



A MESSAGE FROM THE
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

Avery D. Niles, Commissioner

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
GOOD NEWS @ DJJ:**

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**Juvenile Justice Team Sets Another Record Year for Agency Participation
DJJ Staff Exceeds State Charitable Contributions Target**

(DECATUR, GA) – The results are in! – And Commissioner Avery D. Niles is pleased to announce the Department of Juvenile Justice has once again **exceeded** its own target expectations to set a new record of volunteer participation for its in-house State Charitable Contributions Program Campaign (SCCP) collections.

State employees at the Department of Juvenile Justice have raised a **grand total of \$20,301.61** in donations. The surprise total is accompanied by their highest level of employee fundraising participation since the department-wide SCCP Program was started here.

Each year DJJ Commissioner Avery D. Niles challenges the four-thousand-plus dedicated employees at juvenile justice to embrace his personal vision to help restore harmony to Georgia communities disadvantaged by juvenile crime. **“While the health, safety, and success of youth in our care is our Number One Priority, it is also important for the DJJ Family to reach out and help our communities become stronger,”** said Commissioner Niles.

Commissioner Niles said the DJJ Charitable Contributions team is another example of his agency’s community involvement and volunteer outreach conducted ‘With a Servant’s Heart’. The Commissioner quoted First Lady Sandra Deal’s conviction that, **“When we reach out to become involved in helping mold a new beginning for another person, we bring hope for that individual and we in turn receive joy.”**

DJJ’s imaginative Charitable Contributions Team doesn’t rely solely upon traditional online and paper pledges. Instead, these hyperactive campaigners developed and launched a non-stop moneymaking menu of charitable fundraisers ranging from chili cook-offs, and popcorn & gift wrap orders, to sales of popular ‘jean passes’ that for a small donation, authorize appropriate informal attire in the work place on special days.

Now, more than 182 individual charities are being supported through donations collected by DJJ employees for the SCCP Program.

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Commissioner Niles said, “*In our personal search for ways to fix the fabric of broken communities, the annual State Charitable Contributions Program is a means for our staff to reinvest in our neighborhoods with lasting impact.*” Niles said, “*I encourage our staff to reach out ‘with a servant’s heart’ and commit our hands to improving the damaged lives of youth across the state.*”

Perhaps most impressively, more than \$3,100.00 was raised by DJJ’s Charitable Contributions Team just by collecting pennies, dimes and quarters in colorful water cooler bottles. The plastic bottles were costumed like animated cartoon characters, hungry to be fed spare change.

“Their dollars and coins have truly made a huge difference and impact on Georgia charities across the state,” said Commissioner Niles. *“The success of this campaign shows once again why the Department of Juvenile Justice is more than just a place to work. The dedication and compassion DJJ employees have in their hearts for fellow Georgians does not end when they clock out and leave each day. It’s a family – a family that cares.”*

For more information about “With a Servant’s Heart” please visit <https://gov.georgia.gov/initiatives> or go to <http://nathandeal.org/servantsheart/>.

(END RELEASE)

“DJJ is a great place to make your work count.”

**Avery D. Niles, Commissioner
Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice**