

As we gather with friends and loved ones during this holiday season it is an opportunity to reflect on an extraordinary year at the Department – we have much to be proud of. It is also an opportunity to remember the incredible need that exists here in our own communities, across the country, and around the world. From the homes and businesses affected by Super Storm Sandy, to the small towns suffering from the prolonged drought, to families caught in strife and famine overseas, there are many in need.

As a community, the Department of Energy has always stepped forward to help, and the Combined Federal Campaign has always been at the heart of our charitable efforts.

Right now, we are very close to our 2012 department-wide CFC goal. We have reached 94% of our \$1.3 million target, leaving us just \$68,000 short.

To everyone that has already pledged, I say thank you. To those who have yet to contribute, you still have a couple more days to choose from the more than 4,400 charities affiliated with CFC. Making your donation is simple, easy, and only takes a few minutes. I encourage you to make your pledge today.

Online “e-giving” and payroll-deduction pledges may be made at <http://www.energy.gov/cfc> through December 31, 2012. You also have the option of making a one-time cash contribution if you would rather do it all up front or anticipate changes in your professional or personal circumstances over the coming year. You may also make paper pledges and contributions through February 24, 2013, however, you may only designate specific charities you wish to pledge to through February 15, 2013.

Thank you all for everything that you do, and happy holidays to you and your families.

Steven Chu