



## Ideas for UMACC Ambassadors

- “Bake sale” variations:
  - Bake sale. Ask for volunteers to bring in baked goods (homemade or store-bought).
  - Breakfast plate. Volunteers bring in breakfast items. For \$5 people can fill a plate with bagel, muffins, fruit, etc.
  - Lemonade stand. Create an old-fashioned lemonade stand. Throw in some cookies too.
  - Snack cart. Buy “snack packs,” snack bars, single-serve beverages, candy, etc. in bulk from BJ’s or Costco and sell them at a small mark-up at a snack cart or table.
  - Baked potato lunch. Volunteers bake the potatoes at home, and keep them warm in slow cookers the next day. Bring in sides such as sour cream, shredded cheese, chopped bacon, chives, etc. Ask people to donate what they would have spent on lunch, or charge a set amount.
  - Soup share. Ask volunteers to bring in soup in slow cookers and sell bowls of soup for a fixed price.
  - Cookie Walk. Volunteers bring in cookies that get nicely displayed in a conference room. For a set donation, people can fill a box with the cookies of their choice.
- Lunch. One UMass department holds a holiday lunch every year. Individuals volunteer to bring in items like slow-cooker chili, macaroni & cheese, salad, rolls, cookies. People pay \$5 for a main dish and a side. Dessert items are available a la carte.
- Raffle or Silent Auction. Ask for donations of items such as: handmade jewelry or crafts, baked goods, services (one employee donates a massage from her husband, who is a licensed massage therapist), ask for donations from local businesses. Display the items on a table (or create themed baskets) with a cup or small box in front of each. People buy raffle tickets, and drop their ticket into the cup/box for the item they want. To do it as a Silent Auction, place a sheet of paper in front of each item instead, and ask people to write down their name and bid. Highest bid wins.
- Ask you department head/chair/dean to write a note to all department members, asking them to give. Contact [umacc@umass.edu](mailto:umacc@umass.edu) for a sample/template note.
- Crazy Costume Contest. Come up with a crazy costume (Harry Potter, Jedi knight, skeleton, Queen Elsa, etc.). Have people “vote” with coins on which high-level member of your department should wear the costume for a day. Put out cups or small boxes with the names of the individuals, to collect the coins. Whichever person “earns” the most money wears the costume for a day (or for a half-day, or for one meeting, etc.)
- Breakfast. Bring in bagels/muffins and coffee, or ask people to donate baked goods. Offer a bagel/muffin and a coffee to each person who turns in their pledge form, or tells you that they donated online (honor system).
- Halloween Contest. Ask department members to come into work in costume on Halloween. Vote with coins for the best costume. The person who “earns” the most gets to choose the charitable organization that all the money collected goes to.
- Pizza or sundaes, served by executive team. Hold a pizza lunch or make-your-own sundaes for a nominal donation (\$1 - \$5). Have your department’s executive team serve pizza or scoop ice cream.
- Movie and popcorn during lunch hour. Set up a “movie theater” in a conference room during lunch hour. Put on a popular movie and offer popcorn. Sell tickets for a nominal donation (\$1 - \$5).



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- Photo contest. Choose a topic for the photo contest, such as silly pets, funniest childhood photo, best vacation photo, etc. Put up each photo with a cup or small box and have people “vote” with coins. The photo that earns the most coins wins. All of the money goes to the charitable organization chosen by the winner.
- Chili cook-off or pie/cake/cookie contest. Volunteers bring in their best chili or pie/cake/cookie/whatever. People vote with coins (or sell tickets to use as votes). The winner gets to choose the charitable organization that all the money goes to.
- Wine raffle. Ask volunteers to donate a bottle of wine. Sell raffle tickets. On raffle day, draw tickets each hour and send out an email with the names of the winners. Winners can select the wine of their choice.
- Photo booth. Collect costume/dress up items and set up a spot in a conference room or hallway where people can dress up and have a photo taken for a donation.
- Media Sale (books/CDs/DVDs). Ask employees to donate new or gently used media, such as books, CDs, DVDs, video games, etc. Charge a set amount, such as \$1 per book, \$2 per CD, \$3 per DVD.
- Potluck lunch. Organize a potluck lunch for your department (have people sign up for an appetizer, main dish, dessert, beverage, etc.). Ask people to donate the amount that they would have spent on lunch. Enjoy eating together in a conference room or common area. Trade recipes.
- Office Olympics. Set up events such as tossing a crumpled up piece of paper into the trash bin, stringing together the highest number paper clips in 60 seconds, rolling your chair down the hall (while sitting in it), etc. Charge an entrance fee for each participant; charge tickets for spectators. The winner of the most events gets to choose the charitable organization that the money goes to.
- Trivia contest. Hold a trivia bee during lunch hour using old Trivial Pursuit cards, or write your own questions based on your department’s work. Charge an entrance fee. The winning team gets to choose the charitable organization that all the money goes to.
- Dinner with the Dean (or department head/chair). With their permission (of course), raffle off a dinner at the Dean or department head’s home.
- Guess the number. Fill a large jar with jelly beans, M&Ms, etc. and ask people to guess how many are in it (be sure to count as you are filling it!). Charge \$1 per guess. The winner gets to keep the jar, and gets to choose the charitable organization that the money goes to.
- “How to” lunch. Find a colleague with a special skill (knitting, changing the oil in a car, tying scarves, etc.) and have them give a demonstration or tutorial during a brown-bag lunch. Charge a nominal fee. The presenter gets to decide which charitable organization gets the money.
- Social Media 101. Ask a social media-savvy department member to give a How to session during a brown-bag lunch on: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, etc. Charge a nominal fee. The presenter gets to decide which charitable organization gets the money.
- Friendly competition Tug of War or Tricycle race. Challenge another department to a friendly competition. Charge an entry fee per person or put out a donation jar. The winning department gets to choose the charitable organization that the money goes to.