

Partners in Giving Special Events

The goal for a special event is to encourage participation, promote enthusiasm and generate interest in the campaign. The following suggestions have been used successfully during past campaigns. Start early to plan new initiatives or set new themes. Take advantage of office communications to publicize your special events.

Weekly Reminders: Keep all eyes on the goal! Stay focused by sending weekly reminders of the purpose of Partners in Giving, what the goal is, where you are at in meeting that challenge, and a "success story" of a participating charity making a difference in someone's life.

Non-Food Events

Penny Push: Divide up your workplace (if it isn't already) into divisions or groupings. Place a large jar (like the ones that pickles or cheese puffs come in from Costco) in each area. Place a sign on the jars indicating that you are having a penny push. That is, you're collecting pennies for Partners in Giving. Individuals in that division or group can put pennies into the jar. The division with the most pennies wins. However, if you want to sabotage another division's chances to win, you put in silver change (nickels, dimes, and quarters). These coins cancel out the pennies. Generally the penny push is run for the duration of the campaign.

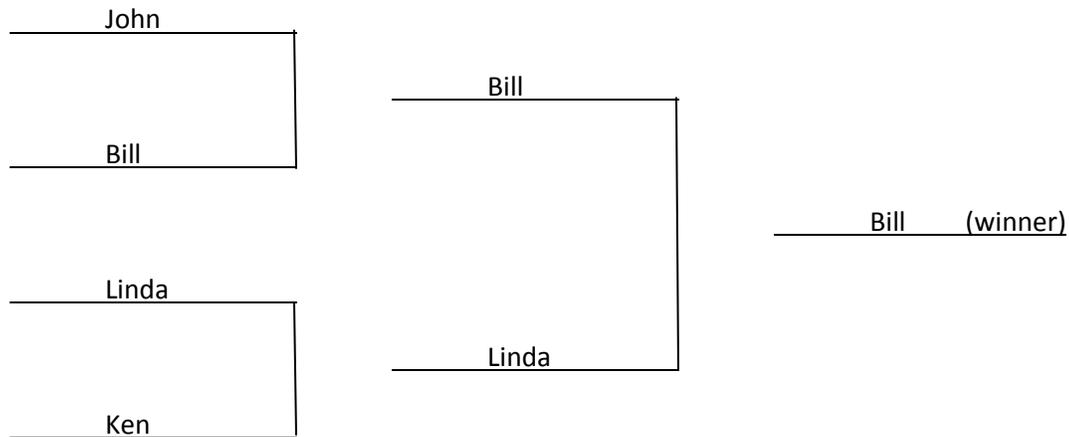
The money is not calculated until the last day. A volunteer adds up the amount of pennies vs. the amount of silver change. The one with the highest amount in PENNIES is the winner.

Drawings: Begin now to collect small prizes from the businesses in your area (examples: coupons for lunch, mini-golf, tanning sessions). Schedule weekly drawings of returned pledge forms. The earlier the pledge form is returned the more chances there will be to win prizes. Remember: there is no requirement to make a contribution to participate.

Wii Bowling: Teams of 2 sign up to play each other in three games of bowling. The winner moves on. The loser is done. **Note: Number of teams must be even.* Winners are bracketed down to a final game. Winner gets a prize. Teammates are charged \$5.00 each to play. \$5.00 is all you pay as long as you're winning.

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This took about 20 minutes for a team and the teams signed up for timeslots so that the games were spaced out.



Euchre Tournament: Hey it's Wisconsin! Who doesn't play euchre? Run this the same way that you run the Wii bowling. Can hold at lunchtime or after work.

Basket Auction: Make up themed baskets to sell in an auction. Items are donated by individuals, teams, divisions or departments. Ask how much each donation is worth so that you have a value of the basket once it's completed.

**Note: Try to keep the value of the basket under \$100 unless it's a sporting basket. Sometimes the baskets do not sell for their full value unless they are Packers, Badgers or Brewers baskets; although it depends on the group buying.*

We had one mom that had a bunch of kids toys that she wanted to sell. So she made a basket out of two or three wood puzzles. It sold for \$5.00. And one basket had one baby outfit and a toy. The baskets don't have to be big. Sometimes the smaller ones sell the best. Items must be new or very gently used. See the attached document for more ideas.

Who is that?: Workers bring in one photo of themselves when they were young (any age) and the pictures are posted onto a board with a number. For \$5.00 you get a list of names of the individuals in the pictures and you choose which numbered picture they are. You can only buy one guessing sheet. Person with the most right answers wins a prize. Lots of laughs!!

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Pumpkin Carving/Painting Contest: \$5.00 entry to put carved or painted pumpkin into a contest for the best one. Open the voting to all employees (box with slips of paper). Winner gets a prize.

Booksale: This one takes some work. At the beginning of the campaign (or sooner), begin collecting books, DVDs, CDs, tapes, and magazines. Have some people who can categorize the books (history, food, fiction, science, etc). If you have space, begin setting up the books, music, and movies by category. The booksale should run 2 days. Have volunteers or campaign coordinators collect the money in shifts of 2 hours so that no one has to sit all day. Open the sale from 10-2 each day. Price items as you wish; however, lower is better. Best book sale we had was \$1.00 for a book, \$1.00 for a CD, \$2.00 for a DVD, 50 cents for magazines and tapes. Any leftover items can be donated. This is a GREAT annual event that readers look forward to. They buy books, bring them back the next year and get more books. It's inexpensive and the books continue to circulate.

Tupperware Sale: Tupperware offers fundraiser brochures. Connect with a dealer and circulate the brochures for orders. A portion of the money goes to the campaign. Sometimes you can do this online as well.

Bucks for Bucks: We had someone donate two tickets to a Milwaukee Bucks game. So we brought in a child's basketball hoop and for \$1.00 you could try to make a basket. Each basket you made gave you a slip with your name to put into a drawing for the tickets.

Can Recycling: Ask co-workers to collect cans to donate toward the campaign or collect cans at your workplace.

What are you known for?: Some people are just fantastic at photography, carpentry, baking, sewing, and other things. Why not donate that talent? Offer up what you're best at, have someone buy it, and donate the money, or even a portion of the money.

Boxing Match: Have a contest between teams to fold state record center boxes under timed competition in the boxing ring. Each team has a boxer and a manager. The winner is the team that folds the most complete boxes within the

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time limit. Teams compete head-to-head, with winners advancing to the next round in a double elimination tournament. Competitions will be held in the lightweight, middleweight and heavyweight categories based on how much money the teams raise for the Partners in Giving campaign, with a champion determined in each category. Boxing attire is welcome. Jock jam CD sets the tone.

Golf Outing: Set a Challenge. Have a prize for all who participate. Try a One-Club Golf Outing with a Beat the Director Challenge. Each player contributes \$5 to get in on the action. The Director gets one shot for each four-some. Each player pays \$5 to get in on the challenge to beat the director's one shot. Build camaraderie, have fun and benefit the campaign while you improve your golf score.

Tug of War/Blanket Volleyball: Competition between divisions or departments is always good for morale – and even better when it benefits Partners in Giving. The Department of Regulation and Licensing staff challenged the Department of Financial Institutions staff to a tug of war on the lawn of the Capitol. Department of Transportation employees played blanket volleyball during noon hours. The campaign benefits from the fees paid to participate. Everyone that participates has a ball and that's what makes the campaign fun.

Turn The Radio On! Your favorite radio station may be willing to contribute pizza, flowers and beverages to help you promote your campaign! Get the word out! Let listeners in Dane County know that state, university and UWHC employees are involved in the Partners in Giving campaign. In past years, WOLX (94.9 FM) and WMMM (105.5 FM) participated by donating their weekly pizza luncheons to silent auctions.

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Food-Related Events

Pumpkin Baking Contest: Create your best pumpkin dessert. Have a panel of judges (3) decide the winner in each category (bars, pies, cookies, etc.) Leftovers are sold for \$1.00 each.

Caramel Apple Sale: This was such a big hit that the entire sale only lasted a few hours with 100 apples. Buy large (4 inch round) apples. Coat them with caramel and then roll them in M&Ms or peanuts or Heath bits or any other topping of your choice. Sell for \$5.00 each.

Salad Bar: The concept of the salad bar is to serve *one* plate of salad and a dessert for \$5.00 to anyone looking to buy lunch. For the first year, you may want to advertise the salad bar lunch and poll people to find out how many want to attend. Otherwise you could have too little or too much.

Then have a sign-up sheet and get volunteers to bring in one salad bar item each (lettuce, mushrooms, tomatoes, eggs, cheese, croutons, broccoli, cauliflower, etc.) desserts, plates, forks, or napkins. The individuals that donate items get to eat for \$4.00.

Chili Lunch: Have volunteers bring in a minimum of one crockpot of chili. Variety is the best – regular, spicy, vegetarian, vegan – and have other volunteers bring in toppings such as chopped onions, cheese, croutons, and oyster crackers. Lastly have volunteers bring in desserts. Charge \$5.00 per bowl for chili, toppings and a dessert. Sell any extra items for any price you can get (\$2.00 for another bowl of chili, \$1.00 for a dessert).

Chili Dog Lunch: Get a sponsor to furnish hot dogs, buns, chili, and condiments, along with chips and cookies. Offer a free chili dog or hotdog to anyone that has turned in their pledge form. For those that haven't, charge \$5.00 per dog, chips, and a cookie.

Breakfast Treats and Bake Sale: Create an oasis in your division and start everyone's day off right with breakfast items and beverages and raise awareness

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and dollars for Partners in Giving. Pies, cakes quiches, bars, cream puffs, cookies, breads, and muffins, fruit – and don't forget the juice!

Walking Tacos: It's a portable taco bar! Set up taco fixings in a self-serve fashion. Give each person a small bag of corn chips to crunch up, and then fill the bag with taco fixings. You have an instant, portable taco salad. Perfect for employees on the go who don't have time for a traditional pot luck luncheon.

Ethnic Potluck: We all know that our workplaces are full of diversity, so celebrate it with an ethnic potluck. What's more interesting than a potluck featuring anything from Norwegian to East African cuisine? Have the people in your workplace donate items to the potluck that reflect their heritage and ethnicity. Each person could also provide a brief description of the history of the dish too for a fun, educational addition to the lunch. You will be amazed at how good the food is and how much you will learn about your coworkers.

One Potato/Two Potato: Who doesn't like a hot baked potato for lunch? Toppings include cheese, salsa, broccoli, sour cream, butter, nacho cheese, chili, and bacon bits. Round out this event with a cookie and soda and ask for a \$5 donation for Partners in Giving.

Super Sundae or Brownie a la mode Ice Cream Social: Who doesn't like ice cream and the chance to be creative? Make your own sundaes are always a hit on warm fall days. Ice cream and toppings (donated by the agency, department, division or bureau) can be sold for a nominal price. This recipe will result in a tremendously successful event that is good for employee morale and will benefit Partners in Giving.

If you plan to schedule a special event that requires attendance by representatives from more than one umbrella group, please contact Kristi Heming, Special Events Co-Chair, by phone (262-6815) or by email (heming@chem.wisc.edu) to avoid overbooking representatives for special events.