



Agency News

An employee publication of the
Texas Department of Criminal Justice

State Employee Charitable Campaign begins September 1

The 19th annual State Employee Charitable Campaign (SECC) runs from September to the end of October, and participation is open to all state and higher education employees. In 2012, more than \$9 million was contributed by nearly 55,000 employees, with Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) staff donating more than \$900,000 of those dollars.

The SECC represents a variety of charities, and donors can choose which ones will receive their contribution. Many worthy causes benefit from the campaign, and participating entities range from small local charities to large and well-known national and international nonprofit organizations. Commenting on TDCJ's long record of successful SECC fundraising drives, agency campaign coordinator Carie Beaty noted that "Funds raised by generous TDCJ employees are instrumental in keeping many nonprofit organizations active."

Charities that wish to participate must meet stringent legal requirements to make sure they are recognized by the IRS as 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations and registered with the Secretary of State. Approved SECC charities undergo yearly audits and reviews to



ensure they provide direct or indirect health and human services, and they spend no more than 25 percent of funds raised on administration and fundraising, unless they qualify for a special exception.

Contributing through payroll deduction spreads out your giving over a year and provides regular contributions necessary to sustain charitable organizations. Regular payroll deductions allow you to maximize the positive effect of your contribution while monitoring the amount and timing of your donations, and you can end your payroll donation at any time. Cash and check giving is also accepted and, like payroll deductions, can be directed toward your favorite causes.

To learn more about the SECC and which charities it represents, visit the SECC website. A calendar of planned TDCJ fundraisers, as well as instructions on submitting a fundraising event, can be accessed on the agency website.

Participation in the SECC program is completely voluntary. ●