



Montgomery County Employee Giving Campaign October 15 - November 30

[Click here](#) for detailed instructions for **logging in to the online campaign and on selecting and supporting charities.**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. **When is the Montgomery County Employee Giving Campaign being held this year?**
You can contribute from Monday, October 15 - Friday, November 30, 2018.

2. **Which organizations are participating in the campaign this year?**
There are a wide range of organizations participating in the campaign this year. Click here to start searching for [participating organizations](#). This online list only includes the nonprofit umbrella groups and their nonprofit members.

Included in the list of participating organizations, are the same umbrella organizations that have participated in previous years. Each umbrella organization included in the campaign raises money for nonprofit agencies and charitable foundations that share their mission.

>> [Click here to view the](#) umbrella organizations.

3. **Why should I give through payroll deduction as part of the County's Employee Giving Campaign when I could just send a check directly to the nonprofit organization?**
Payroll deduction is a very efficient, economical way for a nonprofit organization to process the gift. It takes one person to process a single check from Montgomery County, but it takes more people to process individual checks from many different donors. This type of processing drives up administrative expenses for nonprofit organizations.

Contributions made through payroll deductions are often four or five times larger than contributions made directly to nonprofit community organizations by check. You might want to give \$260 to one of your favorite charities, but it is often difficult for most people to find room in their monthly budget for a \$260 check. Having \$10 deducted each pay period is a much easier way to support your favorite community groups.

Giving through the workplace is a time-honored American tradition. Employee giving campaigns help build strong communities by giving employees an opportunity to learn about the nonprofit community organizations that work in conjunction with government to serve our neighbors in need and enrich our quality of life. This is a particularly valuable way of developing a culture of giving and volunteering for our younger employees. Providing links to nonprofit websites encourages employees to learn more about ways to get involved with these valuable community organizations.

4. **What percentage of my contribution goes towards administrative fees?**
None. Before 2014, an administration fee was deducted from your contribution. In response to concerns about the fee from county employees, the County Executive decided that the County will pay the modest administrative fees connected with the campaign. This means

every dollar that you contribute will go to the nonprofits you select.

5. How do I get more information about the umbrella organizations and their member nonprofits?

When you log in to the giving site, you'll be able to read stories about each organization's latest activities, find detailed descriptions of the participating community nonprofit organizations, and locate internet links to each member nonprofit. In addition, information is available from your department's Campaign Coordinator. To find your coordinator, [click here](#).

6. I have more questions about the specific projects that a particular nonprofit is working on in Montgomery County. How do I learn more about them?

The online giving portal has information about some of the participating nonprofits.

Additionally, a select group of nonprofits may have a live link to each organization's website.

7. Can I pick any organization(s) I want to support?

YES. There are thousands of different organizations participating in our campaign. More than likely, they represent a cause that you're passionate about and used to giving to. Starting in 2009, County employees have been able to write-in nonprofits not connected to the umbrella organizations in the campaign.

8. How can I contribute to a nonprofit that is not listed in the materials?

You can give through the "Request a Nonprofit" function on the "Give" page, found on giving platform once your log in. [Click here](#) for a link to detailed instructions for logging in.

MY CONTRIBUTION

9. How do I contribute to the Montgomery County Employee Giving Campaign?

There are two ways to contribute: Use the [County's online system](#) or fill out and return a [paper pledge form](#) for your charitable giving. For help logging in and selecting and supporting charities, [click here](#) or call (703) 957-7888.

10. Do I have to return my paper pledge form if I don't intend to contribute?

No.

11. How does the online system work?

If you wish to pledge online, please log in using the username and password you created last year or if you are new to this giving website, create a giving account at www.charities.org/montgomerycounty.

For first-time users, the giving platform will ask for your "Invite Code," this code if your County issued E-mail address. For detailed instructions explaining how the online system works, [click here](#). If you need further help, please call (703) 957-7888 or contact America's Charities' dedicated Help Desk at www.charities.org/support.

12. What opportunities does this year's campaign offer?

This year's campaign includes an online pledging system, designed to give you the most information possible about the participating community nonprofit organizations. Here are some additional opportunities to support Special Funds that are near to your heart:

- User-friendly software
 - Ability to write a check and use a credit card or Paypal (credit card and Paypal donations are subject to a merchant fee of 2.8% + \$.20/transaction and 2.2% + \$.30/transaction respectively.)
 - Ability to give to any 501(c)3 charity
 - Ability to give to Montgomery Sister Cities, Neighbors in Need, The Community Foundation in Montgomery County, and The Resilience Fund of The Greater Washington Community Foundation.
 - Workplace presentations where you will get a chance to meet representatives from community nonprofit organizations.
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- Most significantly in 2014, in response to concerns expressed by County employees, the County Executive decided that the County will pay the modest administrative fees connected with the campaign. This means every dollar that you contribute will go to the nonprofits you select.

13. How do I contribute money to the Montgomery County Employee Giving Campaign?

The online giving system accepts multiple giving choices. You can enroll for payroll deductions that can be spread over the year or you can choose a one-time payroll deduction starting with the first paycheck in January 2019. The online giving system also accepts one-time and recurring charges to credit cards.

Contributions by check must be made payable to **"America's Charities Fiscal Agent"** when using a [paper pledge form](#). In the event of multiple charities, please make out one single check for your total combined pledges. All checks must be accompanied by a pledge form and send to America's Charities Charitable Fund Management, 14150 Newbrook Drive, Suite 110, Chantilly, VA 20151.

A one-time contribution by check, credit card or PayPal is considered a 2018 donation for tax purposes. Charitable contributions made through payroll deductions should be considered a tax deduction for 2019.

- **Contributions by credit card are subject to a merchant fee of 2.8% + .20 per transaction.**
- **Contributions by PayPal are subject to a merchant fee of 2.2% + .30 per transaction.**

14. Are my contributions tax-deductible?

YES! Your contribution through payroll deduction is deductible for the 2018 tax year. Contributions made by check, credit card or Paypal are deductible for the 2017 tax year.

If using a [paper pledge form](#), please keep a copy of the form for your records.

15. Does Montgomery County match my gift?

No, but the County is paying the modest administrative costs of running the campaign. This means every dollar that you contribute will go to the nonprofits you select.

16. What if I change my mind about my online contribution after it was submitted?

You may log on to your online campaign website to modify your payroll deduction gift anytime until December 1, 2017. To discuss canceling your donation after that date, please contact payroll. For credit card or PayPal contributions, please contact your credit card or banking institution to cancel your payment.

GIVING IMPACT

17. Why should I give money to a nonprofit organization?

As County Executive Ike Leggett often points out, government can't do it all. Our community is the great place that it is to live, play, learn, and work in large measure because of our wonderful nonprofit community partners. They do much to help our neighbors in need and to enrich our quality of life.

Nonprofit groups multiply the impact of the dollars you contribute to them through other donations and the community service of their volunteers. For example, for every dollar that you donate to the Manna Food Center in Rockville, Manna is able to put five dollars worth of food on the table of a needy family.

Nonprofit groups save taxpayers lots of money each year. For example, it costs approximately \$25,000 for a child to remain in the child welfare system. The nonprofit Adoptions Together based in Silver Spring places children with families at an annual cost of \$7,200. This is good for the child who benefits from having a permanent residence, and it is good for taxpayers.

18. I don't have very much to give. I really can't imagine that my little contribution would do much good. Why should I bother giving?

Please understand that no gift is too small. Each gift is significant. If you could give just \$5 in each pay period, that would be \$130 for the whole year.

For \$25, A Wider Circle is able to provide the basic furnishings a formerly homeless family needs to move from a transitional shelter to permanent housing. In some cases, this means that children in the family may have their own beds for the first time.

If half of the County's 9,000 employees gave \$1 per pay period, which would be \$77,000, Interfaith Works could provide 85 heads of low-income households in Montgomery County with new jobs at increased salaries. The Interfaith Works program includes coaching and life skills support so that the family's increased income can translate directly into moving children from "at risk" to "ready to learn," including safer day care, after school programs and dental health. In addition, businesses in the county gain assistance in hiring and retaining good employees. So your gift combined with other small gifts could really make a difference.