



*Dear State Employees and Retirees:*

During a time of an uncertain economy, we all have concerns with the rising costs of so many essentials – gas, food, energy, and rent. The same situation is putting a strain on charities’ budgets at the very time so many are in need of their services. As costs rise, nonprofits may have to face the hard decision of reducing or eliminating the programs that so many have counted on.

That’s why giving to the Maryland Charity Campaign has never been more important. Your contributions are making it possible for charities to provide for the basic requirements of food, shelter, and safety while also supporting critical programs around medial research, education, the environment, and more.

This year, our office has carefully identified 891 charities that meet the requirements necessary for participation in the Maryland Charity Campaign. All participating charities have certified that the money raised from the campaign is used to provide services to Marylanders. Additionally, the charities listed in this year’s directory and on the Campaign website, [www.mdcharity.org](http://www.mdcharity.org), have met the requirements established by the Governor’s Executive Order including a limit on fundraising and administrative expenses to ensure that maximum benefit flows from your contributions.

Through the Maryland Charity Campaign, we can make a difference in the quality of life for everyone; including ourselves. Please take the time to review this directory and select one, two or maybe three worthwhile causes to support over the next year.

Join me and many of your fellow employees and retirees in making a positive difference in One Maryland. Show them that we care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John P. McDonough". The signature is stylized and fluid, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

John P. McDonough  
Secretary of State