

FUNDRAISER IDEAS

Bake Off/Cook Off—Chili, Cake, Pie, etc.

Promote the event and charge an entry or tasting fee. Depending on the number of entrants, consider giving tasters multiple votes. Give people the option to pay using cash or a giving form. Have a nonprofit representative present. Create categories for the bake off/cook off, and for prizes, let winner(s) choose a charity to receive funds raised, or award a donated prize.

Bake Sales/Breakfast Bake/Pie-A-Thon

Ask coworkers to contribute goodies to a bake sale. Post signage in neighboring departments (invite them to participate, too!) and other high-traffic areas. Include savory items in your bake sale to appeal to the early lunch crowd and have it run until 1 p.m. to entice those looking for an after-lunch dessert.

Brown Bag/Coffee Hour/Meeting Presentations

Schedule a charity speaker to make a presentation. These are “awareness” events and do not require employees to donate but ensure that giving forms are available.

Campaign Blog and other digital space

Set up a digital space for making weekly updates, including campaign news and events and a charity highlight. Consider adding incentives for readers, such as answering a question correctly to be entered for a prize.

Cat Cafe

Partner with a shelter and ask them to bring cats (confirm that this is allowed in your building first). Serve coffee and pastries for a donation. Invite a speaker from the organization and allow folks to play with the kitties. Invite people to bring pet food, toys, etc., to benefit the animals.

Charity Fair

Invite charities to set up tables and meet staff members. Host a door prize drawing to drive attendance. Invite nonprofits to speak if there is time and space.

Charity Tour

Schedule a lunchtime tour with a nearby charity to see the organization’s mission in action.

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FUNDRAISER IDEAS continued

Charity Mingle with animals and food

Examples: "Kittens & Cupcakes," "Pupcakes" (service dogs and cupcakes)

Invite the charity to bring in animals and give a 15-minute presentation. Let guests mingle with the animals. Have cupcakes available. Suggested minimum donation: \$5.

Coin Jar

Use a virtual or real coin jar placed in an active location and choose a charity receive the proceeds. You can play Penny Wars or use them to vote for a question of the week. Fundraiser can be part of a campus-wide effort or in your department only.

Online Show

Host an online show — cooking, movie, comedy, a play. Ask staff to donate in advance to get the Zoom link for the event.

Dining for Dollars

Partner with a local restaurant for a lunchtime or evening event where part of the proceeds will be donated to charity. Promote the date to coworkers and others to get the maximum benefit.

Drives—Blankets, Coats, Clothing, Food, etc.

Identify the length of the drive, set-up barrels around your department/neighboring departments and advertise the details, including drop-off locations. Count or weigh the collected items to use in thank you messages. If possible, invite the recipient charity to be present when turning collected goods over.

Feeds/Lunches—Pizza/Spaghetti/Taco/Baked Potato

Hold a special luncheon: ask leadership to donate food, or ask your co-workers to bring food, potluck style. Ask for a suggested donation for the meal and invite a charity speaker to give a short presentation during the lunch.

Holiday Potlucks

Host a themed potluck such as Harvest Festival, Thanksgiving, Crazy Hat Day, Ugly Holiday Sweater Day, etc. Create a contest to go with the theme. Invite a charity speaker and ask folks to make a donation.

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FUNDRAISER IDEAS continued

IT Pop-Up Shop

Have computing experts available for appointments. Employees can bring their personal laptops or devices with a problem or a “how to” question. Schedule 15-minute appointments and provide personalized IT help for a donation.

Online Fundraiser—House of Kindness

Leverage matching donations from department managers to lead a multi-part effort to raise funds. Host a variety of online events, employing personal asks, funny emails and your department’s Teams channel to engage co-workers.

Photo Contest

Choose a topic for the photo contest (e.g., cutest pet, best vacation shot, guess who the baby is). Assign numbers to photos. Invite people to vote with their donation. The funds raised can go to a preselected nonprofit or the winner can designate.

Question of the Week

Set up an online or in-person question and ask staff to vote with a donation. Cats vs Dogs, Star Wars vs. Star Trek...let your staff pick! This is a fun way to get to know each other and do good!

Silent Auction

Define a timeline and promote the auction date. Get items donated from businesses or ask co-workers to create specialty baskets filled with themed items. Ask employees to bid on items.

Snack Cart

Purchase snacks to sell at a small markup in your department. Decide whether you want to run the cart in the morning or the afternoon and the number of days per week. Give buyers the option to pay via a onetime gift using a giving form. Turn in giving forms after each visit from the snack cart.

Trivia Contest

Trivia contests are a fun and interactive way to raise money for charity. You can partner with a local pub and hold the trivia contest during your lunch hour or after work. Identify your teams, choose trivia categories, set reasonable entry fees and designate a charity of choice or let the winning team choose the recipient charity. Consider writing trivia questions that reflect the nature of your department’s work.

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