Washington
Secretary of State

State Registration

Information is available so you can learn more about how your donation will be used, before making a contribution.

To research an organization online, visit the web page at www.sos.wa.gov/charities or contact the Secretary of State's Charities Program toll-free at 1-800-332-4483.

Registration with the Secretary of State's office should not be represented or considered as an endorsement.

Disputes

If you would like to file a complaint or a dispute with a charitable organization or a fundraiser, contact Consumer Protection at the Washington State Attorney General's Office, 1-800-551-4636.

Complaints may also be filed online at www.atg.wa.gov.

Secretary of State
Corporations & Charities Division
PO Box 40234
Olympia, WA 98504-0234

Phone: (360) 725-0378
Toll-Free: 1-800-332-4483 (WA only)
Web: www.sos.wa.gov/charities
Email: charities@sos.wa.gov

Online Resources

Office of the Attorney General, Consumer Protection:
www.atg.wa.gov

Internal Revenue Service:
www.irs.gov

Better Business Bureau:
www.bbb.org

Better Business Bureau, Wise Giving Alliance:
www.give.org

Federal Trade Commission, National Do Not Call Registry
www.donotcall.gov

Give Wisely

Generosity has carried Washington State through difficult times.

For each charitable donation to have the greatest impact on our friends and neighbors, we must give wisely.

Asking questions and researching charitable organizations will stretch every dollar and significantly change lives.

- Ask the caller to send written material about the organization.
- Be aware if the caller offers to send a courier to collect your donation immediately!
- Don't give in to high-pressure solicitations that demand an instant commitment. Hang up!
- When you have decided to donate, write a check and make it payable to the charity.
- Never send cash or give your credit card or bank account number.
- Don't be fooled by a name. Some organizations use similar sounding names, or names that closely resemble those of respected, well established charities. Be sure and check them out!

Check before you give!

Tips and Cautions

Most charities are honest and accountable to their donors. But some are not.

When a natural disaster occurs, some unregistered organizations ask you to call or text your donation. Call our office or check them out online before you give.

The Office of Secretary of State encourages the public to give, but to give wisely. Check before you give!

www.sos.wa.gov/charities

Anyone raising funds for a charitable purpose **MUST**:

- State his or her name.
- State the name of the charity and its location.
- State the name of the commercial fundraiser, if any.
- Upon request, state the toll-free number of the Secretary of State's Charities Hotline: 1-800-332-4483.

Anyone raising funds for a charitable purpose **MUST NOT**:

- Make false, deceptive or misleading representations.
- State or imply that the contribution is tax deductible if it is not. They cannot lie to you.
- Use the name "police," "sheriff," "firefighter" or similar names unless authorized.
- Harass, intimidate or torment.
- Call before 8 a.m. or after 9 p.m.

Your Rights and Responsibilities

It is important to research and learn as much as you can about a charity before making a contribution!

Organizations or individuals must make certain information available when they are asking for your money. You have the right and the responsibility to ask questions – knowledge is the key to combating fraud.