

<name>,

I would like to invite you to join me in supporting this year's Florida State Employees' Charitable Campaign.

Fortunate to have experienced first hand the impact that donated dollars have on specific individuals, I am proud to be a part of this endeavor. My personal involvement in the community has included organizing community service projects and events for a university, working for a group home, serving as a social worker for the State of Florida, and volunteering for various charitable organizations through the years.

Each experience enabled me to connect with both the individuals who are providing services and those who are receiving them. I remember many special people, including

- ♥ The homeless man who brought oranges to a meal hand-out...
- ♥ Evelyn, who worked night and day to run the under-funded Computer Literacy Center to help adults gain viable work skills...
- ♥ Mikeko, the underprivileged teenager who empowered himself through a charity tutoring service to go to college...
- ♥ The local foster parents, and the agencies that supported them, who cared for a mentally ill teenager...
- ♥ Judy, who works endlessly to provide medical care and loving homes for abandoned pets...
- ♥ The autistic boy who hit me in the face trying to "give me five" ...
- ♥ Joey, the illiterate young man who came to share my silly addiction to horror novels...

The volunteers and employees I have known possess endless energy to keep the programs going and growing. And they have innumerable individuals who need them. What they always lack is an extra helping hand, supplies, and funding. This campaign is an excellent avenue for us to make a real difference in the lives of real people.

I would like to close with a note regarding Katrina. If you would like to discuss how your donation might affect the victims of Katrina, please let me know. However, please consider that the ripple effects of this catastrophe have impacted the services and funding in our local area, which are in many cases still impacted by last years' hurricane season.

Respectfully,

*When asked by a prospective donor how much he should give, the best reply is, "Give until you are proud."*

- Paul Ireland