



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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State Employees Pledge Over \$4.2 Million For Variety of Charities

Richmond – The workplace charitable giving campaign among Virginia state employees bucked the national trend of double-digit reductions in contributions raised over \$4.2 million for more than 1,400 local, state and national charities, preliminary figures show.

The projected total for the Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign (CVC) matches last year's overall total with Hurricane Katrina funds. Nationally, charities are seeing contributions decline between five and 14 percent, said Anne Dinterman, CVC statewide director.

The employee-run program, begun in 1997, has raised more than \$29 million to support a charities ranging from local volunteer fire departments and emergency squads to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

The 10-week campaign ended Dec. 15 and resulted in contributions from more than 25,600 employees from more than 130 state agencies. Campaign totals will be finalized in February.

"This has been a challenging but rewarding year," Ms. Dinterman said. "Unlike last year, when everyone pitched in following the wake of Hurricane Katrina, this year did not have that kind of cataclysmic event.

"Our volunteer coordinators worked hard spreading the message that there were lots of unmet needs that charities were working to fill. These needs are constant every year."

This year's campaign also included a food drive and the collecting of used cell phones that can be reprogrammed for emergency use by residents of women's shelters. The James House, a women's shelter in Richmond, received over 150 new cell phones through a CVC initiative in the Richmond area.

"We are thrilled to have such a good supply of phones that can be programmed to automatically call for emergency help if any of our women in our shelter are threatened. This will make a big difference in the safety and security of our clients," said Susan Gill, representing the James House.

Employees recommend charities for participation in the CVC campaign. Those selected must first pass strict financial and organizational standards.

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