

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 to the success and fun of the auction that may cost a little bit of your time, but no (or very little) money. Auction contributions do not need to be unique, flashy or pricey to be of interest and help to others. Offering activities as your auction contribution can be fun for all, a real benefit to others, and help you meet and socialize with new people.

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 offered as a service* that would benefit and have 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 host 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 at UUCWC who might team with me* to share the work and cost of an auction item?

Some Contribution Ideas:

Skills to Share or Teach: This could be a craft, sport, culinary activity or other specialty that you can share with others, as one-on-one or in a small group. Some examples from recent years are:

- Chinese cooking
- jewelry/beading
- woodworking
- intro to insurance plans
- meditation
- yoga
- pierogi making

Service/Help: People need lots of help around the house and yard, and you need not spend out-of-pocket money to offer services such as:

- child care
- computer/tech services
- yard work (raking, roto-tilling)
- closet/garage organizing
- house or pet sitting
- spring cleaning

Events/Activities: Share a favorite place, or event that you enjoy and double the fun with others by offering to purchase tickets or host the auction winners on an outing with you, such as:

- children's museum
- mini golf
- swim at local pool
- corn maze or hayride
- nature center

Games/Sports: Leading or hosting indoor or outdoor activities that you like is fun for everyone:

- biking/hiking
- fishing
- movies
- canoe/kayaking
- indoor card games
- parties

Food: Not able to host a whole dinner? No problem. Many people offer just one special dish – great inexpensive way to share things you love to cook such as:

- chili
- lasagna
- cakes/holiday cookies/pies
- soup

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. We'll provide a past auction book for you to show to businesses to get them interested.

If you need help with an idea, just find a member of the auction team to talk to or call an Auction Cochair: Connie Schofer, Barbara Drew or Lynda Shapiro. You can also contact us at auction@uucwc.org.