

Mark Brewer's response to an audience question regarding the level of per capita giving in Central Florida and in Seminole County

(Via an email to CMF Public Media from Mark Brewer on November 15, 2011)



Hi Steve -

We have access to a lot of data, however per capita giving comes mostly from tax forms and tends to lag three to five years. So, with a little projection based on more current data and the latest numbers from the Center for Charitable statistics . 2005 and 2006, here is the closest I can get to an answer:

In 2009, Floridians gave about \$18 billion to charity. This was up 4.2 percent over 2007 levels, and charitable giving has generally risen faster than the growth of the Florida economy for more than half a century. There is evidence in the raw data that giving may have declined substantially through the recession, but we won't know for sure until next year.

Now to your specific per capita question. We know from the 2008 Johns Hopkins study of the nonprofit sector in Florida, our donors contribute \$23.55 per \$1000 of earnings (compared to the national average of \$24.66). While we don't have a more specific breakdown for Seminole County, we know that average incomes are higher and this same study indicated that Seminole residents give slightly more than Orange and significantly more than Osceola residents.

Sorry I don't have a clearer picture for you, but we only have limited data to work with.

Mark

Mark Brewer
President/CEO
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION of Central Florida

Brewer_percapita_response