

Combined Federal Campaign offers opportunity to donate

The Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) starts in September, giving federal and postal employees the opportunity to make a charitable donation to one—or several—charities through payroll deduction. The campaign runs through the fall, meaning letter carriers have plenty of time to research and decide which charities to donate to.

NALC President Fredric Rolando sent out his annual reminder in July, asking carriers to consider three charities: the Postal Employees' Relief Fund (PERF), the Muscular Dystrophy Association and United Way Worldwide.

"I know the times continue to challenge us on many fronts," Rolando wrote.

"But I also know that when we take action to make a difference and join our individual efforts, we improve lives and create better communities. Thank you for your daily work delivering the mail and thank you in advance for your consideration to help your community through the Combined Federal Campaign."

PERF is run by the four postal unions and three management organizations, along with the Postal Service, solely for the benefit of postal employees. Last year it made some changes to its structure to help the organization put needed funds into postal employees' hands faster after a natural disaster destroys or damages their homes or

residences. Under the new policy, applicants no longer need to wait until after they receive insurance settlements or other emergency relief to apply for help from PERF, though they still must provide documentation of the loss. The application must come to PERF no later than 120 days after the disaster, except under extenuating circumstances.

To qualify for assistance, the applicant's home must have been destroyed or damaged to the point of being uninhabitable for a long period (an estimated 90 days or more). A homeowner whose residence is destroyed is eligible for a grant of \$3,000; a homeowner or renter displaced by severe damage, but who will eventually return to the old home, can receive \$2,000. A non-career or retired employee in either situation is eligible for half these amounts.

In addition to floods or storms, loss of a home in a fire is included, but only when caused by a natural disaster. These changes apply to natural disasters occurring on or after Oct. 29, 2012, so as to include Hurricane Sandy.

MDA is NALC's official charity and is the world's leading nonprofit health organization sponsoring research seeking the causes of, and effective treatments for, neuromuscular diseases. MDA research grants currently support more than 250 projects worldwide, as well as camps and activities for children suffering from one of these diseases.

United Way Worldwide is the leadership and support organization for the network of nearly 1,800 community-based United Ways in 45 countries and territories. The United Way's mission is to bring about a world where all individuals and families achieve their human potential through education, income stability and healthy lives. **PR**

