

# FUNDRAISERS and EVENTS

## FOOD EVENTS

### Bake Sales

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 treat.

### Cooking Contests

Select type of food — like a chili cook-off. Promote the event and charge an entry or tasting fee. Depending on the number of entrants, consider giving tasters multiple votes. 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.

### 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.

### Food Bar or Feed

Hold a special luncheon: Ask leadership to donate food (like pizza or taco fixings) or ask your coworkers to bring food and serve it potluck style. Ask for a suggested donation for the meal.

## DRIVES

### Blankets, Coats, Clothing, Food, Pet Food, Diapers, etc.

Select the theme and timeline for the drive. Set up barrels/boxes around your department (and neighboring departments, if you can). Advertise the details, including drop-off locations. Count or weigh the collected items to use in thank-you messages. Arrange to get the donated items where they belong. Take pictures as part of thanking your colleagues.



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## NONPROFIT CONNECTIONS

### Lunch & Learns/Speaking Opportunities

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

### Campaign Blogs, Teams Channels & Department Newsletters

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

### Nonprofit Fair or Tour (consider adding a volunteer opportunity)

Invite organizations to set up tables and meet staff members. Host a door prize drawing to drive attendance OR go to the source. Schedule a lunchtime tour or volunteer opportunity with a nearby nonprofit to see the organization's mission in action.

## EVENTS IDEAS

### Coin Jar

Use a virtual or real coin jar and choose a nonprofit to receive the proceeds. A coin jar can be used in a variety of engaging ways.

### 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 the donations.

### 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 coworkers to create specialty baskets filled with themed items. Invite employees to bid on items and experiences.



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## Themed Events

Host a themed event like a Harvest Festival, Halloween Costume Contest, Pumpkin Carving, Crazy Hat Day, Ugly Holiday Sweater Day, etc. Create a contest to go with the theme.

## Trivia Contest

Trivia contests are a fun and interactive way to raise money. Partner with a local pub or use space in your department and hold the trivia contest. Identify teams, choose trivia categories and set reasonable entry fees. Fees can be donated to a preselected organization or the winning team can direct the donation. Consider writing trivia questions that reflect the nature of your department's work.

## DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT and other ideas!

- Host an online event. Use Teams to do a one-day drive. The possibilities are only limited by technology and your imagination.
- Gamify giving or participating — set fun challenges to engage your team and take them on an informative journey learning about a nonprofit or giving.
- Make a game of it — adapt an existing game like Jeopardy/Bingo/Risk (or any other game your team is into) and make a contest of it. Players pay to participate.

## HELPFUL HINTS

- If you can, invite a nonprofit speaker. They can really help engage the crowd with their mission.
- If you are hosting an event where you are collecting payments, offer the opportunity to pay with cash or a giving form.
- Already have a gathering in place? We're happy to work with you to introduce an outreach opportunity into that.
- If your group wants to host an event after work, they can!

***THE ONLY LIMIT IS YOUR IMAGINATION!***



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