



## Utilize these fun events to engage your employees and to raise fundraiser money for your United Arts Fund Campaign!

### FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD!

**Chili Cook-Off Contest** -- employees cook their favorite chili recipe and enter it into a cook-off contest. This activity can also add “spice” to a Community Fair. A panel of chili experts selects the official Chili Champion. Talk to a local hotel representative about donating a weekend stay at their hotel for the winner.

**Dough Exchange** -- "We'll give you our dough if you give us yours." Give each person who makes a pledge to United Arts Fund a fresh-baked cookie.

**Gimme A Break** -- Kick-off your campaign with an after-school snack break – who doesn't love milk and cookies?

**Golden Ticket** -- have some fun with Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory. Excite those “sweet teeth” by selling chocolate bars during your campaign. Include golden tickets in a few of the candy bars and have a special prize for the winners, like a gift certificate to a candy store!

**Nacho Party** -- plan an afternoon to sell nachos or popcorn to interested employees in your break room. Employees pay \$2 for each serving with all proceeds going to the cultural community.

**Say it with Food** -- distribute Act II popcorn or other items to anyone who contributes.

**Start the day off right** -- kick off your campaign with a staff breakfast. Food has proven to be the most successful way to gather employees together. At your breakfast invite a speaker to come educate your group about United Arts Fund.

**Theme Luncheon** -- kick off your campaign with arts-themed offerings in the company cafeteria – Tenor-ized Steak Au Pavarotti, TuTu Potatoes (twice-baked potatoes), and Lettuce Entertain You (salad).

**United Arts Buffet** -- recruit a group of volunteer bakers and fill a table full of baked desserts. Place a sign above the table saying “United Arts Fund Buffet – All you can eat for a donation.”

**Yogurt Idea** -- Place yogurt on employees' desks, encouraging them to "Get a Little Culture."

## **GAMES**

**A Dollar An Inch Contest** -- executives participate in an all-day competition to end the day with the shortest tie. Employees pay \$1 each time they want to cut an inch off their favorite executive's tie. At the end of the day the executive with the shortest tie wins a pizza party for their employees.

**Baby Match** -- Collect pictures of your fellow employees as babies or small children and post them in a main employee area. Employee can buy guesses for \$1 with a prize going to winner who guesses the most right.

**Balloon Pop** -- employees 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. Employees pay \$1 to buy a balloon and pop it to find out what prize they've won.

**Bingo** -- have bingo cards for employees to purchase and then hold a bingo match during lunch or a break. Get a local store to donate prizes for all winners

**Employee Guessing Events** -- employees guess the organization's grand total or the per capita gift of the organization or the amount of candy or other items in a jar.

**Spelling Bee** -- hold a spelling bee; charge a \$5 entry fee. Gallery observers place \$1 bets on their favorite participant. Present the winner with a special "Spelling Bee" Award.

**Pet Match** -- Same as baby match, but use pictures of your pets.

**Trivia** -- Have a United Arts Fund trivia contest with questions about Minnesota history and the arts. (We can help you with this!)

## **THEMES**

**"Jail" Executives, Managers or Co-workers** -- have executives "jailed" for one hour during the day. Each executive has to solicit donations to get out of jail.

**Fitness Theme** -- "Shaping up with United Arts Fund" – give blue ribbons to donors; "Walk-a-thon" or "Go the Distance for United Arts Fund" – walk around the building or set a course. "Entrance fee" proceeds go to United Arts Fund.

**Valentine's Day** -- use the slogan "A Gift from the Heart" and give away candy grams or flowers for pledges at certain levels; offer free candy to employees who complete their pledge cards on Valentine's Day, etc.

## **USE WHAT YOU'VE GOT!**

**Auction** -- hold an auction with prizes collected from your company's employees, vendors or area shops and restaurants, and your United Arts Fund representative may be able to supply some free tickets. Assign bidding numbers to everyone bidding. Highest bidder gets the prize. Provide refreshments and all proceeds go to United Arts Fund.

**Casual Day** -- sell Casual Day Badges that allows employees to dress casually on certain days. Employees purchase badges for \$5 each. The badges carry an expiration date, depending on the amount donated. Designate certain casual days as "Crazy Days" and encourage your employees to show their wild side: Also works well with the following days:

Monday – College Sweatshirt Day

Tuesday – Crazy Hat Day

Wednesday – Outrageous Socks Day

Thursday – Sports Team Day

Friday – Jeans Day

**CEO Ideas** -- CEO wears a chef hat and serves lunch one day in the cafeteria, or gives away his/her parking spot for a day to a week. Alternatively, lunch with the CEO could be given away as a raffle prize. CEO Car Wash -- employees donate \$5 to have their car washed at high noon by their "boss" in business clothing. Charge extra for special services like cleaning the interior or polishing the rims. Charge for photos of the employees with the boss washing their cars.

**Employer Matching** -- ask your employer to match employee gifts. Several campaign sites do this with great results!

**Preferred Parking Spot** -- designate a preferred parking spot and hold a drawing for anyone who contributes to see who gets to use it for a month. 12 people win.

**Vacation Days** -- many coordinators say this event easily guarantees almost 100% participation. Employees "buy" a vacation day. When an employee chooses to participate, their wages for a day's work are deducted from their paycheck. The organization may choose to match the amount deducted, with all proceeds going to United Arts. Everyone wins! The organization achieves high participation and the employees get a vacation day all while helping the cultural community.

## **EVENTS**

**Book/ DVD/CD Sale** -- Employees donate their old books and DVD's for an employee book sale. Sell paperbacks for \$1, hardbacks for \$2, CD's and DVD's for up to \$5.

**Casino Night** -- What are the ingredients for a successful Casino Night? A few blackjack tables, a bingo game, a beanbag toss, a bushel of sandwiches and sodas. Invite employees and their families. Have local businesses donate prizes and items for winners.

**CEO Sing-A-Long** -- have a sing-along to kick off your campaign – ask your CEO or another office celebrity to kick it off with a solo! Better yet, take contributions for a solo from your CEO or other employees.

**Children's Drawing Contest** -- Give employees "official photographs" of one or two top executives to take home for their children to draw. There is a \$5 entry fee per child. Employees vote for the best drawing by paying \$1 per vote. Give prizes to all participants (get local restaurant to donate a certificate for a free lunch.) Display winning portraits as a part of the organization's permanent art collection. A variation of this event: Employees submit photography, drawings, paintings, poetry, or collages depicting art, history, heritage and/or science.

**Employee Cultural & Talent Show** -- The hidden talents of your employees might amaze you. Encourage them to share their art work with an employee exhibit, entertain the staff at lunch with a solo performance or band jam, or even share poems or writings via email. A pledge card will serve as the ticket to view the show.

**Proud Parents** -- Every proud parent wants to display the talents of his or her child! Hold an art contest for employee children – decorate your offices with the entries and give everyone a small prize.

**Trip For Donors** -- Organize a local trip to one of the United Arts Fund grantees and offer free admission for anyone who donates. This allows everyone to experience first-hand how their donation impacts the cultural community.