

“GIVE A LITTLE, OR GIVE A LOT,
BUT GIVE WISELY”



SECRETARY OF STATE'S GIVING PLAN

The generosity of Washingtonians reaches around the world. Together we rebuild communities and lend a hand to those facing the most daunting challenges of their lives. Our remarkable spirit of giving has resulted in a robust nonprofit sector vital to the future of the Northwest.

While there are many deserving organizations in need of our support, we must give wisely to make the most of our generosity.

MAKE YOUR DONATION COUNT

- Create an annual personalized giving plan that includes the organizations and the amounts you want to donate.
- Take time to research. Never give to an organization you know nothing about. Donate by check - never send cash.

- Only donate to organizations that will use your contribution as intended – the Better Business Bureau recommends no more than 35% should be spent on fundraising expenses.

- If a solicitor calls, ask detailed questions and request written information from the charity regarding its programs and finances.

- Don't be fooled by a name that sounds like the name of a well-known, respected charity.

- Be cautious if an organization thanks you for a pledge you don't remember making. If ever in doubt, check your records for any pledge or donation.

- Hang up the telephone on aggressive and harassing solicitors. Don't feel pressured into giving on the spot.

- Call the charity. This will allow you to make sure the solicitation you received is authorized and legitimate.

- Consider other ways to support an organization or cause. Many organizations need volunteers to help support their mission. Contact your favorite charity today to find out about opportunities to serve.

Sam Reed, Secretary of State
www.secstate.wa.gov/charities
800-332-GIVE

