

Incentives for Donors

* Parking spot up close at work
* Afternoon off from work
* Lunch with the boss
* Casual Day
* Recycled/revolving award or certificate
* Weekend hotel accommodations
* Restaurant certificates
* Movie/game/play tickets
* Sweatshirt recognizing employee as donor (allowed to wear to work)
* Music lessons (piano, voice, guitar, etc.)
* Day off with pay
* Share of stock
* Extended lunches and/or breaks
* Extra breaks
* Free babysitting
* Snooze day (allowed to come in late)
* Vacation day on birthday
* Golf with the boss
* Open soda machine in break room if company reaches group goal
* Home baked cookies each month
* Plant or flowers every month
* Surprise envelope (great auction item)
* Corporate frequent flyer certificates
* Help with yard work (if you have yard maintenance workers, send to employee’s house)
* Use of pool – hold party with friends) food and beverages provided)
* Limo ride with a restaurant certificate
* Paid day off to volunteer at a United Way agency
* Professional massage
* YMCA membership for a year
* Lottery tickets
* Oil change
* Haircut/manicure/facial/pedicure



* Autographed memorabilia
* Dog washed by boss or co-worker
* Car washed by boss or co-worker
* Homemade afghan, quilt, etc.
* Framed artwork for office or work area
* Have a secretary for a day
* Leave 1 hour early/come in 1 hour late
* Office redecorated or cleaned
* Shopping spree in company store
* Switch jobs with the boss for a day
* Casino trip and mad $$
* Pizza party for you and 10 friends
* Coffee and doughnuts if group goal is met
* Visit from Santa to your home
* Visit from Easter Bunny to your home
* Round of Golf
* Gas and car wash certificates
* If you have fleet maintenance, have them do car maintenance
* Give a new item each year as a give away for fair share givers
* Bring in a comedian, magician or a musician to perform during the day



Low-Cost (and Free) Ways

To Motivate & Reward Employees

* Write personal thank-you notes
* Volunteer to do someone else’s undesirable tasks
* Have the CEO or company president visit with employees
* Catch people doing something well and give them an instant thank-you note
* Let employees put their names on products they made
* Name a rotating award after an outstanding employee
* Let people chose office artwork and furnishings
* Pass out Lifesavers when employees do something helpful
* Send flowers or a plant during Secretaries Week
* Create a unique, catchy award that is an honor to receive
* Create a Wall of Fame to display pictures of outstanding employees
* Take an employee to lunch
* Have a staff pizza party or food day
* Read customers thank-you letters aloud to the entire team and post thank-you’s in a visible place
* Start a staff development library
* Sponsor retreats
* Pay for off-site training of the employees choosing
* Schedule uninterrupted time to listen to employee’s thoughts and concerns
* Award a dinner for two for behavior above and beyond the call of duty
* Name a space or event after an employee
* Have all managers walk around with lunch coupons to distribute spontaneously
* Bring in a food truck
* Designate a parking spot for the Employee of the Month
* Provide a free membership or passes to a fitness club
* Get a group discount for your employees to join a fitness club
* Give someone a gift certificate for a manicure
* Buy doughnuts or bagels for your staff
* Have a picnic on company time



* Pass out recognition cards which can be accumulated and redeemed for special gifts
* Have senior managers and executives serve employees breakfast or lunch
* Give away tickets to sporting events or concerts
* Sponsor a poetry-writing or art contest and display winning contributions
* Praise people in public or in company correspondence
* Do the job of front-line employees
* Give a deserving person a new job title
* Give someone a larger office, better tools, better location, etc.
* Put flowers and a welcome card signed by everyone on the desk of a new employee
* Have the CEO or senior executives write a personal note of thanks
* Offer free popcorn every Friday
* Give employees time off to volunteer for their favorite cause
* Surprise everyone with make your own ice-cream sundaes
* Give away movie passes
* Match an employee’s donation to a charity or educational institution
* Buy your team a round of golf & let them leave early to play
* Randomly select employees to visit with the company’s president every month
* List the achievements of employee’s children in your company correspondence
* Take a coffee break with your employees
* Create a “Where’s Waldo” puzzle with the CEO’s picture. First person to find it gets a prize
* Offer extended leave without pay
* Let the employees create a paid holiday
* Offer flex scheduling
* Hire someone to come to the office and wash the cars
* Arrange for a dry-cleaning service to visit your office weekly
* Host product knowledge contest and reward the winners
* At company meetings, have some of the employees share their ideas or words of wisdom
* Host product knowledge contest and reward the winners
* Initiate profit-sharing programs



* Take employees out to lunch on their work anniversary
* Have lunch catered from a favorite restaurant
* Feature employees and/or their family in company brochures, videos and commercials
* Sponsor a Laugh Day contest, rewarding the funniest employees with humorous gifts
* Allow high-performing employees to work from home
* When employees travel or work mandatory overtime, send flowers or gift certificates to employee’s families
* Tape gift certificates to chairs at employee meetings
* Have employees and customers fill out a brief survey anytime they observe excellent customer service and hold a drawing at the end of the month
* Ask employees what tasks they like most and give them the opportunity to do those tasks
* Post employee baby pictures and sponsor a contest to guess who’s who
* Bring in a yoga instructor once a week
* Have fresh fruit and yogurt in break room
* Close your office for the employees to volunteer together
* Give out gift cards to employees to pass out to those in need
* Have the cutest pet contest
* Have a hot chocolate or coffee bar set up on cold days
* Have casual days
* Have an employee talent show
* Leave candy or balloons on an employee’s desk while they are on a break
* Organize a company volleyball, tennis, softball or bowling team
* Feature funny anecdotes or employee profiles in company correspondence
* Have a family picnic/game day for the employees
* Let employees and their family ride in a parade on company float
* Have bicycles for employees to ride on their lunch break
* Have a 60’s Day or Weird Hat Day, awarding prized for the best outfit
* Create opportunities to showcase your employee’s strengths
* Smile and say “hello” to everyone every day
* Hire a financial consultant to meet with employees individually





Campaign Ideas

* Agency tours: Have regularly scheduled staff meetings at an agency
* Share employee testimonials at UW meetings, in mass emails, or broadcast voicemail
* United Way fact-of the-day emails
* United Way trivia contest online or at meetings
* United Way Monopoly: Create a large-size Monopoly game with United Way facts
* United Way fact-filled screensavers
* Bring the agencies to you: Hold an agency fair in a high-traffic area of your building
* Breakfast or lunch at United Way agency with a tour
* Breakfast and United Way speaker at the office
* Wine or craft beer tasting (with donated wine, beer, and cheese)
* Golf, tennis, etc. with CEO
* Serenade them with singers
* Serve an assortment of gourmet desserts at your United Way meetings
* United Way 101 discussion with United Way Partner Agency
* Casual day stickers
* Drawing for first-time givers
* Prizes for turning in forms early
* Silent auctions
* Chopped virtual edition! Employees send their photo of their best cooked dish; CEO or HR judge the winner
* Drawing for a free pizza
* Early dismissal on a Friday
* Jeans day
* CEO/President delivers coffee each morning for a week
* Backyard/parking lot BBQ
* PTO Day
* Candy jar guess: use gum balls, jelly beans, paper clips, straight pins or rubber bands
* Door prizes to attend kickoff
* Email contest to name the theme
* Game shows (Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? Price is Right, Jeopardy, etc.)
* Aluminum foil sculpture contest
* Hula hoop competition



* Lego block building contest
* “Big Hair” contest
* Oldest company T-shirt contest
* Name that face contest
* Virtual 5K run or walk
* Pie-throwing contest
* Bingo
* Cupcake contest
* Guess the baby contest
* Penny wars
* Office Olympics
* Send out mass voicemail
* Dunking booths with executives in tank
* Executive-for-a-day
* Opposing team colors: Manager to wear rival’s team colors
* Employee craft show
* Dress up the boss
* Bring is sand and have a sand castle building contest
* Ugly hat or tie contest
* Shave the boss’s head or dye the boss’ hair or beard
* Scavenger hunt
* Create a crossword puzzle with United Way information and local agency information
* Games such as Bingo, spelling bees, company or United Way trivia
* Can you Hear Me Now game -one person draws what their team members are describing
* Pictionary game - one person draws something, and team members guess what it is