

# Give to the Needy, Not the Greedy

## A Giving Guide for Donating to Charities

Before you donate, remember ...

### Tips for Giving

- ✓ Do not give cash.
- ✓ Do not give out your credit card number.
- ✓ Write a check payable only to the charity, not to an individual collecting a donation.
- ✓ Do not be pressured into giving.
- ✓ Find out if a charity and its fundraisers are registered by contacting the office of the Oklahoma Secretary of State.
- ✓ Do not give to charity because you were sent a "gift" or just to receive a "free prize."
- ✓ Do not be fooled by names that sound similar to a legitimate charity.
- ✓ Do not pay for something that you did not order.
- ✓ Beware of organizations offering to send a courier to pick up your donation.
- ✓ Take time to get as much information and learn as much as you can about the organization before you decide to make a contribution.
- ✓ Do not do business over the phone, ask for information in the mail.
- ✓ Give directly to the charity of your choice. This cuts out the middle man and ensures your money will go where you intended.
- ✓ Check out the charity with impartial sources.
- ✓ Beware of appeals that are long on emotion but short on facts.

Remember ...

It's your money.  
Do your homework.  
**Give wisely.**

**Don't  
Become  
a Victim  
of Charity  
Fraud!**

Report suspicious charity solicitations to:

**Oklahoma Attorney General's Office  
Consumer Protection Unit  
313 N.E. 21st Street  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105  
(405) 521-2029 (OKC)  
(918) 581-2885 (Tulsa)  
[www.oag.ok.gov](http://www.oag.ok.gov)**

When contacted to donate ...

### Ask Questions

- ✓ What is your full name?
- ✓ What is the phone number and address from which you are calling?
- ✓ What is the full name of the charity you are representing?
- ✓ What is the headquarters address?
- ✓ Does the charity have a local office in my area?
- ✓ How long has the charity been operating?
- ✓ What are the charity's goals and purposes?
- ✓ How will my donation be used?
- ✓ Is my contribution tax deductible?
- ✓ How much of my donation will go directly to the charity?
- ✓ What portion of it will actually be spent on the charity's stated purpose?
- ✓ How much of my donation will be used in Oklahoma?
- ✓ What percentage of my donation will go to fundraising?
- ✓ Are you a volunteer for the charity, or are you paid to raise funds?
- ✓ If you are paid, how much?
- ✓ Will you send me printed literature about the charity, its goals, programs and expenses including a current financial statement?