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*Susanne R. Young, Secretary*

**TO: All State Employees**  
**FROM: Susanne R. Young, Secretary of Administration**  
**DATE: September 17, 2020**  
**RE: VtSHARES 2020 Campaign: Coming Together**

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Dear fellow employees:

Thank you for coming together to meet the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic this year. It's because people like you have taken the precautions necessary that allows Vermont to continue to be known as "the safest place in America" with having the fewest total, per capita, and lowest positivity rate of COVID-19.

It is in that spirit that we kickoff this year's VtSHARES annual giving campaign. Our theme for this year's event, which runs October 5-23, 2020 is adequately named 'Coming Together'. When the State of Emergency was declared in March, so many felt isolated and alone, confused and afraid. Basic needs were challenged, and people were asked to physically distance from one other. It was during that uncertain time of vulnerability that communities came together in a way that unified us all and strengthened our resolve. We cared for neighbors, friends and family and put other's needs before our own.

Today, I'm asking that you continue to do the same. VtSHARES offers employees the opportunity to donate to Vermont based nonprofit organizations through payroll deductions. It provides an opportunity for all of us to come together as a group to create a "giving" environment that we can be proud of.

Through payroll deductions you have the choice of donating as a one-time contribution or a series of contributions distributed throughout the year. You decide where you want your dollars to go and your donation keeps giving throughout 2021.

As we begin our 43<sup>rd</sup> year of annual giving we are extremely grateful that last year 891 State employees pledged a total of \$225,543.44, which exceeded our expectations. Our goal this year is to increase those numbers even more, which will bring us over the \$10 million mark of gifts pledged since this campaign began in 1977.

VtSHARES 2020 Campaign: Coming Together

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I encourage you to visit VtSHARES online (<http://vtshares.vermont.gov/>) to learn more about this campaign and share with your fellow employees. Between October 5<sup>th</sup> and the 23<sup>rd</sup>, you'll find a link on the website to easily pledge online any amount you're comfortable with to help those in your communities and beyond. Donating \$1 a week for an entire year provides 100 servings of nutritious produce to feed low income seniors. If each State employee donated one dollar weekly, an aggregate total of over \$400,000 would create positive change for people, communities, animals and the environment throughout our beautiful State of Vermont. Every gift, regardless of amount, makes such a significant difference!

Please join me to come together to take part in this annual pledge.

On behalf of the VtSHARES Campaign Committee, thank you!

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