

NIEHS CFC raises more than \$100,000

By Allison Eason

Since 1961, the goal of the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) has been to provide an opportunity for federal employees to give back to their communities. This year was no different, as NIEHS employees stepped up to raise \$100,425. The charitable drive was busier than ever, with a talent show, bake off, bake sale, silent auction, fun run, and yoga classes.

Staff from the Division of Extramural Research and Training led the NIEHS campaign. This year's co-chairs were Elizabeth Ruben of the Program Analysis Branch, Barbara Gittleman of the Grants Management Branch, and Danielle Carlin, Ph.D., of the Hazardous Substances Research Branch.

"We reached 87 percent of our goal, and we were honored to experience the generosity of NIEHSers," said Ruben. "This year's talent show was very well attended and provided a way for NIEHSers to connect and enjoy community spirit."

Drive extended due to shutdown

The CFC takes place every year from October to December. Due to the government shutdown, the 2013 campaign was extended to Jan. 15. With nearly 3,000 charities accepting donations, a simple process made pledging easy for employees. Most chose to donate through online payroll deduction.

As part of the drive, several charities came to NIEHS Nov. 19, 2013 to give 2-minute presentations on their missions and goals, sharing how they help the less fortunate by providing support to those in need. The presentations were webcast in order to reach as many employees as possible.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH), of which NIEHS is part, exceeded its original goal during this year's campaign. NIH Director Francis Collins, M.D., Ph.D., wrote, "With your generosity, and despite the unique challenge of the government shutdown, we met more than 100 percent of our \$2.2 million goal."

Rising above economic challenges

The Greater N.C. Area CFC reported that donations totaled more than \$1.3 million. Even though there were spending cuts, a government shutdown, and economic stresses, the campaign still managed to fundraise at a remarkable level. The state's CFC representatives Gina Misasi-Wood and Linda Matich Lang played a key role in leading the ambitious endeavor.

In an all-hands email, NIEHS and NTP Director Linda Birnbaum, Ph.D., thanked employees for supporting the many CFC events, and for being generous and caring. "The charities of your choice will now have resources in 2014 to deliver services to those in need." Birnbaum also thanked the organizers of this year's campaign for giving their time to plan the various promotions, activities, and events.

(Allison Eason is a program specialist in the NIEHS Office of Communications and Public Liaison.)



Dick Sloane of the NIEHS Office of Management showcased his comical talents at the CFC talent show held Nov. 4, 2013. (Photo courtesy of Steve McCaw)



NIEHS Program Analyst Liam O'Fallon raced toward the finish line at this year's popular CFC Fun Run. (Photo courtesy of Steve McCaw)



"Helping those less fortunate is a life-guiding principle," said CFC co-chair Gittleman. (Photo courtesy of Steve McCaw)



Ruben was proud to serve as a CFC co-chair. (Photo courtesy of Steve McCaw)



"Getting involved with the CFC lets you know that there's a lot going on in our community," Carlin added. (Photo courtesy of Steve McCaw)

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