

2009 CFC Kick-Off Speech

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Welcome to this year's Combined Federal Campaign Kick-off!! This year's theme is **I CAN...**you fill in the rest!

Laura Schlessinger said you've touched people and known it. You've touched people and may never know it. Either way you have something to give. It is in giving to one another that each of our lives becomes meaningful".

I want to talk to you about giving. Yes you can. Did you notice that in the federal buildings there are containers to deposit donations of food that will go to the food bank? Since so many people are unemployed the donations to food banks have decreased substantially. If you listen to the news it can be depressing as well as informative. Last week the news said that in the state of California 87,000 people lost their jobs in July, bringing the total to 2.2 million. If there are 2.2 million individuals who are unemployed and each person represents a family of 4 that equates to 8.8 million people being impacted. What is the impact? Homelessness, hunger, medical needs, no health insurance, no car insurance, ASPCA animals dropped off has quadrupled, children needing to be clothed, senior citizens deciding between buying medicine or food and of course foreclosures.

I CAN...CAN YOU?

Well, let me tell you a story that was shared with me just yesterday morning. As you are all aware, we solicit for Loaned Executives to support and run our CFC campaigns. As part of their training they go to a charity and actually help in the process or operation. This year they went to St. Anthony's Foundation in the Tenderloin District of San Francisco. They helped to feed the Homeless. No, they fed the homeless! They prepared the food, cooked the food, cleaned and bussed tables...whatever the volunteers do in preparation of helping to feed the homeless, that is what the LE's did. The Loaned Executive that told me of this experience said that on August 27, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm 2,000 meals were served. His task was to clean and bus the tables. Meals consisted of vegetables, a roll, butter, rice, meat, drink and dessert. The people could eat until they were full and even take food with them. The food was donated from restaurants, the church, private donors and food banks. It was calculated that the cost of the meal per person was 43 cents (vegetables, roll, butter, rice, meat, drink and dessert). Now here is the kicker, the turnout was considered low at St. Anthony's that day and they **ONLY** served 2,000 meals (not necessarily to 2,000 people). Why you might ask was the turnout low? Well, because on Thursday's Glide Memorial serves fried chicken to the homeless. **NOW THINK...43 cents...2,000 meals, do the math \$860 per day.** Now I want each of you to do me a small favor, reach into your pocket and take out one dollar, change or paper it doesn't matter, now hold it up. Do the math; \$1.00 per pay period, 26 pay periods equals \$26.00 per year. \$26.00 divided by 43 cents equals 60 meals. You can feed 60 people a well balanced meal on \$1.00 per pay period. If I asked you to pull out a \$10.00 bill some of you would be having a tug of war with your purse or pocket for fear I might have people come around and pass the hat. But to ask you to take out \$1.00 was easy and painless. **DO THE MATH...I CAN...do what? I can make a difference, I can change things, I can help, I can start now, I can feed 60 people for \$26.00...ICAN - I CAN!**

Can the LE's that are here today please stand up? Let's give them a round of applause!

Remember, **I CAN - YOU CAN...**There are many, many charities that need our support. It is up to you to find your cause or charity and give. Please just do something now. **I CAN and YOU CAN!**

I would like to close by reading a short story by Jack Canfield and Mark Victor Hansen called "One At A Time".

A friend of ours was walking down a deserted Mexican beach at sunset. As he walked along, he began to see another man in the distance. As he grew nearer, he noticed that the local native kept leaning down, picking something up and throwing it out into the water. Time and again he kept hurling things out into the ocean.

As our friend approached even closer, he noticed that the man was picking up starfish that had been washed up on the beach and, one at a time, he was throwing them back into the water.

Our friend was puzzled. He approached the man and said, "Good evening, friend. I was wondering what you are doing."

"I'm throwing these starfish back into the ocean. You see, it's low tide right now and all of these starfish have been washed up onto the shore. If I don't throw them back into the sea, they'll die up here from lack of oxygen."

"I understand," my friend replied, "but there must be thousands of starfish on this beach. You can't possibly get to all of them. There are simply too many. And don't you realize this is probably happening on hundreds of beaches all up and down this coast? Can't you see that you can't possibly make the difference?"

The local native smiled, bent down and picked up yet another starfish, and as he threw it back into the sea, he replied, "Made a difference to that one!"