



THE STATE, UNIVERSITY, AND UW HEALTH EMPLOYEES COMBINED CAMPAIGN OF DANE COUNTY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STATE & UW EMPLOYEES RAISE \$2.5 MILLION FOR 500 CHARITIES

Donations from 7,000 State, University and UW Health employees in Dane County

MADISON, WI – About 7,000 state, University and UW Health employees in Dane County dug deep into their pockets in 2016, donating more than **\$2.5 million** for charity during the Partners in Giving fall campaign.

Partners in Giving Tuesday presented a check for \$2.52 million to 11 umbrella groups representing 520 charities at home, across the nation and around the world.

The check was presented during a recognition event for hundreds of state and UW employees who volunteered to run the “Give a Little, Change a Lot” campaign. One longtime Partners in Giving volunteer is John Shanda, a telecommunications manager at the Wisconsin Department of Corrections.

“I volunteer and contribute to Partners in Giving because the campaign supports a large number of great charities and participating allows me to build a rapport with many members of our agency,” said Shanda.

During the 2016 campaign, volunteers hosted various special events, such as mini-golf tournaments, penny wars, and bake sales, at their worksites. They also managed a pledge drive which lets employees select the charities they want to donate to and their payment method, including payroll deduction.

Over 6,900 state and UW employees gave “a little” and ultimately contributed well over \$2.5 million for the charities. The charitable causes range from hunger relief in Wisconsin to protection of air and water resources abroad.

“With these employee contributions, so many groups are able to provide services to so many families and others in need,” said Greg Zalesak, Partners in Giving Board Co-Chair. “The donations are absolutely critical to the mission of these charities and all the people and communities they touch.”

Since 1973, Partners in Giving has raised over \$73 million for charitable groups. For more information on Partners in Giving, the 2016 campaign and the participating charities, please visit www.giving.wi.gov.