

State workers exceed goal for giving

BY GINGER GIBSON • THE NEWS JOURNAL • DECEMBER 27, 2008

State employees got into the giving spirit this year, raising \$670,000 for the United Way.

Gov. Ruth Ann Minner announced the total as part of the State Employees' Charitable Campaign last week.

The state had set a goal of \$650,000 and exceeded it by 3.5 percent.

"State employees always support our SECC effort with great enthusiasm, and I am very proud that we have exceeded our goal for another year," Minner said in a news release.

Given tough economic times for the state and its residents, many charities have seen donations dwindle. The United Way announced the Delaware Does More campaign as an effort to encourage more residents to help those who are less fortunate.

Because most state agencies have been under a hiring freeze this year, the donations were raised among a smaller pool of employees than have been involved in the past.

Despite those restraints, some agencies exceeded their totals from last year. Those agencies were Department of Correction, Department of State, Delaware National Guard, Department of Transportation and the Delaware State Housing Authority.

Other branches of the government also increased their donations. They were Office of the State Insurance Commissioner, the Delaware Transit Corporation and the Courts.

"In these trying economic times our nonprofit partners have seen the demand for their services rise dramatically," Lt. Governor John Carney, honorary SECC chairman, said in a news release. "Once again, our employees opened their hearts and wallets and came through to make this campaign a success."

The money will go to the state's United Way fund and will be used to help non-profits that serve residents.

“It’s a tough time for many of our neighbors due to the uncertain economy,” said Harold Gray, United Way of Delaware’s Vice President, Resource Development and Strategic Partnerships. “But, with the dedication and commitment from state employees and our other partners, United Way of Delaware will continue to make a positive impact on our community.”

SECC began in 1991 and is aimed at creating a vehicle for state employees to donate to charities. It starts each year in September and ends in October.