

As of 2012, I will have fifty years of working with government employees who consistently support and donate to charities and the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC).

When I started working in 1962 at the U.S. Naval Construction Battalion Center (CBC) in Port Hueneme, there was an employee's organization and the Navy Relief that provided a means for civilian employees and the military to donate money and support various charitable causes. So, I joined in and did what I could.

Thanks to President John F. Kennedy for introducing a plan for civil service employees and military personnel to contribute to various charities, agencies, and programs that help mankind. It opened a window to give financial assistance to local, national, and international charities and causes.

So, what did I do? Well, there were baked goods sales, potlucks, and "white elephant raffles." I participated as a committee member and helped by encouraging people to bring in their donations, set up the silent auction tables, sold raffle tickets, cooked for potlucks, and assisted with other activities. They were successful events that helped raise the necessary funds.

When I transferred from the CBC to Social Security in 1965, it was not surprising to learn that the SSA staff had the same approach to the CFC. I joined the committee and the work continued.

However, things did not remain the same because a new manager arrived in the 1980's. Larry Boland was the weekend guru of garage and yard sales. He only bought high-end items, without chips, scratches, or dents. He wanted to try something different. He asked me to chair the CFC and keep the tried and true success items, but also add some new approaches.

I knew the innovative SSA staff would be there, so the process of change began with a "live auction" and the "pledge now and pay later" plan.

An upscale live auction with a variety of themes such as gift baskets, gift cards, handcrafted wood items, handmade blankets, collectible treasures, wreaths, and other items became the anticipated standard. Some people even did their Christmas, birthday, and anniversary gift shopping at this event.

Another new concept, the "pledge now and pay later" plan arrived. Instead of writing a check or giving cash the day of the auction, the purchases could be added to your CFC pledge slip. If an employee spent \$260.00 at the auction, the employee could sign up for a \$10.00 payroll deduction to pay the balance over 26 pay periods. It became a workable option for employees to give to the charities or causes of their choice and participate in the CFC.

The SSA employees in the Ventura District which consists of the Oxnard, Thousand Oaks, and Ventura offices, made this happen. Each of the offices has their own approaches to promoting the CFC, but THEY NEVER STOP GIVING AND ALWAYS COME THROUGH.

SO THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES!

Mary Ann Foushee