

Affordable Auction Contribution Ideas

You want to help out the UUCWC auction but money is tight right now. Or maybe hosting an event at your home is not appropriate for you. There are so many ways you can contribute that may cost you time, but no (or very little) money and contribute to the auction. And these activities can be fun, a real benefit to others, help you meet new people and build our church community, too. Auction contributions do not need to be brand new ideas, unique, flashy or pricey to be of interest and help to others.

When you are brainstorming about a contribution you could make, here are some questions to ask yourself.

What skills do I have that could be a benefit and value to others?

What skills or interests do I have that I could teach others?

What activities do I enjoy that could be shared with others?

What local places do I like to go that others might also enjoy?

What activities might I do at church if I don't have room at home?

Do I have non-church friends or family with special skills or gifts they would be willing to share?

Does my family go on outings that other families might enjoy participating in?

Is there someone in the church who might team up with me to share the work and cost of an auction contribution?

Some Contribution Ideas:

Skills to Share or Teach: Do you have a skill or interest that others would find useful or are interested in learning to do. Could be a craft, sport or other specialty that you can share with others. Some examples from recent years are learning about insurance plans, beginning knitting, Chinese cooking, woodworking, beading, yoga, meditation, pierogi making, bread and pie crust making.

Service/Help: People need lots of help around the house. Services like yard work, spring cleaning, pet sitting, child care, closet or garage organizing, house sitting and computer or technology services are all good ideas that help people in their daily lives and will not cost you out of pocket money.

Events/Activities: Do you have a favorite place, event, festival, concert, art show or other attraction that you enjoy and like to attend yourself? Or do you have access to a local pool or other fun spot? Consider offering to host someone at an event or activity that you enjoy doing yourself.

Games/Sports: Leading activities like biking, tennis, fishing, hiking, golf, canoeing and kayaking are great auction items. Or indoor games, movies and parties are good for the less athletic. What do you like to do that others would like to participate in, too?

Food: Not able to host a whole dinner? No problem. Many people offer just one special dish as a carry in. Chili, soup, dessert, pie, cookies or bread to name just a few. This can be relatively inexpensive and a way to share with others the things that you love to cook.

Find a contributor: You may have a favorite place to eat or recreate. If a business donates a gift certificate to the auction, it will introduce new people to their business. And, we will put an ad for their business in the auction book for free. See Connie Schofer or Lynda Shapiro for past auction books that you can show to business owners to get them interested.

When you start thinking about it, the options are nearly endless! If you have an idea you need help with, just find a member of the auction team to talk to or call Connie Schofer or Lynda Shapiro. You can also contact us at auction@uucwc.org.