Dear Friends,

I am writing to extend happy tidings as you celebrate the holiday season with friends and loved ones. I would like to personally thank the members of our Stony Brook community who have so generously donated to the Stony Brook Cares (SEFA/United Way) campaign. Even though we are facing difficult economic times, let us think of those less fortunate and how they will manage to survive without our help. With your support, affiliated agencies feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, nurture the sick, care for the elderly, counsel troubled youth, protect the environment and make an overall difference in so many lives. With over 500 charitable organizations to choose from, you are sure to find a cause that touches your heart.

Below are examples of how your contributions can make a difference in the lives of those in need.

An annual pledge of $2.00 per pay period can provide immunization shots to 400 children in developing nations against six deadly childhood diseases.

An annual pledge of $3.00 per pay period can provide five families with emergency food and clothing.

An annual pledge of $4.00 per pay period can protect three square miles of coral reef - home to hundreds of species of marine plants and animals.

An annual pledge of $5.00 per pay period can provide ten hours of home care for a senior citizen or medicine to treat 30 people with River Blindness.

Please note that even if you have contributed in past years, you must submit a new pledge form to renew your donation every year. Please visit our Stony Brook Cares web site at http://www.stonybrook.edu/sb/stonybrookcares/index.shtml to download a pledge form, for information on how to give, and for the complete SEFA list of charities. All pledge forms should be returned to Darschay Harris, Executive Assistant to the Provost, 407 Administration, Stony Brook, NY 11794 -1401. Please do not hesitate to contact Darschay Harris at darschay.harris@stonybrook.edu or 631-632-4360 if you should have any questions regarding this year's campaign or for assistance in completing the pledge form.

Thank you for your support in helping our Long Island neighbors and people in need around the world through your contributions to the Stony Brook Cares campaign.

It is up to you. You can make the difference! What gift will you give to someone in need this holiday season?
With Sincere Thanks,

Eric W. Kaler
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs