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UM charitable giving campaign exceeds last year's total

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NEWS RELEASE

Dec. 29, 2009

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UM CHARITABLE GIVING CAMPAIGN EXCEEDS LAST YEAR'S TOTAL

MISSOULA —

Despite tough economic times, nearly 700 University of Montana administrators, faculty members and staff recently participated in the 2009-10 Charitable Giving Campaign by donating \$127,471 to local charitable organizations.

“I think it is remarkable the way UM employees stepped up for local charities in the face of a two-year wage freeze,” said Dudley Improta, assistant director of Campus Recreation and chair of this year’s campaign. “UM employees who find the time to serve on the campaign’s Executive Committee, Steering Committee and as solicitors make this annual endeavor successful.”

During the Charitable Giving Campaign, campus volunteers distribute informational packets to UM employees, who can make donations to various local organizations via one-time gifts or payroll deductions. The agencies selected to participate in the campaign are closely scrutinized to ensure that all donations go directly to local services.

The fundraising effort that became UM’s Charitable Giving Campaign began during the 1986-87 academic year when faculty and staff pledged \$25,000. Since then the amount raised has increased nearly every year. Last year’s campaign total was \$125,841.

“This community has always extended itself to assist those in need, exemplifying the ethic of civic engagement and demonstrating deep commitment,” said UM President George M.

Dennison. "Difficult economic times make even surviving much more difficult for charities and individuals in need. These donations will make a difference for our community."

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