



LOS ANGELES POLICE COMMISSION

MEDIA RELEASE

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GIVE WISELY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Los Angeles - During the holiday season, many Angelenos traditionally donate money and goods for charitable causes around the world. The charities include their favorites as well as start-up charities created in response to crises. This generosity, however, produces a spike in solicitations.

Angelenos can arm themselves with methods to distinguish the honest and effective charities from the frauds and ineffective charities. The Charitable Services Section (CSS) of the Los Angeles Police Commission offers assistance and advice for giving wisely to charities, including a list of endorsed charities (See below.).

CSS recommends prospective donors take the following steps:

Make sure the solicitors possess the required Information Cards issued by the CSS.

Nonprofit organizations that solicit within the city limits of Los Angeles are required to possess an Information Card for general appeals and one for each special event. Mailed solicitations must include a copy of the Information Card. The cards may be valid for up to one year after issuance.

The Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) concerns nonprofits registered as 501(c) 3 organizations with the IRS. Donations to these organizations are tax deductible. The LAMC also relates to people and organizations who solicit for donations on behalf of 501(c) 3 nonprofits.

Evaluate the charity.

Answer the following questions before donating:

- How much of your donations will cover the charity's expenses and how much will go to the cause. The City of Los Angeles' Information Card contains these results for similar past events. Also, ask the charity for a financial statement and/or check its IRS Form 990.
- Is the charity legitimate? Contact CSS and explore the web sites of the charity, and of the State of California Attorney General's Office (See below)

- Is the solicitor legitimate? Does the solicitor possess a valid Information Card? Contact the charity to verify the solicitor is a current employee or volunteer. Beware of sound-a-likes – check with the agency the solicitors claim to represent. Alert your local police station if they are soliciting illegally.
- Will the charity take noncash payments? It is highly recommended that you donate with a check or credit card. Nevertheless, it is best not to give any personal information over the telephone.

Beware of email/Internet appeals/social networking sites

- Unsolicited emails may contain viruses. Do not respond or click on links or attachments.

Contact the following:

- ***Charitable Services Section, Los Angeles Police Commission.*** CSS is available to answer your questions. The section may be reached at 213 996-1260. For further information about Giving Wisely or the LAMC ordinance governing charities, visit the CSS Web site at www.lapdonline.org. Search for “charitable” and click on “charitable services section.”
- ***FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center.*** Contact the Center at www.ic3.gov to report suspicious emails or websites.
- ***The California State Attorney General.*** The Attorney General’s Web site at www.oag.ca.gov has additional information regarding your charity.

Review the charities endorsed by CSS.

The City of Los Angeles endorsement program is voluntary. Charities who opt for the designation must meet stringent requirements.

Below is the list of City of Los Angeles endorsed charities:

ENDORSED AGENCY NAME	CITY	STATE	Phone
31st District PTSA (California Congress of Parents, Teachers and Students Association)	Van Nuys	CA	(818) 344-3581
AbilityFirst	Pasadena	CA	(626) 396-1010
Alcott Center for Mental Health Services	Los Angeles	CA	(310) 785-2121
Blind Children's Center	Los Angeles	CA	(323) 664-2153
Boy Scouts of America, Los Angeles Area Council	Los Angeles	CA	(213) 413-4400
Boys and Girls Club of Hollywood	Hollywood	CA	(323) 467-7326
Boys and Girls Clubs of Los Angeles Harbor	San Pedro	CA	(310) 833-0514
Boys Republic	Chino Hills	CA	(909) 628-1217
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center	Los Angeles	CA	(310) 423-3684
Children's Bureau of Southern California	Los Angeles	CA	(213) 342-0149
Children's Hospital Los Angeles	Los Angeles	CA	(323) 671-1736
City of Hope	Los Angeles	CA	(213) 202-5735
Didi Hirsch Psychiatric Services dba Didi Hirsch Community Mental Health Services	Culver City	CA	(310) 390-6612
Greater Los Angeles Area Council, Boy Scouts of America, (Formerly Boy Scouts of America, LA Area)	Los Angeles	CA	(213) 412-4400
Hamburger Home dba Aviva Family and Children's Services	Los Angeles	CA	(323) 876-0550
Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters Association of Los Angeles	Los Angeles	CA	(323) 761-8675
Jewish Free Loan Association	Los Angeles	CA	(323) 761-8830
John Tracy Clinic	Los Angeles	CA	(213) 748-3481
Jonsson Cancer Center Foundation - UCLA	Los Angeles	CA	(310) 206-0675
LTSC Community Development Corporation aka Little Tokyo Service Center	Los Angeles	CA	(213) 473-3027
Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles	Los Angeles	CA	(323) 801-7916
Los Angeles 10th District – California Congress of Parents, Teachers and Students	Los Angeles	CA	(213) 745-7114
Los Angeles G.O.A.L. aka Los Angeles Greater Opportunities for Advanced Living	Culver City	CA	(310) 838-5274
Los Angeles Jewish Home for the Aging	Reseda	CA	(818) 774-3031
National Multiple Sclerosis, Southern California and Nevada Chapters	Los Angeles	CA	(310) 479-4456
Neighborhood Youth Association	Venice	CA	(310) 390-6641
Rosemary Children's Services	Pasadena	CA	(626) 844-3033
Society of St. Vincent De Paul, Council of Los Angeles	Los Angeles	CA	(323) 224-6213
St. Anne's Maternity Home	Los Angeles	CA	(213) 381-2931
United Cerebral Palsy / Spastic Children's Foundation	Woodland Hills	CA	(818) 782-2211
Woodcraft Rangers	Los Angeles	CA	(323) 283-4467
Young Womens Christian Association of Greater Los Angeles (YWCA of Greater Los Angeles)	Los Angeles	CA	(213) 365-2991

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