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September, 2011

Dear Local Union Presidents:

Each year, AFSCME members are invited to participate in workplace giving campaigns across Minnesota. On behalf of the Executive Board of AFSCME Minnesota Council 5, I am writing to endorse and encourage members to take full advantage of employee-driven Combined Charities campaigns to support the issues and concerns that are important to them as workers and as members of the community.

These campaigns support important work in the community, work that is represented by solid organizations including:



An alliance of leading nonprofit health research and service organizations improving lives affected by chronic illness by investing in the health research, educational programs, and services of its member health charities. CHCM partners with employers to enhance their charitable activity, and provides employees with meaningful ways to connect with health charities they care about through workplace giving, volunteerism, and education.

Improving Lives Affected by Chronic Illness www.healthcharitiesmn.org



48 community organizations that turn up the heat. On situations that reinforce poverty. On attitudes that look the other way at inequality. We're creating a world where a working parent has access to good and affordable childcare. Where neighborhoods can have a voice in policy decisions that affect their daily lives. A place where charity becomes less necessary.

Don't get us wrong, charity is good. But change is better. www.communitysharesmn.org

Previously Community Solutions Fund



United Way brings people and communities together to advance the common good by creating a better life for us all. Our Agenda for Lasting Change focuses on 10 measurable goals in three critical areas: Meeting Basic Needs, Supporting Health and Independence and Nurturing Children and Families.

Live United!
www.unitedwaytwincities.org

**Greater Twin Cities
United Way**



MEF is a balanced group of 21 organizations with one common goal: maintaining Minnesota's treasured natural resources through protection, conservation and restoration. These efforts include everything from protecting our public lands to ensuring all Minnesotans have access to clean water, and much more.

Choose to help the environment. It adds up. www.mnenvirofund.org



Provides financial support to food shelves, food banks, on-site feeding programs, shelters, transitional and permanent supportive housing programs throughout Minnesota. Open Your Heart provides Education Fund grants to help homeless children for school supplies, book bags, school activity fees, gym shoes, and the other educational needs.

Giving where the need is greatest. www.oyh.org



United Arts (a program of COMPAS) benefits 30 arts organizations across Minnesota each year. These grants help ensure quality arts education in schools and sustain important community-building arts programs. Each year over 300,000 Minnesotans take part in programs funded by *United Arts*.

Changing lives through the arts. www.compas.org/unitedarts



The nation's largest, oldest, most successful and most comprehensive minority higher education assistance organization. UNCF provides operating funds and technology enhancement services for 39 member historically black colleges and universities, scholarships and internships for students at about 900 institutions, and faculty and administrative professional training.

A mind is a terrible thing to waste. www.uncf.org

Let there be no mistake—worker contributions are what sustain the critical services associated with these organizations and help to create better communities for everyone.

So join me in urging fellow AFSCME members to participate in their workplace giving campaigns this fall, and fully embrace their role in creating the kind of communities we all want to be part of.

Sincerely,

Eliot Seide,
Executive Director
AFSCME Minnesota Council 5, AFL-CIO

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