



Dear State Employees and Retirees:

The Maryland Charity Campaign is an important reminder of our shared belief that just one person can make a difference, and each of us must try. This year's theme, "We Care," reflects the responsibility we all have in Maryland to help our friends and neighbors in need, recognizing that there is no such thing as a spare citizen.

As we weather this national economic storm, more Maryland families must make do with less and less, making it more difficult to donate your hard-earned dollars to charity. Yet you continue to step up in the face of these challenges. Last year, nearly 24,000 of you selflessly gave over \$4 million to the Maryland Charity Campaign, realizing that our charities are some of the hardest hit during this economic downturn.

One in three Marylanders in need will have benefited from the services provided by many of the Campaign's participating charities. Whether it's the advances of medicine provided by research, support for our aging parents, health care services for our families, support to our veterans, or emergency response and disaster relief, so many of our citizens are touched by your gifts.

This year, we have over 900 nonprofits participating in the Campaign that provide critical services to those who need our help. By participating in the 2009 Maryland Charity Campaign, you can make a difference.

We are a strong state because of the many men and women who serve the people of Maryland. Thank you for your compassion, commitment and generosity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Martin O'Malley". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Martin O'Malley
Governor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony Brown". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Anthony Brown
Lieutenant Governor