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Learn why it’s important to take a second look before donating

**Charitable Giving Article**  
Learn about how to protect yourself during the season of giving

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More resources about Charitable Giving from the California Attorney General.

**Giving Bingo!**  
Test out your knowledge with a game of matching BINGO to win a prize!
NCLF took in around $9.7 million in charitable contributions, but according to CNN spent only $57,000 on assistance for leukemia patients.

Nothing causes people to show empathy more, than sick children. National Children's Leukemia Foundation (NCLF), which was founded by a man who reportedly lost his own son to leukemia and therefore had an intimate understanding of what the families of leukemia patients need.

By Peter Aguila

It's the season for giving! The holidays are often seen as a great time to give to causes that we believe in. According to the 2023 M+R Benchmarks Report, December giving accounts for roughly one fourth (26%) of annual nonprofit revenue and nonprofits raise 17-31% of online revenue in December. If you plan on giving this holiday season, you should also be aware of fraudsters.
It can be hard to find a charity that will make the most use of your donation. According to Forbes, "When choosing a charity, look for one that dedicates less than 30% of its total costs to administration and fundraising expenses. That way, you can be sure your charity has an eye on maximizing your gift."

You can find out more about how a charity performs by referring to one of the following sites:

- BBB Wise Giving Alliance
- Charity Navigator
- CharityWatch
- Candid
The California Attorney General, Rob Bonta, has provided California donors with tips to avoid fraud and other scams when making charitable donations.

See the next section for more information.

Coming up:

- Best ways to protect yourself from scams
- Tips and Tricks to Avoid Fraud
- An Activity for a Prize Ahead!
TIPS TO AVOID FRAUD & SCAMS

Check Registration Status:
• Charities and fundraisers in California must register with the Attorney General’s Registry of Charitable Trusts.
• Verify registration and financial reporting through the Registry Verification Search tool.

Give to Trusted Organizations:
• Research charities' financial reports to understand how donations are allocated.
• Support charities in your community with a positive impact.

Question Telemarketers:
• When contacted by telemarketers, ask for details such as the fundraising organization's name, registration status, and how funds will be distributed.
• Confirm solicitations with the benefiting organization directly.

Beware of Fake Websites & Emails:
• Watch for fake websites and emails with slightly altered URLs or email addresses.
• Avoid websites with numeric endings in the URL.
• Be cautious about providing personal information online.
AVOIDING FRAUD AND SCAMS IN CHARITABLE DONATIONS CONT.

Watch for Deceptive Tactics:
- Be cautious of organizations with names similar to reputable charities.
- Verify emails claiming you made a donation, especially if it seems unfamiliar.
- Check your records if unsure about a donation.

Exercise Caution with Social Network Fundraising:
- Research online or social media fundraisers before donating.
- Confirm the percentage going to the charity and any associated fees.

Protect Your Identity:
- Avoid sharing sensitive information like Social Security numbers in response to solicitations.
- Review a charity’s privacy policy before donating.

Electronic Donations Safety:
- Verify the legitimacy of electronic donation solicitations.
- Confirm that transactions are accurate on receipts and credit card/PayPal statements.

Citations

Registry Search Tool https://rct.doj.ca.gov/Verification/Web/Search.aspx?facility=Y

**Instructions:**
Choose 4 of the best strategies for safe "giving" and list them HERE.

Participants will receive a first aid kit, stationary bag, or a travel kit.