

‘CFC ninja’ wins award for increasing donations

Richmond, VA Branch 496 carrier **Karen Brown** had just 11 days to bring a lagging Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) charity drive in her city back to life. Managers who knew about her past success with encouraging postal workers to support charity groups of their choice through CFC asked her to take over their local CFC efforts last year just days before the two-and-a-half-month campaign was to end.

Eleven days later, Brown had doubled the number of CFC participants and boosted by 158 percent over the previous year the total they pledged to give through payroll deductions.

In recognition of Brown’s extraordinary effort, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) presented her with a National CFC Hero award in August after she was nominated by the United Way’s Richmond chapter. United Way is a leading beneficiary of CFC donations.

Brown’s success came from approaching potential CFC supporters one by one, she said. “You have to ask individuals. I would talk to people—carriers, clerks, supervisors—individually.”

She has been so successful, some have nicknamed her the “CFC ninja.”

Brown attributed to a higher power the ultimate success of her work on behalf of charitable organizations: “God gave me a job,” she said, “and worked through me to reach people.”

As federal employees, letter carriers and other postal workers can participate in the CFC. Pledges made by federal civilian, postal and military donors during the campaign season



(Sept. 1 to Dec. 15) support eligible non-profit organizations through donations deducted voluntarily from their paychecks each pay period. Carriers can choose a charity, or several, to support, and an amount they choose will be deducted from their paychecks and automatically sent to each charity.

“What an impressive accomplishment by an impressive leader,” NALC President Fredric Rolando said. “I urge letter carriers to follow Karen’s lead in supporting CFC by signing up to donate to their choice of charity.”

Brown said she is already working hard during this year’s campaign: “I’ll start going around to talk to people again.” **PR**

Letter carrier Karen Brown received a National CFC Hero award in August.