

# DONOR INCENTIVES

LIVE UNITED®

## Ideas for encouraging donor participation

- Afternoon off work
- Parking place
- 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.)
- Use of co-worker's cabin (week, weekend)
- Day off with pay
- Shares of stock
- Extended lunches and/ or breaks
- Extra breaks
- Free babysitting
- Snooze day (allowed to come in late)
- Vacation day on birthday
- Golf with boss
- Open soda machine in break room if company reached group goal
- Home baked cookies every month
- Plant or flowers every month
- Surprise envelope (great auction item)
- Corporate frequent flyer certificates
- Company mugs, hats, coasters, pens, letter openers, magnets, Frisbees, etc.
- Help with yard work (raking, planting, shoveling snow)
- Use of pool-hold party with friends (food and beverages provided)
- Limo ride with a restaurant certificate
- Paid day off to volunteer at United Way Agency
- Professional massage
- Park & Rec membership for a year
- Lottery tickets
- Oil change
- Free dessert from the cafeteria every Friday, every month, etc
- Candlelight dinner for two
- Haircut/manicure/facial/pedicure
- Golf lessons, round of golf included
- Autographed memorabilia
- Dog washed by boss or co-worker
- Car washed by boss or co-worker
- Homemade afghan, quilt etc.
- Oven cleaning, housekeeping/maid service
- Use of company car for week/month
- Family portrait by company photographer
- Hot air balloon ride
- Wallpaper a room in your house (volunteers and wallpaper supplied)
- Chances to attend United Way Victory Celebration with the CEO
- Opportunity to name a room (conference room with plaque displaying chosen name)
- Framed artwork for office or work area
- Secretary for a day
- Leave 1 hour early/come in one hour late
- Office redecorated or cleaned
- Gas and car wash gift certificates
- Shopping spree \$\$
- 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, including pictures taken and small gifts for children
- Visit from Easter Bunny – baskets for kids
- Car started & windows scraped every day for a week in January by the boss



United Way  
in Montgomery County

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## 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 and give them an instant thank-you note
- Let employees put their names on product they made
- Name a rotating award after an outstanding employee
- Let people 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
- Print business cards for your employees
- 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 diner 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
- Pay for an employee's parking for a week
- Designate a parking spot for the Employee of the Month
- Provide a free membership or passes to a fitness club
- Give someone a gift certificate for a manicure
- Buy doughnuts or bagels for your staff
- Sponsor a picnic on company time
- Pass out recognition cards which can be accumulated and redeemed for specific gifts
- Have senior managers and executives serve employees breakfast or lunch
- Give away tickets to sporting events
- Pay for a limousine ride
- Rent a luxury car or sport car for an employee for a day
- Praise people in public
- Offer cash rewards for referring new employees
- Do the job of the 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
- Publish good deeds, praise and print letters from satisfied customers in a company newsletter
- Have the CEO or senior executives write a personal note of thanks
- Give your employees time off
- Give employees a predetermined amount of coupons to give to other helpful employees which can be redeemed for gifts and services
- Award a TV or DVD player to a top producer
- Surprise everyone with ice-cream sundaes
- Give away movie passes
- Allow people to choose their next project
- Match an employee's donation to a charity or educational institution
- Give people time off to volunteer for a favorite cause



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## Low-cost (and free) ways to motivate & reward employees

- Reward employees with the use of the company's products
- Pay for a weekend at a bed and breakfast
- Buy your team a round of golf & let them leave early to play
- Buy a gift for an employee's child
- Randomly select employees to visit with the company president every month
- List the achievements of employees children in your company newsletter
- Send birthday cards signed by the company president to your employee's homes
- Send birthday cards signed by the company president to your employee's homes
- Take a coffee break with your employees
- Send a personalized card to an employee who has had a death or serious illness in the family
- If the employees finish before the deadline, let them take off the amount of time they saved
- Offer extended leave without pay
- Let the employees create a paid holiday
- Offer flex scheduling
- Hire someone to come to your company and shine shoes
- Offer take-home dinners from your company's cafeteria
- Arrange for a dry-cleaning service to visit your office weekly
- Host product knowledge contest and reward the winners
- Initiate profit-sharing programs
- Give clothing or jewelry printed with the company name or log to employees as they reach certain milestones
- Pay for a hot air balloon ride
- Host a shopping spree
- Have lunch catered from a favorite restaurant
- Give away lottery tickets
- Feature employees 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 card 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
- Continuously find ways to make employee's jobs interesting and challenging
- Post employee baby pictures and sponsor a contest to guess who's who
- Give employees the opportunity to train new employees
- Give cash incentives for ideas that help improve the business
- Give employees time to be creative
- Have casual days
- Have an employee talent show
- Host Employee of the Month awards
- Leave candy or balloons at employee's desks while they're on break
- Organize a company volleyball, softball or bowling team
- Sponsor a camping trip
- Publish a short column in the company newsletter featuring funny anecdotes or employee profiles
- Have free refreshments in the cafeteria or break room
- Have a themed day, such as Weird Hat Day or 60's day, and award prizes for the best outfit



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## Low-cost (and free) ways to motivate & reward employees

- Create opportunities to showcase your employee's strengths
- Give employees movie passes or restaurant gift certificates on their birthdays
- Smile and say "hello" to everyone every day
- Designate a bulletin board for employees to post jokes and humorous stories
- Hire a financial consultant to meet with your employees individually
- Take a candid Polaroid photos and post the results in the office
- Recognize outstanding performers in an awards ceremony
- Sponsor a chili cook-off
- Sponsor an art contest or poetry-writing contest and display winning contributions in a prominent place
- Hire a masseuse to give shoulder and neck massages on special occasion or during a particularly stressful project
- Offer free popcorn every Friday (or every day)