



CFC Supporter Story: Generations of Givers

The Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) is one of the largest workplace fundraising campaigns in the world, having raised \$8.2 billion – and counting – for thousands of vetted charities that make a local, national and global impact. With a campaign of this size, there are many people who help raise awareness, manage the day-to-day operations and encourage generosity, in the form of monetary donations and volunteerism, to the CFC's charities.

Debra A. Gale is one of those people. As a CFC program manager for National Institutes of Health (NIH), she helps with all of those activities and more, in addition to being a management analyst at NIH.

Being involved with charitable activities isn't new for Gale – it's in her blood. "My parents were my first example of 'givers,' and they taught me at a very young age to give to others and be kind to one another," she says. "They also taught me that the greatest gift is charity (love). I'm always reminded of my parents' teachings, and as an adult, it's easy for me to give my time, my money or whatever is needed of me to help someone in need."

Gale's main charitable cause is cancer research, in memory of her father. In this interview, she shares her story, her motivation and reasons for giving.

How did you first get involved with CFC?

I was not familiar with the CFC until I started my first federal job at NIH in 2007. When I learned about the federal program and how easy it was to support a charity, I was eager to give. As my career progressed at NIH, I became more and more involved. Being in a leadership role, I felt it was my responsibility to ignite the teams and tell them my story, in an effort to pull on the heartstrings of folks by encouraging them to support something they care about.

What is your why for supporting cancer research?

I give because I care about heart and cancer causes. My mom died of a heart attack at the early age of 57 and my dad died of bone cancer at the age of 73. During my dad's final days, I remember him saying to me, "Debi, I just have so much more to do and give." His words have resonated with me since his passing, and I do what I can to give back.

I love paying it forward.

What keeps you motivated to continue to support this cause?

The memories I shared with my parents keep me motivated. Giving is instilled in my heart. It's easy for me to give to the CFC, because there are so many charities that focus on the causes I care about. I believe there is a cure for cancer and understand it takes money to

conduct research. Until cancer no longer exists, my specific charities can continue to rely upon my support.

For those who want to see the impact of their contribution immediately, what's a cause they can support?

Some impacts are obvious to see, such as disaster relief. Just based upon the disasters that have affected so many people in Texas, Florida and around the world, you can visually see a need. Although donations from the current CFC won't be disbursed until 2018, the victims from these horrific hurricanes will need continuous support throughout 2018 and beyond.

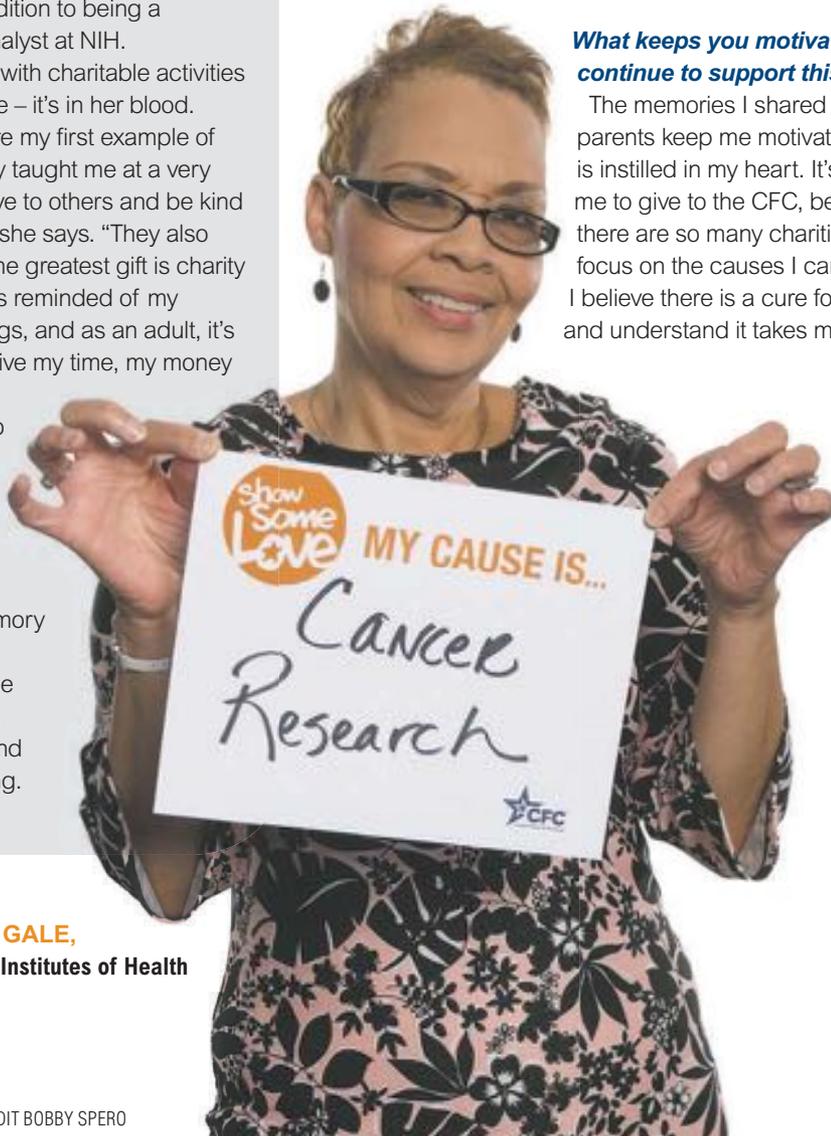
Why should Federal employees participate in CFC in particular?

Employees who donate to this campaign, whether it's via payroll deduction, credit card or whatever method they decide, can be assured their donations are addressing an extended need. Also with the CFC, I don't have to worry if my donation is reaching the correct charity, since all charities participating in the CFC are vetted. It's just a good reassurance knowing I can trust the CFC.

How would you advise someone who wants to donate to a CFC charity but isn't sure which cause or charity to support?

Everyone cares about something. It's simple, with many charities addressing various causes, I would encourage employees to open their heart, look around, find a need and then support that need.

Story by Tara Shubbuck



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There are 3 Promotional CFC Days remaining to encourage engagement throughout the Federal community and make giving fun and meaningful:

SHOW SOME LOVE DAY ON NOV. 2 where the Federal community will be asked to show and tell about their favorite charitable cause using a cause board.

GIVING TUESDAY ON NOV. 28 where the Federal community will support this global day of online giving by aiming to make this the highest pledge day of the CFC.

INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY ON DEC. 5 when Federal employees will be encouraged to pledge volunteer hours through the campaign and share their volunteer experiences with co-workers, family, and friends.

Visit cfncna.org for more information.
Donation portal coming soon.