



# Employee Engagement Opportunities

## Virtual Events

**Minute to Win It - Virtual:** Maybe it's a live video conference or it's a video of the team leads! Create a friendly competition with "minute-to-win-it" games, such as cookie face and pong tic tac toe. Have games be something that can be done at home!

**Virtual Spelling Bee:** Have participants sign up and dress up! Then get a volunteer to be the emcee and watch the madness unfold. Host a livestream of the event, record it, and post the highlights the next day!

**Virtual Happy Hours:** Host a happy hour for employees. Deliver or have employees pick up cocktails/mocktails to-go from a local restaurant. Then, have everyone log on to the video call and play some virtual games like [Kahoot](#) or [Jackbox](#)!

**PowerPoint Party:** Host a happy hour for employees. Prep employees in advance to have everyone show off their amazing knowledge with a short PowerPoint presentation on any subject, you will be surprised how funny, creative, and interesting they can be! Deliver or have employees pick up cocktails/mocktails to-go from a local restaurant.

**"Master Class":** Have employees show their skills by hosting a "Master Class." Do they bake? Do they know how to knit? Any skill will do; have teachers sign up and host video calls, make it a brunch, lunch, or happy hour event! Optionally, charge a small fee for participants to join and donate to a good cause.

**Getty Museum Challenge:** Have a creative crew? Take on the [art history challenge](#) at home, recreating historic art pieces! Participants submit their chosen piece of art along with their recreation, and others can vote on the winners. Consider creating a few categories for the competition, such as Most Accurate Recreation, Most Creative, Most Bizarre, etc.

**Fun Delivery for Employees:** Maybe you want to get employees excited about your giving campaign - send participants a thank you gift or deliver some fun to their door. Send candy grams, ice cream, cocktails, goodie bags/boxes to make their day!

**Host a Drive for a Local Nonprofit:** there are many nonprofits in need; create an amazon Wishlist or look on [our website for requests](#). Then have employees buy items and send them directly to the nonprofit or to Mile High United Way to deliver to the nonprofit.

**Wellness Initiative** – Create a health and wellness initiative, with the team or individual going the farthest distance or earning the most points winning. Free smartphone apps are available to help participants track their progress.

**Home Olympics** – Are you great at folding laundry? Can you toss a pair of socks into a bucket and hit net every time? Run with a cup of water without spilling? Are you amazing at corn-hole or other backyard games? Have teams film themselves during their Olympic events and send in to get points and announce winners! Make it a group video chat for extra fun and team bonding!

**Lunchtime Meal Delivery** - Sponsor a lunch of pizza, tacos, or another favorite food. Charge a flat fee for all you can eat, enough to cover expenses, delivery, and a small contribution. Have employees come by the office to pick up or enlist volunteers to help deliver!

**Email Bingo/Trivia**- Send out daily fun facts about the campaign, company, Colorado, or your coworkers. Teams or individuals email in the answers for easy points.

**Hallway Golf**- create a course in your own home. Bonus points for creative holes, have it wind downstairs, hit a wall, and bounce into the hole. The possibilities are endless

**Dinner for a Week** – Create a bouquet of gift cards to drop off at the winner’s door or send gift cards via email from 7 restaurants who’ve donated a dinner for 2 and raffle off a week of eating-in with style. Sell tickets for around \$30 each. The lucky winners are able to order out every night for a week.

**Amazing Race/Scavenger Hunt:** Create a scavenger hunt across the city, a park, or that can be done at home. Have employees document their adventures, points for costumes! Compile into a fun video to share out at the end of the campaign.

**Sports Brackets**- During March Madness, turn your work bracket into a fundraiser for Mile High United Way. 50% of the proceeds goes to the bracket winners and 50% goes to support programs of Mile High United Way. Keep track via email, sending out updates throughout the tournament. Sports not up and running yet? Find a funny reality show to follow and “score” or create a socially-distant tournament with the team. Any backyard game will do!

**Competition between Companies** - Do you have a vendor or friendly competitor that also runs a workplace giving campaign? Consider doing a friendly competition between companies. Most raised? Highest participation? The winning company has to provide the other company with a prize (i.e.: hosted lunch). Pick up or delivery options!

**Baskets or Prizes for Auction** - Gather your department and create themed baskets for a raffle. Basket theme ideas include, Backyard BBQ, Wine Lover, Beer Lover, Movie Night, etc. Have a prize for the department whose basket raises the most.

## Social Distancing Events

**Mobile Food Sales** – Host a coffee cart or ice cream truck in a common area or out your front door. A portion of sales can support Mile High United Way. See our list of local partners for ideas!

**Wall of Wine:** Have leadership donate bottles of wine, including a couple of high-value bottles. Bag the wines and display them on a table. Employees purchase tickets for \$10 and get to select one of the bottles of wine throughout the week. Have employees post their winnings!

**Wellness Initiative** – Create a health and wellness initiative, with the team or individual going the farthest distance or earning the most points winning. Free smartphone apps are available to help participants track their progress.

**Host a Drive for a Local Nonprofit:** there are many nonprofits in need, create an amazon Wishlist or look on [our website for requests](#). Then have employees buy items and send them directly to the nonprofit or schedule a drop-off to Mile High United Way to deliver to the nonprofit.

**Fun Delivery for Employees:** Maybe you want to get employees excited about your giving campaign - send participants a thank you gift or deliver some fun to their door. Send candy grams, ice cream, cocktails, goodie bags/boxes to make their day!

**Executive Auction** – Ask your executive staff to donate half a day or an executive parking spot to the campaign or a basket full of goodies. Then auction each executive off to employees via email or a video conference. You can also have the executive take over the employee's job for that half day or give their parking spot away for a month, anything to get those bids! Announce the winners and deliver the prize to the winner's door! Make a fun video of the winners getting their prizes to share with employees via email.

**Dinner for a Week** – Create a bouquet of gift cards to drop off at the winner's door or send gift cards via email from 7 restaurants who've donated a dinner for 2 and raffle off a week of eating in with style. Sell tickets for around \$30 each. The lucky winners are able to order out every night for a week.

**Lunch with Leadership:** During an auction or as a campaign incentive offer lunch or a mentoring session with top executives. You can have the executive order out and meet the winner at the park or a local outdoor seating restaurant.

**Lunchtime Meal Delivery** - Sponsor a lunch of pizza, tacos, or another favorite food. Charge a flat fee for all you can eat, enough to cover expenses, delivery, and a small contribution. Have employees come by the office to pick up or enlist volunteers to help deliver!

**Amazing Race/Scavenger Hunt:** Create a scavenger hunt across the city, a park, or that can be done from home. Have employees document their adventures, points for costumes! Compile into a fun video to share out at the end of the campaign.

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# Mission-Driven and Educational Events

**Changing the Odds board game** – This engaging board game developed by our volunteer team and members of our Community Impact team helps players build empathy and awareness for the circumstances that can lead to a family experiencing poverty. Participants come away with knowledge about Mile High United Way programs and initiatives as well as the work of our strategic nonprofit partners. Opportunities and barriers along the way provide an emotional connection to the clients we serve.

**Making Choices Game** – During an existing staff meeting or team play the “Making Choices” game. The purpose of the “Making Choices” game is to have employees experience the difficult decisions hardworking people in, or on the edge of poverty face every day. Mile High United Way can provide the template or facilitate the game.

**Race to a Strong Start** – Race to a Strong Start is a minute-to-win-it interactive game that not only tests your quick skills but is also a fun way to compete against your coworkers. Learn more about how early learning experiences help develop children in our community to give them a strong start.

**Educational Panel** – Host an educational lunch and learn with an issue-based topic to inspire employees to get involved. Topics can include, “Status of Women & Girls in Education,” “The Education Gap in Denver,” “What is Impacting Poverty in Denver,” and much more!

**Are you Smarter than a 3rd Grader?** – Integrate United Way’s Reading by Third Grade goal with a take-off of this television show. Contestants are asked questions which can be 3rd grade material or United Way information, with a panel of “3rd Graders” to ask for help.

**Nonprofit Fair (Virtual or in person)** – Mile High United Way has a network of local nonprofits, invite your employees to our hosted nonprofit fairs to learn more about the missions and work that is happening in our community!

**Lunch and Learns** – Order out or brown bag lunches for this educational opportunity. Employees can learn more about local nonprofits and community issues virtually or in person. Mile High United Way can help coordinate the speakers.

**Host a Drive for a Local Nonprofit:** there are many nonprofits in need, create an amazon Wishlist or look on [our website for requests](#). Then have employees buy items and send them directly to the nonprofit or to Mile High United Way to deliver to the nonprofit.

**Email Bingo/Trivia** – Send out key information and trivia questions about Mile High United Way’s work in the community. First person to respond gets a “chip” for their bingo board or points.

**Education Recordings** – Mile High United Way partners with schools across our community, with many educating at home there is a need for fun learning activities for parents and children to do together! Record yourself reading a children’s book for a reading time, record yourself doing a fun at home experiment, or an easy math problem with marshmallows! Send recordings to your Mile High United Way team for young students across metro Denver.

**2-1-1 Update/Training** – United Way 2-1-1 is a resource and referral line that helps connects callers to the services they need most. Learn more about this care line and get trained to help take these calls from community members!

## No or Low-cost Fundraising Events

**Silent Auction** – Secure items from vendors, co-workers, and your leadership team. Allow employees to pay for their items via payroll deduction or convenient payment apps like Venmo.

**Wall of Wine** – Ask your leadership team to donate bottles of wine, including a couple of high-value bottles. Bag the wines and display them on a table. Employees purchase tickets for \$10 and get to select one of the bottles of wine. Ticket sales support your fundraiser or employee giving campaign.

**Cubicle Makeover** – Have employees' makeover their cubicles. Theme the cubes to Mile High United Way community impact goals, fun current events, popular local themes, or a company initiative.

**Jeans Stickers** – This is an oldie but a goodie. Sell stickers for jeans days. Some companies will sell stickers that are good for the entire year! Mile High United Way can provide our logo for use in your sticker design.

**Hard Hat Stickers** – Celebrate the contributions of your craft workers by providing a custom hard hat sticker for their participation in giving or volunteering opportunities. Mile High United Way can provide our logo for use in your sticker design.

**Raffle for Executive Parking Spot** – Prime parking spots can be a big perk during the cold winter months or in a large facility! Sell raffle tickets or auction off prime spots to raise funds for the community.

**Bike-a-thon** – Charge an entry fee. Participants collect pledges for the number of miles they ride over a set course of time. Miles can be logged via smart watches or fitness apps.

**Bake Sales** – Ask employees to bring their favorite cakes, cookies or breads. Even a small office can raise a lot of money with minimal effort!

**Executive Auction** – Ask your executive staff to donate half a day or an executive parking spot to the campaign. Then auction each executive off to employees. The executive must take over the employee's job for that half day or give their parking spot away for a month.

**Dinner for a Week** – Ask 7 restaurants to donate a dinner for 2 and raffle off a week of eating out. Sell tickets for around \$30 each. The lucky winners are able to eat out every night for a week.

**Barbecue Contest** – Fire up the grill and break out your best BBQ recipe. Ask members of the team to act as judges and have different categories for various meats or vegetables. Guests to pay a small entry fee to attend and taste test the recipes!

**Home Grown** – Employees donate items for auction such as cakes, cookies, monthly parking spots, a weekend at their summer cabin, or a home-cooked dinner. Services such as a car detailing, a month of lawn mowing, or painting also may be auctioned. Get creative!

**Lunch with Leadership** – During an auction or as a campaign incentive offer lunch or a mentoring session with top executives.

## Company-Sponsored Events

**Mobile Food Sales** – Host a coffee cart or ice cream truck in a common area or out your front door. A portion of sales can support Mile High United Way. See our list of local partners for ideas!

**Leadership Lunch** – During the campaign, encourage participation amongst employees. The department with the highest participation gets to attend a lunch or dinner hosted by all senior leadership. Lunch could also be for those that give an annual Leadership gift of \$1,000 or more.

**Pancake & Waffle Breakfast** – Host a pancake or waffle breakfast for employees. Charge employees for the ticket. Encourage leadership to serve food at the breakfast as a way to show their support for the campaign.

**Office Olympics** – Set up an obstacle course in the lunchroom, several offices, several floors of offices, or outside. One station can be for typing a couple of paragraphs, another station for filing, another for photocopying, etc. Contestants pay a small entry fee, with the funds benefitting Mile High United Way.

**Lunchtime Meals** – Sponsor a lunch of spaghetti, chili, barbecue, or another favorite food. Charge a flat fee for all you can eat, enough to cover expenses and a small contribution.

**Balloon Pop** – Place gift cards or small prizes inside balloons and sell raffle tickets to get a chance to pop the \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50 etc. balloon at your campaign wrap-up celebration.

## Team Events

**Hallway Golf** – Form teams, get creative, and create golf holes throughout your office floors. Incorporate Mile High United Way's mission, by conducting a food or book drive and use the raised items to create the course around each hole. Employees pay to participate and compete for bragging rights. Consider getting your corporate vendors to sponsor holes!

**Tricycle Race** – Set up an office relay course for participants to go through, either sitting in a chair or on tricycles. Have employees "bet" on their favorite contestants to win. Also great to do in the parking garage or public outdoor space.

**Amazing Race/Scavenger Hunt** – Host a scavenger hunt competition. Consider including trivia about Mile High United Way programs or partner agencies as part of the hunt.

**Sports Tournaments** – Host a softball, ping pong, four square, shuffleboard, corn hole, or any number of sporting event tournaments for your company. Participants pay to enter, and

proceeds come to Mile High United Way. Consider donating the sporting equipment from the games to a Mile High United Way program partner.

**College Basketball Bracket** – During March Madness, turn your work bracket into a fundraiser for Mile High United Way. 50% of the proceeds goes to the bracket winners, and 50% comes to support programs of Mile High United Way.

**Point System Competition** – During the campaign, develop a point system to encourage participation and a friendly competition between departments. For example:

- 6 points for giving during the campaign
- 4 points for increasing gift from last year
- 3 points for donating to the food drive
- 2 points for volunteering during the campaign
- 1 point for attending a campaign event (i.e.: kick-off, meeting, etc.)

The team that wins the most points will earn a team lunch, half day of PTO, week of jeans/casual days, etc.

**Competition between Companies** – Do you have a vendor or a competitor that also runs an employee giving campaign with Mile High United Way? Consider doing a friendly competition between companies. Most raised? Highest participation? The winning company has to provide the other company with a prize (i.e.: hosted lunch).

**Baskets for Auction** – Gather your department and create themed baskets for a raffle. Basket theme ideas include, Backyard BBQ, Wine Lover, Beer Lover, Movie Night, etc. Have a prize for the department whose basket raises the most.

**Bowling Tournament** – Set up a bowling alley in a hallway using bottled water and a ball. Charge participants to enter. Participants can get pledges for the number of pins knocked over.

**Minute-to-Win-It** – Create a friendly competition with “minute-to-win-it” games; such as cookie face and pong tic tac toe

## Useful Tools

- [32 Auctions](#): Free online auction website
- [Kahoot.It](#): Free online multiuser trivia game
- [Count It](#): Free online steps challenge, health incentives