



# LOS ANGELES POLICE COMMISSION

## MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE 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](http://www.lapdonline.org). Search for "charitable" and click on "charitable services section."
- ***FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center.*** Contact the Center at [www.ic3.gov](http://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](http://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:

<b>ENDORSED AGENCY NAME</b>	<b>CITY</b>	<b>STATE</b>	<b>Phone</b>
<b>31<sup>st</sup> District PTSA (California Congress of Parents, Teachers and Students Association)</b>	Van Nuys	CA	(818) 344-3581
<b>AbilityFirst</b>	Pasadena	CA	(626) 396-1010
<b>Alcott Center for Mental Health Services</b>	Los Angeles	CA	(310) 785-2121
<b>Blind Children's Center</b>	Los Angeles	CA	(323) 664-2153
<b>Boy Scouts of America, Los Angeles Area Council</b>	Los Angeles	CA	(213) 413-4400
<b>Boys and Girls Club of Hollywood</b>	Hollywood	CA	(323) 467-2007
<b>Boys and Girls Clubs of Los Angeles Harbor</b>	San Pedro	CA	(310) 833-0514
<b>Boys Republic</b>	Chino Hills	CA	(909) 628-1217
<b>Cedars-Sinai Medical Center</b>	Los Angeles	CA	(310) 423-3684
<b>Children's Bureau of Southern California</b>	Los Angeles	CA	(213) 342-0149
<b>Children's Hospital Los Angeles</b>	Los Angeles	CA	(323) 671-1736
<b>City of Hope</b>	Duarte	CA	(626) 256-4673
<b>Didi Hirsch Psychiatric Services dba Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services</b>	Culver City	CA	(310) 390-6612
<b>Greater Los Angeles Area Council, Boy Scouts of America, (Formerly Boy Scouts of America, LA Area)</b>	Los Angeles	CA	(213) 413-4400
<b>Hamburger Home dba Aviva Family and Children's Services</b>	Los Angeles	CA	(323) 876-0550
<b>Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters Association of Los Angeles</b>	Los Angeles	CA	(323) 761-8675
<b>Jewish Free Loan Association</b>	Los Angeles	CA	(323) 761-8830
<b>John Tracy Clinic</b>	Los Angeles	CA	(213) 748-3481
<b>Jonsson Cancer Center Foundation - UCLA</b>	Los Angeles	CA	(310) 206-0675
<b>LTSC Community Development Corporation aka Little Tokyo Service Center</b>	Los Angeles	CA	(213) 473-3027
<b>Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles</b>	Los Angeles	CA	(323) 801-7916
<b>Los Angeles 10<sup>th</sup> District - California Congress of Parents, Teachers and Students</b>	Los Angeles	CA	(213) 745-7114
<b>Los Angeles G.O.A.L. aka Los Angeles Greater Opportunities for Advanced Living</b>	Culver City	CA	(310) 838-5274
<b>Los Angeles Jewish Home for the Aging</b>	Reseda	CA	(818) 774-3031
<b>Neighborhood Youth Association</b>	Venice	CA	(310) 390-6641
<b>Rosemary Children's Services</b>	Pasadena	CA	(626) 844-3033
<b>Society of St. Vincent De Paul, Council of Los Angeles</b>	Los Angeles	CA	(323) 224-6213
<b>St. Anne's Maternity Home</b>	Los Angeles	CA	(213) 381-2931
<b>United Cerebral Palsy / Spastic Children's Foundation</b>	Woodland Hills	CA	(818) 782-2211
<b>Woodcraft Rangers</b>	Los Angeles	CA	(323) 283-4467
<b>Young Womens Christian Association of Greater Los Angeles (YWCA of Greater Los Angeles)</b>	Los Angeles	CA	(213) 365-2991

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