



Special points of interest:

- Top Environmental Stories of 2006
- Rants & Raves, plus 1st Quarter R6 Suggest Winner
- EZHire is Out, USAJobs is In
- A Dozen Ways to Save Some Green While Being Green
- Nancy Yarberry Wins Transportation Coordinator of the Year Award
- Introducing NEPAAssist

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Region 6 Employee News Journal

Front Lines Message from the Regional Administrator

The Art of Giving

As you have often heard me say, America is the greatest Nation in the world, and Americans are the most fortunate people. Not only do we enjoy freedoms and a standard of living that people living in other countries only dream of, we are a Nation that practices the art of giving.

According to *Giving USA*, American generosity yielded \$245 billion in charitable donations during 2004. And, in part because of Americans' response to the hurricanes that destroyed much of the Gulf Coast Region in 2005, donations that year rose to \$260 billion. Although those figures include contributions made by foundations and corporations (\$30 billion and \$14 billion respectively, in 2005), the overwhelming majority of charitable financial giving is by individuals.

The art of giving is not limited to financial contributions, however, but extends to the giving of ourselves and our time to worthy causes. Last year, for example, some 900 EPA employees from across the country volunteered to leave their homes and families in order to help bring hope and recovery to the people of southern Louisiana. And still today, the men and women of America's military are giving of themselves to protect our Nation and to extend freedom to distant parts of the world. Especially at this time of year, when most of us are enjoying the company of friends and family, I hope you will consider the families of our military, and the sacrifices they are making on our behalf.

Here at home, too, we are a people who volunteer our time and energy to help those less fortunate than ourselves. Right in our own communities, the contributions made by volunteers at places like Mission Arlington and The Samaritan Inn are essential to those organizations' ability to help the people they serve. Organizations like these and many, many others in the metroplex are dependent in large part on the financial support they receive from federal employees through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC).

Last year, federal civilian employees, postal workers, and military personnel pledged a record-setting \$268.5 million, and Region 6 employees accounted for \$74,000 in donations. This year, we set a Regional CFC goal of \$90,000, and we hope to greatly exceed that goal. In order to allow for maximum employee participation in our campaign, we are extending the deadline for submitting pledge forms until December 26, 2006. For those of you who have already submitted your pledge, thank you. For others who have not yet done so, I encourage you to again consider how you might help to make a lasting difference in the lives of others by making a donation to CFC.

