



Mid-Ohio Foodbank

OPERATION FEED

Meal Raising Activity Ideas

CHALLENGES Some of the best meal-raising may come from challenges between departments, floors, or business areas. Competition fosters teamwork and gets everyone involved, while raising food and dollars for Operation Feed. The team that raises the most meals wins a prize!

FOOD Try anything food related. Have a bake sale, a dessert auction, a sub sandwich sale, a company cookout, or a potluck meal. Send a snack cart around the office in the morning with donuts & coffee, or in the afternoon with chips, cookies, and soda. Set up a salad bar or baked-potato bar where employees can make their own healthy lunch. Sell popcorn or cotton candy in the lobby. Everyone loves ice cream, so why not organize an ice cream social or a make-your-own-sundae or -float day? Other ideas include a PB&J sandwich sale or a brown bag lunch day. Ask for a suggested donation to benefit Operation Feed.

AUCTIONS Be creative with auctions. Solicit items from area businesses and sell them in a silent auction to the highest bidder. Approach organization leadership for “donations” of seats/boxes/suites for sporting events, vacation days, or paid time off to volunteer through a nonprofit organization. Other great ideas include a lunch box auction or theme basket auction.

INVOLVE LEADERSHIP Ask top management to participate in a celebrity luncheon. Have them serve a meal to employees with donations and tips to benefit Operation Feed. Or, you can sell chances to “soak the supervisor” with a squirt gun. A “pie the chief” pie-in-the-face contest is another popular way to involve executives or managers. One company used a “can your manager” theme: employees voted for their favorite manager by donating cans of food, and the winner spent time in a dunk tank.

OFF THE HOOK Sell clothes hangers to symbolize being “off the hook” for Operation Feed. Those purchasing hangers put them in their offices to indicate that they donated and are “off the hook” for the rest of this year’s campaign. This activity also works well with paper cans—a great way to raise awareness and promote friendly competition!

BUCK-A-“BOOK” SALE Invite employees to donate used books, CDs, videos or DVDs and sell them to co-workers.

Other Great Ways to Raise Meals for Operation Feed

- **Virtual Food Drive.** The perfect way to involve friends and family in your campaign, online giving has never been easier! Start an individual drive or build a team for your group. Real-time reporting tools make it easy to measure progress and motivate donors. It’s great for satellite offices and membership organizations. See the Using the Virtual Food Drive (included in packet) for more information. Visit www.midohiofoodbank.org and click on “Virtual Food Drive” to get started.
- **Get visitors involved!** Consider holding events or contests on days when agents, satellite employees, or board members will be in the office. This is a great way to build morale and showcase community-based company values.
- **Does your company have a matching gift program?** Find out if Operation Feed donations qualify for a match, and encourage employees to use this benefit.

FOUR-LEGGED FUN Organize a bring-your-dog-to-work day. Give employees the opportunity to bring a pet in exchange for a registration fee that is donated to Operation Feed. Host a lunch-time dog show or contest allowing animals to “compete” in various categories, for which employees give monetary “votes” for their favorite contestant. A pet-treat bake sale is another great way to let employees show love for their favorite pet pals. Provide recipes, or donate ingredients for baking. Homemade pet treats make great gifts for pet-loving friends and family members!

BAG HUNGER Sell or give employees a recycled or reusable grocery bag with a list of suggested food items, and ask them to fill the bag with groceries. Or, attach an envelope that they can return to the Operation Feed coordinator with a financial donation.

ONE POT WONDERS As a fresh twist on the traditional chili cook-off, invite employees to simmer-up a favorite crock pot recipe and enter it into a taste contest. Award prizes for the favorite dish, most creative name, or judge’s choice. Ask for a suggested donation from those who want to taste the wonders and join in on the fun.

OFFICE OLYMPICS Organize a friendly competition between office teams. Create events to showcase individual talents, awarding medals and prizes for winners. An office miniature golf course is another way to engage the golfers in your organization. Offer prizes for lowest score or best hole design.

PEANUT BUTTER CHALLENGE Pit “smooth” against “chunky” in a peanut butter challenge. Teams compete to see who can raise the most of their respective peanut butter variety.

CANNED STRUCTURE COMPETITION Encourage employees to form teams and build sculptures using most-needed food items. Teams can earn prizes for the most creative or original structure. All food items are donated to the Operated Feed campaign.

DODGE OR CLIMB Building physical activity into your campaign can be a big hit! Leverage a multi-story building to raise meals by inviting participants to secure a pledge amount for each flight climbed over a specified period. Dodge Ball is another favorite. Each team pays an entry fee (cans or dollars) to participate, with awards for creative uniforms, best team name, or spirit.

BOX YOUR BOSS For the technology-savvy office, why not test employee hand-eye coordination in a video game tournament? Whether boxing, golf, tennis, bowling, racing, or other favorite game, employees can blow off steam and enjoy a little friendly competition between teams or departments.

TUNA TUESDAY, FRUIT FRIDAY Collect most-needed food items by highlighting one each day of the week.

DENIM/JEANS DAYS Employees make a donation to Operation Feed and dress down for a day. Raise even more money by selling a Denim Day Pass which allows employees the chance to dress down several times throughout the campaign.

HATS FOR HUNGER Liven up the work environment with a little hat fashion. A great spin on denim days is allowing employees to wear hats or ball caps to work in exchange for a contribution to Operation Feed. This is a great option for those who already enjoy a casual work environment or for organizations in which jeans wearing is not permitted.