

Socially Responsible Benefit Ideas

On June 25, 2009 at the workshop "Building a Better Benefits Program Using Corporate Social Responsibility" the participants composed a list of ideas that they could take back to the office and implement to incorporate social responsibility into their benefit program. These were their ideas.

Community

- **Service Fair – Have a volunteer project happening in your office (for example, back to school kits, emergency response kits) that employees can drop in and help with during the day.**
- **Host a clothing drive or a clothing swap/trash to treasure (or have employees donate clothes and sell them to other employees at thrift store prices and donate the revenue to charity)**
- **Holiday gift donation**
- **Adopt a family**
- **Volunteering Incentives – give PTO or other rewards for volunteering**
- **Have a company match employee's donations (generally to a certain maximum)**

Wellness

- **Promote a daily walk in the sun (exercise and vitamin D)**
- **Facilitate "health buddies" in the office to meet wellness goals and encourage self exams (such as bosom buddies for breast exams)**
- **Bubble time! (where employees blow bubbles during a break)**
- **Apple Lap – a relay where you do a lap around the office and eat an apple**
- **Health fair to promote local gyms, fitness opportunities, health risk assessments**
- **Offer Yoga on site and even charge the employees for the class – no cost to the employer.**
- **Lunch share – employees volunteer to bring in healthy lunch for the whole group with rotating responsibility. Great if you have limited healthy options near the office, plus saves \$!**
- **On-site physical exams**

Environment

- **Cloth dish towels to replace paper towels. Rotate responsibilities for washing them.**
- **Offer car pool incentives**
- **Offset paper use**
- **Green Print – software that automatically optimizes printing to save paper. <http://www.printgreener.com/>**
- **Put in motion detectors to replace on off switches**
- **Change to energy star appliances and energy efficient lightbulbs – and require that in any lease that the company signs**
- **Use recycled content paper and environmentally friendly ink.**
- **Double side all printing**
- **Plant trees to offset energy and resource use or buy carbon offsets**
- **Have a bike to work day**