# 2026 Combined Charities Campaign Template Articles

## Kicking Off the 2026 Combined Charities Campaign

Tuesday, Sept. 30, 11 a.m. via Teams

October is just around the corner, which means it’s almost time for the 2026 Combined Charities campaign. Every year, state employees across Minnesota come together to support causes they care about, and it all starts with the annual kickoff event.

Join us on Tuesday, Sept. 30 for a live virtual kickoff event hosted by the Combined Charities board. Whether you’re new to Combined Charities or have participated before, the kickoff is a great way to get inspired and learn about the impact you can have in your local community.

### Event Highlights

* Tony Sanneh, former professional soccer player and executive director of the Sanneh Foundation, will share his powerful story. The nonprofit empowers youth through educational support, food support and physical and social development programs.
* A special video message from Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan.
* Remarks from Lindsay Kerwin, board chair of Combined Charities.

[Register now to let us know you’re coming to the kickoff event](https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/a1ea4d10-691b-4523-bd41-390b4afc7c77%40eb14b046-24c4-4519-8f26-b89c2159828c).

### What is Combined Charities?

It’s an easy, convenient way for state employees to support nonprofits through payroll deduction. While you can start a deduction any time of year, October is when we come together statewide to focus on giving back.

Combined Charities partners with federations, which are groups of nonprofits with a similar focus area or mission. Depending on the federation you choose, you can give to a specific nonprofit within their network or let the federations distribute your donation to where it’s needed most.

Currently, state employees help support over 1,000 charities representing a wide variety of health, education, environmental, arts and social service programs.

To learn more about the federations, visit the [Minnesota Combined Charities website](https://mn.gov/mmb/combined-charities/charities/).

## Week 1 – 2026 Combined Charities Campaign: Supporting Physical and Mental Well-being

As we roll into fall and the start of October, it’s time to kick off the annual Combined Charities campaign and highlight the power of what we can do together as State of Minnesota employees. Through simple payroll deductions, you can support local nonprofits doing essential work in communities across the state.

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### What does your donation do?

Every day, people in Minnesota face a range of health-related challenges. Nonprofits supported through Combined Charities provide everything from counseling and medical transportation to caregiver support and community education. Your donation helps people access care that might otherwise be out of reach.

Here’s what payroll deductions can help fund:

* $1 per pay period helps provide free health education resources to the public.
* $5 per pay period provides financial assistance for people facing expensive health challenges.
* $10 per pay period provides training in Mental Health First Aid for ten community members.
* $28 per pay period provides one child with mental health services for a year.

Get in the mix with $26. Even $1 per pay period, or $26 per year, can make a real difference. Small, regular contributions from many people build a safety net that keeps our communities healthier and more resilient.

### How to Donate

Visit the [Participating Federations webpage](https://mn.gov/mmb/combined-charities/charities/) to learn more about the federations and charities you can donate to.

1. Access the [Self Service Portal at state.mn.us/employee](https://hub.selfservice.systems.state.mn.us/psp/hubss/SELFSERVICE/?cmd=login&languageCd=ENG&) and log in.
2. Select the Self Service tile.
3. Select the My Pay tile, then the Charitable Contributions tile.
4. Select the Add Deduction button.
5. Choose your charity or federation, enter your donation amount, enter the start and stop dates, and select Save.

Note: Payroll deductions are valid for one calendar year. If you donated last year, you’ll need to renew your deduction for 2026.

#### Designate to Specific Charities

Within a federation, you can specify what charities receive your donation. Visit the [Designation Overview webpage](https://mn.gov/mmb/combined-charities/employee-giving/designation/) for more information and instructions.

### Questions?

For questions about the Combined Charities campaign or how to set up a donation, contact your [agency’s coordinator](https://mn.gov/mmb/combined-charities/coordinator-resources/coordinators-list/index.jsp) or combinedcharities.mmb@state.mn.us.

## Week 2 – 2026 Combined Charities Campaign: Empowering the Next Generation

Just like State of Minnesota employees, local nonprofits are working every day to create a stronger and more resilient Minnesota. Through simple payroll deduction, Combined Charities is a way for state employees to help these nonprofits carry out their essential work in communities across the state.

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### What does your donation do?

Young people across Minnesota face challenges that can stand in the way of learning and development, like hunger, lack of school supplies or limited access to safe spaces and supportive adults. Nonprofits supported through Combined Charities help meet those needs by providing meals, mentorship, academic resources and enrichment opportunities. Your donation helps ensure youth have what they need to succeed in school and in life.

Here’s what payroll deductions can help fund:

* $2 per pay period provides two kids with school supplies for the year.
* $5 per pay period provides a bag of food to a hungry student over the weekend during the school year.
* $10 per pay period provides a scholarship to a low-income child with cerebral palsy to attend an integrated wilderness adventure camp.
* $25 per pay period provides a year of books to a child through United Way's partnership with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

Get in the mix with $26. Even $1 per pay period, or $26 per year, can make a real difference. Your donation helps ensure that kids across Minnesota can focus on learning, growing, and reaching their full potential.

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## Week 3 – 2026 Combined Charities Campaign: Providing Food, Shelter and Stability

Across Minnesota, people are stepping up to care for one another in times of need. State employees and local nonprofits are part of that shared effort, working to make sure no one is left without food, shelter or support. Through Combined Charities, your donation can help create stability and hope for individuals and families facing life's toughest challenges.

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### What does your donation do?

Too many Minnesotans struggle to meet their most basic needs, like having a safe place to sleep, enough food to get through the week or access to essential hygiene items. Nonprofits supported through Combined Charities work every day to provide food, shelter, clothing and other critical resources for individuals and families in crisis. Your donation helps bring stability and dignity to people facing tough challenges.

Here’s what payroll deductions can help fund:

* $1 per week provides milk for one week at a homeless shelter for women and children.
* $6 per pay period provides nutritious and easy to prepare meals for a hungry child for an entire school year.
* $10 per pay period provides 650 free meals to families and 26 hygiene bags for homeless youth.
* $20 per pay period provides two uninsured families with children with complete dental care for the entire year.

Get in the mix with $26. Even $1 per pay period, or $26 per year, can make a real difference. Your donation helps provide warmth, nourishment and safety to those who need it.

### How to Donate

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## Week 4 – 2026 Combined Charities Campaign: Standing Together through Care and Advocacy

Every Minnesotan deserves the opportunity to thrive in a safe and supportive environment. Local nonprofits provide shelter, advocacy and support when it’s needed most to survivors of domestic violence and abuse. Through Combined Charities, you can ensure survivors have the care and resources they need to find safety.

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### What does your donation do?

Every year, many Minnesotans face domestic violence or abuse, often without a safe place to turn. Survivors may be escaping harm, in need of shelter or looking for someone who will listen and believe them. Nonprofits supported through Combined Charities step in with trained advocates, emergency resources and long-term support services to help people get out and begin rebuilding their lives. Your donation helps provide a safety net that turns fear into stability and isolation into connection.

Here’s what payroll deductions can help fund:

* $2 per pay period provides a gas card to help people fleeing domestic violence get to a safe space or meet with an advocate.
* $3 per pay period helps provide soft bedding and clean towels for a woman escaping domestic violence.
* $10 per pay period provides 295 community members with safety advocacy services and community prevention training for families suffering from domestic violence.
* $40 per pay period provides professional support services and advocacy for victims of abuse.

Get in the mix with $26. Even $1 per pay period, or $26 per year, can make a real difference. Your donation helps create pathways to safety, healing, and a future free from violence.

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## Week 5 – 2026 Combined Charities Campaign: Building Stronger Communities

What makes a community strong? It’s not just roads, buildings and parks. It’s the people who care, who show up for one other and who work together to build a place for everyone to belong and thrive. Across Minnesota, nonprofits are offering essential support and creating opportunities for connection. Through Combined Charities, you can be part of that community-building work.

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### What does your donation do?

Community doesn’t just happen by accident. It’s built every day through care, connection and commitment. But many Minnesotans face barriers with social isolation, food and housing insecurity and difficulties gaining skills for stable, long-term employment. Nonprofits supported through Combined Charities step in to fill the gaps. Your donation helps strengthen the foundation of our communities.

Here’s what payroll deductions can help fund:

* $3 per pay period provides daily care and shelter for a homeless abandoned animal.
* $6 per pay period provides free books to families who might not have the opportunity to access books in their home, encouraging early literacy skills.
* $20 per pay period provides job training and employment support for two adults.
* $40 per pay period helps one family stay in their home through an eviction prevention program.

Get in the mix with $26. Even $1 per pay period, or $26 per year, can make a real difference. Your donation helps fuel the everyday work of building stronger, safer and more connected communities.

### How to Donate

Visit the [Participating Federations webpage](https://mn.gov/mmb/combined-charities/charities/) to learn more about the federations and charities you can donate to.

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