

## Chairperson's Message

Dear Fellow State Employees:

Since March, every New Jerseyan has been impacted by the effects of COVID-19 and the devastation it has left in its wake. We have seen thousands of our friends and loved ones become sick, or worse, pass away due to this insidious virus. Businesses have shuttered leaving employees, through no fault of their own, in dire financial predicaments as they try to figure out how to provide for their families. Non-profit organizations and each of us have stepped up by providing essential services for those in need: food, clothing, medical care, business loans, unemployment insurance, and other needs. Out of heartbreak, I believe there is great hope and I believe that hope starts with each of us through participation in the New Jersey Employees Charitable Campaign (NJECC).



Every day, New Jersey's public servants are making a profound impact on the lives of our residents. Now, more than ever, we can appreciate the role state government and its workers play in our lives. No matter how you arrived at a career in public service, we are all here to do good. Giving is the logical next step in our own personal mission. At times like this, many of us wonder what we can do to make an impact. Some argue they don't have millions in disposable income to help others. The truth is any level of giving you are able to commit to provides vital support for charities carrying out their mission.

Because of the essential work that you do on behalf of the public, most state and local civil service employees are provided with a level of job protection that helps enable us to weather times of uncertainty, unlike many our friends and neighbors. Our work helping others extends beyond the work day. In our personal lives, we are making a positive impact on our communities via volunteering and charitable giving. While some look to denigrate public employees during this pandemic, let's show them how critical we are to the social fabric of this great state. Together, let's defy the odds by committing to collectively donate \$1,000,000 to the charities of our choice this year.

Our state has been tested over the last few years. September 11<sup>th</sup>, the Great Recession, and Superstorm Sandy have left indelible marks on each of us. Just as we met the moment during those crises, we will rise once again as one New Jersey. I thank you for your participation and I am confident that this will be a banner year for the NJECC thanks to your generosity and commitment to our fellow New Jerseyans.

Sincerely,

Robert Asaro-Angelo  
Commissioner  
New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development