

REMARKS BY GEORGIA TECH PRESIDENT G. WAYNE CLOUGH
Georgia Tech Charitable Campaign Kick-off, September 27, 2007

- Alexis de Tocqueville in his 1835 treatise *Democracy in America*:
“When an American asks for the cooperation of his fellow citizens, it is seldom refused; and I have often seen it afforded spontaneously and with great good will.”
- GT has always participated in the state’s Charitable Campaign “with great good will.” Proud of our strong record, and the times we have been awarded the Governor’s Cup for the largest average per employee contribution and the Governor’s Award for largest increase in the University System.
- Charitable Campaign recognizes limit to what government can do. No law that can be passed that can take the place of people caring for one another. No appropriation in the state budget for many community organizations that help thousands of Georgians every day.
- Day-to-day, front-lines work of helping needy neighbors and responding to emergencies in communities all across Georgia – done by a long list of non-profit, charitable service organizations. Can find them in the campaign brochure.
- Not a good idea to try to replace these organizations with governmental programs and agencies. Big difference in the tax dollar that we have to pay and the dollar we give voluntarily out of our own pocket because we care. Every time we take that is being done by the collective participation of the community in a non-profit community-based service agency such as those that benefit from the Charitable Campaign, and delegate that job to government, we add another layer of bureaucracy that insulates us from needing to care about our neighbors.
- Might think the worst we can do to someone is hate them. But in *The Devil’s Disciple*, George Bernard Shaw wrote that the true essence of inhumanity is not hate, but rather indifference. Cruellest thing we can do to our neighbors is not to care, to wave them off as somebody else’s problem.
- Charitable Campaign – opportunity to respond generously, help to provide care to the sick and the injured, to serve children and families, to support literacy programs, and to deliver disaster assistance, food, clothing, and housing.
- Think of ourselves as “givers” to the Charitable Campaign. But we are also “receivers” in 2 senses:
 - Ralph Waldo Emerson: “It is one of the most beautiful compensations of life, that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself.”

- Members of GT faculty have personally benefited from the Charitable Campaign. Well respected, well established members of our GT community – not the sort you would think of as needing social services. But tell stories of how a Visiting Nurses Association helped them care for a loved one who was ill, or how a Hospice organization helped their family through a difficult time when a loved one passed away, or how a community service organization put them in touch with the resources they needed to deal with a family crisis.
- Reminder that all of us are vulnerable. None of us knows which one of our families will face a crisis tomorrow, or next month. Charitable Campaign is our opportunity to make sure that help will be available for our families, our colleagues, our friends, and our neighbors.
- Our collective efforts through the Charitable Campaign help to give meaning to our own lives even as they touch the lives as our neighbors and friends, and go a long way toward helping make Georgia and Georgia Tech a better place.