



DENISE MERRILL
SECRETARY OF THE STATE
CONNECTICUT

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For more information:
Av Harris: (860) 509-6255
Cell: (860) 463-5939

-PRESS RELEASE-

MERRILL KICKS OFF 2013 CONNECTICUT STATE EMPLOYEES CAMPAIGN FOR CHARITABLE GIVING

SECRETARY OF THE STATE JOINED BY SCOT HANEY OF WFSB TV; GOAL IS TO RAISE
MORE THAN \$1.4 MILLION IN TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHARITABLE
ORGANIZATIONS FROM STATE EMPLOYEES



HARTFORD: Secretary of the State Denise Merrill today joined Scot Haney of WFSB TV at the State Capitol in Hartford to kick off the 2013 Connecticut State Employees' Campaign for Charitable Giving. Also joining Secretary Merrill were Connecticut Attorney General George Jepsen and State Comptroller Kevin Lembo. The campaign, chaired by Secretary Merrill, started on July 22nd and runs through November 30, 2013. Its goal is to raise more than \$1.4 Million in charitable contributions from Connecticut State Employees. The 2012 Connecticut State Employees Campaign was chaired by Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman and raised a total of \$1,403,753 in contributions from 11% of Connecticut's more than 50,000 state employees participating in the campaign. The 2013 campaign seeks to increase participation among state employees to at least 15% and raise more than \$1.4 Million from state employees. Campaigns from previous years saw participation rates of nearly 20% of Connecticut's state employees.

"This is a very exciting day and if we are successful, more than 700 Connecticut charities will benefit from the generosity of our state employees," said Secretary Merrill. "I am very honored to chair the 2013 Connecticut State Employees Campaign. Over the last seventeen years, Connecticut's state employees have generously given nearly \$27 Million to charitable organizations at the workplace. Though we have had tough times over the last few years, our

state employees have continued to be generous and I am encouraged that improvements in our economy may result in higher participation in our annual campaign in 2013. Now that we have kicked off the campaign, I encourage every state agency to hold events in your office to raise funds. Be creative and have fun with it, and let's break some fundraising records!"

The Connecticut State Employees' Campaign for Charitable Giving (CSEC) is an annual fall event allowed by Public Act 93-182. It is the once a year opportunity for Connecticut State Employees to contribute to non-profit charities at the workplace. Through the campaign, which runs from July 22nd through November 29th, state employees can make a single gift to help people locally, throughout the nation, and around the world. The contributions made by state employees make possible a wide range of vital services—food for the hungry; protection of the environment; research for cures of diseases; care for both children and seniors; to name just a fraction of the services the more than 700 charities provide to thousands of people each year.

Connecticut State Employees own the campaign. State Employees set the policy for the campaign, review the charities that apply and oversee the distribution of funds. The campaign committee selects a participating organization to act as the Principal Combined Nine Federations, representing over 700 charities, will benefit from the campaign in 2013. They are:

- America's Charities
- Community Health Charities of New England
- Connecticut United Ways
- Greater Hartford Arts Council
- Earth Share New England
- Global Impact
- Independent Charities of America
- Neighbor To Nation
- Partners for a Better World

Find more information about the 2013 Connecticut State Employees Campaign online at:

www.csec.ct.gov