuring slinkies, staplers, chairs and other creative obstacles. Participants sign up in teams of two, with or without a registration fee.

**Kids Coloring Contest:** A colorful way to get everyone’s children involved is to have children color a United Way logo or have them make a picture that shows giving or sharing. These pieces of art are great to use on thank you cards, t-shirts or bookmarks. Sponsor a contest and give a prize to the top three artists.

**Packer Day:** Sell stickers that allow employees to wear Packer attire during the season.

**Ugliest Apparel Contest:** Contestants pay to enter the ugliest tie, earrings, socks, or Christmas sweater contest. Take pictures of the participants and have employees ‘vote’ on the ugliest apparel by contributing a dollar.

**Scavenger Hunt:** Employees pay an entrance fee to hunt for hidden items around the office or neighborhood. Give employees a time limit. Award the winning team a prize. Add themes by having **employees dress as detectives or hunt for themed items.**

**Balloon Pop:** Employees or vendors donate prizes for this event– a variation of a traditional raffle. Before filling a balloon with helium, put a note inside with the name of a prize or a United Way Quick Fact, as a consolation prize. Employees buy a balloon and pop it to find out what prize they’ve won.