



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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## ***State Employee Giving Sets New Record With Over \$4 Million In Contributions***

**RICHMOND** – Virginia state employees dug deep to help more than 1,300 local, state, national and international charities and victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, with contributions totaling to date over \$4 million to the Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign (CVC), the state's workplace giving campaign. The total is the largest in the CVC's nine-year history and a 12 percent increase over last year's campaign.

The \$4,060,582 reported as of Monday includes nearly \$502,000 in earmarked contributions to the Red Cross and Salvation Army for Hurricane Katrina and Rita relief efforts.

"A critical part of being the best managed state in the nation is the state workforce," said Governor Mark R. Warner, CVC honorary chairman. "By their generosity and volunteering to help others in their communities and Commonwealth, our state workforce leads by example. Most importantly, everyone benefits – the victims of the hurricanes *and* our local charities."

This year's contributions brings to over \$25 million the amount employees have contributed since CVC began in 1997. The voluntary giving campaign is employee-directed and supports non-profit organizations approved by employees.

Sara Wilson, director of the Virginia Department of Human Resource Management and CVC chairman, said the campaign is an indicator of employee morale. "This is an incredible outpouring of support for the campaign and shows that our workforce is motivated to help others both on the job and through charitable giving. We are very fortunate to have such high quality employees."

As part of the record-setting year, 92 agencies reported contributions that exceeded their 2004 totals.

"My sense is that employees truly wanted to 'Lend a Helping Hand,' which is the campaign's theme," said Anne Dinterman, CVC's statewide director. "The hurricane relief efforts in September jump-started this year's campaign and people just kept giving both money and their time to help others."

A final report of the 2005 campaign will be issued in January.

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