



## *Harford County Public Schools*

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### **HCPS employees are tops in United Way giving**

Employees of the Harford County Public School (HCPS) System, again this school year, opened their hearts and wallets to contribute to the United Way Campaign of Central Maryland. Annually, HCPS employees give generously to the Harford County campaign, and 2009 was no exception, despite the current difficult economic times.

HCPS employees donated \$42,469.00 during the two-week campaign which kicked off October 16 and concluded October 30. This contribution is just \$3,681 less than the amount raised last year.

“At a time when the pinch is being felt by everyone, the teachers and administrators at Harford County Public Schools have responded in spectacular fashion,” said Stuart Clode, co-chair of United Way of Central Maryland. “The dollars they have graciously donated to United Way will have a huge impact on the spirit, safety, and well-being of families in need throughout our local neighborhoods. The community thanks you...then thanks you again!”

Again this year, the school system tracked the three schools or school offices which had the highest percentage of their employees participating in the United Way effort. Tied for first place this year were Churchville Elementary and Havre de Grace Middle schools with 100 percent participation from employees. Darlington Elementary faculty and staff netted third place for having a participation rate of 71.8 percent.

“I am extremely proud of HCPS employees for participating in this cause and donating so generously to the community,” said Dr. Robert M. Tomback. “Their participation speaks volumes about our teachers, administrators and support staff and their commitment to helping others.”

Participants had several ways to contribute to the campaign, including an electronic pledge system that enabled employees to provide their pledges through several strokes on their keyboards, saving administrative time and allowing more of the money donated to come back to individuals and organizations who need it rather than be used to cover processing expenses. Other options were a one-time or continuous payroll deduction and a one-time cash or check donation.

In addition to the school system’s monetary contributions, Patterson Mill Middle-High School is involved in the United Way’s Youth Venture Program as a result of former HCPS Superintendent Jacqueline C. Haas’ long and strong support of United Way. Three of the school’s service groups – Positive Action through Work and Service, Future Educators and the Social Justice Club – will create action plans to positively impact their community or the community of humans. The service groups are still in the development of ideas stage; however, they are actively working with club sponsors and United Way to begin service initiatives.

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