

9 UNCONVENTIONAL GIFTS for Employee Appreciation Day

If you manage people or work in human resources you know better than anyone the importance of showing your employees your gratitude when Employee Appreciation Day comes around on March 7th. Some might dread finding the right gift, while others might relish the opportunity to do a little shopping on someone else's budget. Either way, gift-giving is top of mind as you're once again faced with the perennial challenge—staying within budget, while also giving a meaningful gift.

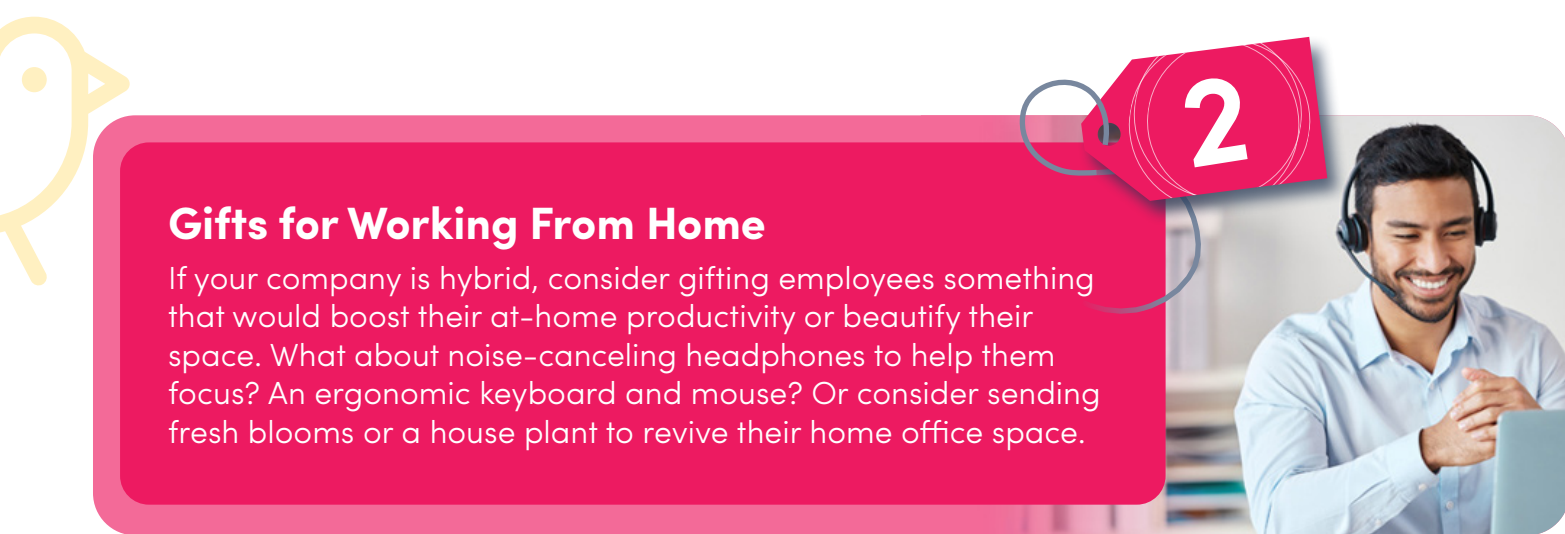
Instead of another candle or branded mug and sweatshirt, consider these 9 gift ideas to treat your employees to something extra special and boost their mental health and well-being.



1

Gifts to Help Them Relax

Consider offering a virtual gift card to a spa or other wellness experience. This is the perfect time to help your team take some well-earned R&R. Pair these with a plushy robe and slippers and your employees are sure to feel your gratitude!



2

Gifts for Working From Home

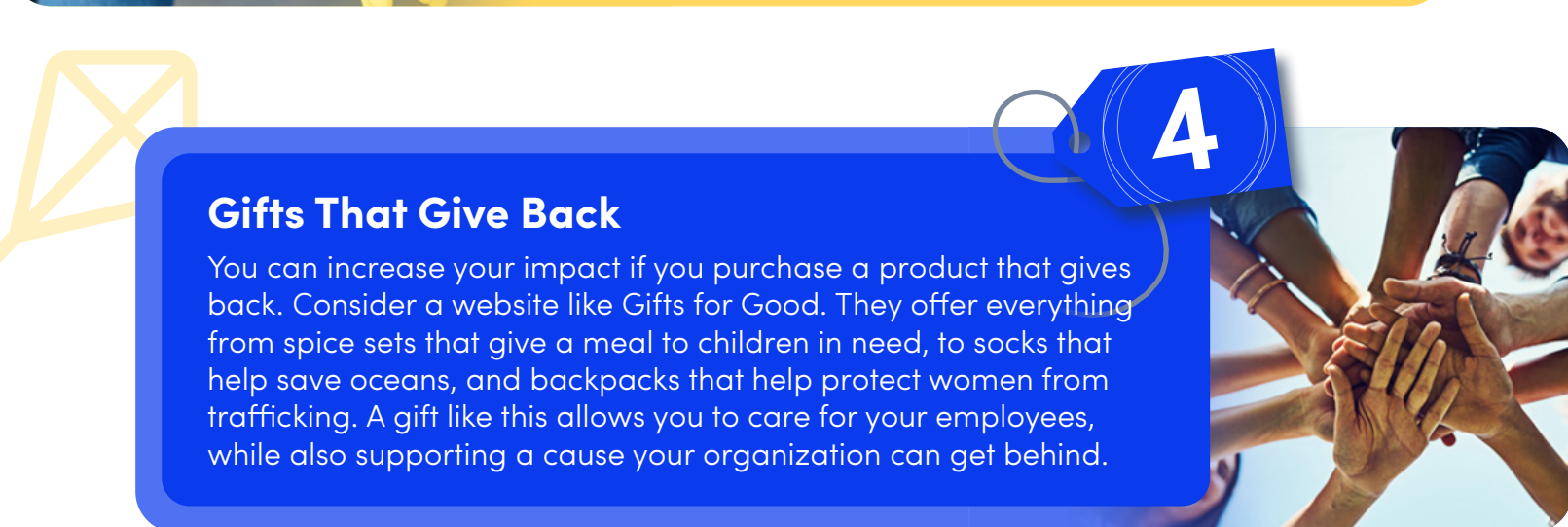
If your company is hybrid, consider gifting employees something that would boost their at-home productivity or beautify their space. What about noise-canceling headphones to help them focus? An ergonomic keyboard and mouse? Or consider sending fresh blooms or a house plant to revive their home office space.



3

Gifts for When They're Off the Clock

Whether your employees sit behind a desk or are on their feet all day, everyone likes coming home to a comfortable and clean space. Why not make coming home a little easier with a gift certificate for cleaning, child care, decluttering, or other house-related tasks? This is another way to show your employees you appreciate them and give them a break from their day-to-day responsibilities.



4

Gifts That Give Back

You can increase your impact if you purchase a product that gives back. Consider a website like Gifts for Good. They offer everything from spice sets that give a meal to children in need, to socks that help save oceans, and backpacks that help protect women from trafficking. A gift like this allows you to care for your employees, while also supporting a cause your organization can get behind.



5

Gifts That Provide a Culinary Experience

Give your employees the gift of a culinary experience they can enjoy from their own homes! This is a great way to help them relax and enjoy a laid-back evening. Websites like CozyMeal offer classes on cooking, mixology, and baking. Sur La Table also has online and in-person options.



6

Gifts That Care for Their Physical Health

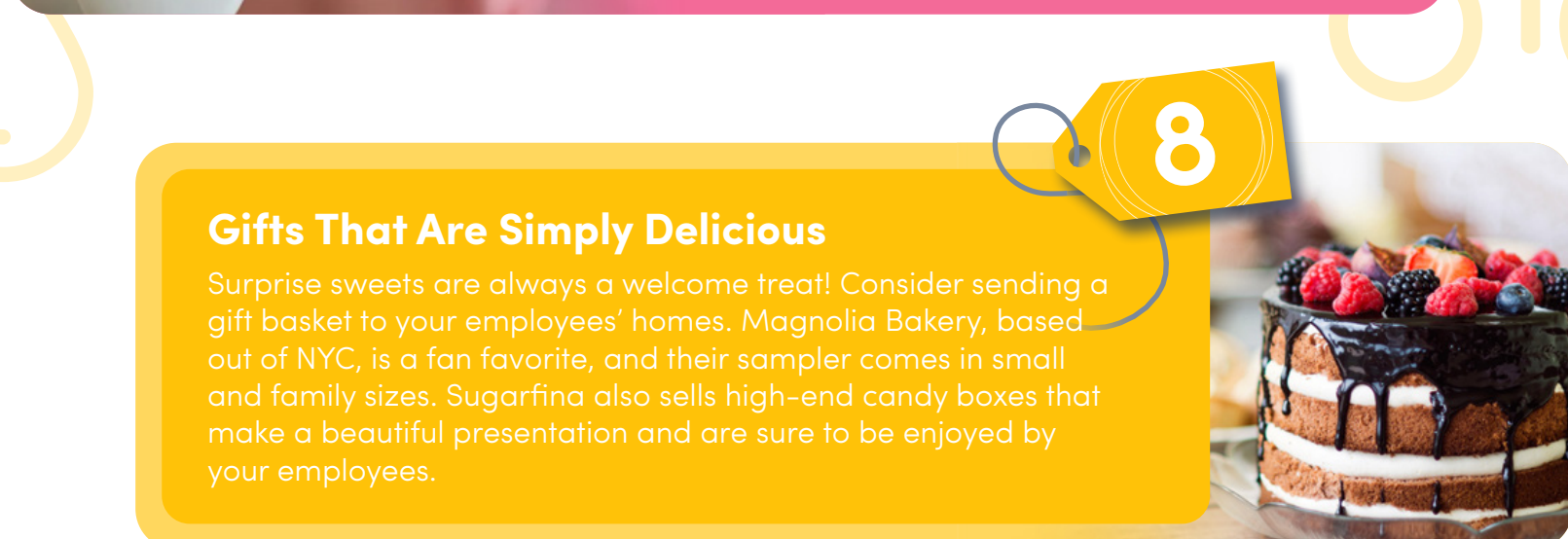
It's no secret that physical health and mental health go hand in hand. According to one study by the American Journal of Psychiatry, physical activity is shown to protect against depression and have a major impact on an individual's overall well-being. Brands like Peloton, Alomoves, and LesMills all have affordable subscription options. Want a simpler option? Allow them to reimburse their gym membership each month.



7

Gifts That Can Be Unwrapped

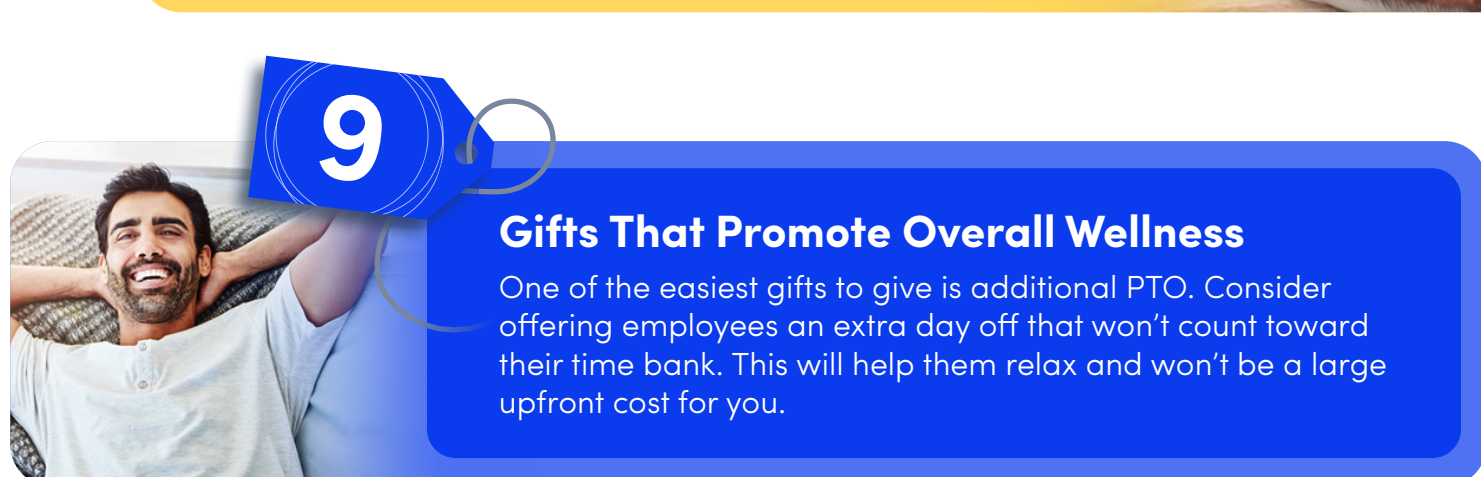
Some employees will love the idea of an outside-the-box gift (like a virtual class or subscription). At the same time, some will prefer a more tangible gift. If you opt to give a physical gift, consider something they can use daily at work—maybe a monogrammed laptop sleeve or bag. Other unique gifts might be an Ember mug to keep coffee or tea warm all day or a digital wall calendar to keep the family organized. Any of these products will be useful for your employees, and a daily reminder of your gratitude!



8

Gifts That Are Simply Delicious

Surprise sweets are always a welcome treat! Consider sending a gift basket to your employees' homes. Magnolia Bakery, based out of NYC, is a fan favorite, and their sampler comes in small and family sizes. Sugarfina also sells high-end candy boxes that make a beautiful presentation and are sure to be enjoyed by your employees.



9

Gifts That Promote Overall Wellness

One of the easiest gifts to give is additional PTO. Consider offering employees an extra day off that won't count toward their time bank. This will help them relax and won't be a large upfront cost for you.

No matter what you choose to give your employees, honoring them on this special day is a great way to thank them for all they've done. A thoughtful gift will pay dividends in their relationship with you and with the company for years to come.

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