



NEWS FROM:
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Public Defender Shirk, Staff Raise Nearly \$3500 For Local Charities *Clay, Nassau, Duval County Organizations to benefit from annual program*

Jacksonville, FL: Fourth Circuit Public Defender Matt Shirk applauds his staff for providing monetary donations to local charities through the Florida State Employees Charitable Campaign (FSECC). On Thursday afternoon, Mr. Shirk presented John Smith, Regional Director of the Northeast Florida FSECC with a symbolic 'big check' showing the amount \$3434.00 which totals the collective donations given by participating staff members of the Fourth Circuit office, including those in Duval, Clay and Nassau Counties.

"The ongoing, national recession has hit us here in Northeast Florida and it is impressive to see that people are willing to help those less fortunate by sending a donation through either a payroll deduction or even a one time gift," said Shirk. "Our staff in the Public Defender's office has always been cognizant of the needs of those facing tough times. For them to donate their hard-earned dollars to help others is a real testament to the compassion and sincerity of those in my office. It is an honor to present this check to Mr. Smith with FSECC and we look forward to doing this again next year."

The FSECC is an umbrella organization that consists of dozens of local charities, among them; The United Way, Clara White Mission, Clay Behavioral Health Center, Hope Haven Children's Clinic and Family Center, Nassau County Council on Aging, The I.M. Sulzbacher Center for the Homeless, Jacksonville Urban League, Jacksonville Area Legal Aid and the Salvation Army. Participation in the annual campaign which is run statewide is completely voluntary and has raised more than \$65 million over the last 26 years thanks to the generosity of state employees in the Fourth Circuit and throughout Florida.

"We appreciate the efforts of Mr. Shirk and the support of all participating employees of the Public Defender's Office," said John Smith of FSECC. "The financial assistance you are providing will indeed make a big difference in many lives. Thank you all for your efforts."

For more information about the Florida State Employees Charitable Campaign, visit them online: http://dms.myflorida.com/human_resource_support/human_resource_management/for_state_hr_practitioners/state_employees_charitable_campaign. Mr. Shirk indicated that his office will continue to participate in the program.



(L-R) Fourth Circuit Public Defender Matt Shirk, Administrative Director Denise Ostertag, FSECC Regional Director John Smith. In a Thursday afternoon ‘big check’ presentation, Mr. Shirk and Ms. Ostertag, who served as FSECC campaign coordinator in the P.D. office, provided Mr. Smith with \$3434 which was raised by Clay, Duval and Nassau County Public Defender’s office employees over the course of three weeks.