



AMERICA'S WORST CHARITIES

When charities call

The *Tampa Bay Times* and The Center for Investigative Reporting identified the 50 worst charities in America — organizations that purport to help the needy but devote pennies on the dollar to worthy causes. These tips can help you make an informed decision when the phone rings for charity.

Key questions to ask the caller:

- What is the full name of the charity?
- Do you work for a paid fundraiser?
- How much of my donation actually goes to charity?
- Will any local programs directly benefit? If so, how?
- What is the website address of the charity?

Key facts to know:

- The best charities spend no more than 35 cents of every dollar raised on fundraising costs.
- America's worst charities spend more than 80 cents of every dollar on fundraising.
- Charities that use telemarketing firms and fundraisers are far more likely to receive only a fraction of the money raised.

| Rank * | Charity (listed alphabetically) | % to direct cash aid |
|--------|---|----------------------|
| 9 | American Association of State Troopers | 8.6 |
| 32 | American Association of the Deaf & Blind | 0.1 |
| 4 | American Breast Cancer Foundation | 5.3 |
| 46 | American Foundation for Children With Aids | 0 |
| 23 | American Foundation For Disabled Children | 0.8 |
| 14 | Association for Firefighters and Paramedics | 3.1 |
| 6 | Breast Cancer Relief Foundation | 2.2 |
| 2 | Cancer Fund of America | 0.9 |
| 44 | Caring for Our Children Foundation | 1.6 |
| 10 | Children's Cancer Fund of America | 5.3 |
| 11 | Children's Cancer Recovery Foundation | 0.6 |
| 27 | Children's Charity Fund | 2.3 |
| 37 | Children's Leukemia Research Association | 11.1 |
| 3 | Children's Wish Foundation International | 10.8 |
| 40 | Circle of Friends For American Veterans | 6.5 |
| 13 | Committee For Missing Children | 0.8 |
| 29 | Defeat Diabetes Foundation | 0.1 |
| 35 | Disabled Police and Sheriffs Foundation | 1.0 |
| 36 | Disabled Police Officers Counseling Center | 0.1 |
| 30 | Disabled Police Officers of America Inc. | 2.5 |
| 41 | Find the Children | 5.7 |
| 43 | Firefighters Assistance Fund | 3.2 |
| 49 | Firefighters Burn Fund | 1.5 |
| 5 | Firefighters Charitable Foundation | 8.1 |
| 25 | Heart Support of America | 3.4 |
| 50 | Hope Cancer Fund | 0.5 |

| Rank * | Charity (listed alphabetically) | % to direct cash aid |
|--------|--|----------------------|
| 7 | International Union of Police Associations, AFL-CIO | 0.5 |
| 1 | Kids Wish Network | 2.5 |
| 21 | National Cancer Coalition | 1.0 |
| 16 | National Caregiving Foundation | 3.5 |
| 45 | National Narcotic Officers Associations Coalition | 0 |
| 31 | National Police Defense Foundation | 5.8 |
| 8 | National Veterans Service Fund | 7.8 |
| 17 | Operation Lookout National Center For Missing Youth | 0 |
| 34 | Optimal Medical Foundation | 0.2 |
| 47 | Our American Veterans | 2.3 |
| 20 | Police Protective Fund | 0.8 |
| 15 | Project Cure (Bradenton, FL) | 0 |
| 33 | Reserve Police Officers Association | 1.1 |
| 48 | Roger Wyburn-Mason & Jack M. Blount Foundation For Eradication of Rheumatoid Disease | 0 |
| 39 | Shiloh International Ministries | 1.3 |
| 42 | Survivors and Victims Empowered | 0 |
| 24 | The Veterans Fund | 2.3 |
| 38 | United Breast Cancer Foundation | 6.3 |
| 18 | United States Deputy Sheriffs' Association | 0.6 |
| 26 | Veterans Assistance Foundation | 10.5 |
| 19 | Vietnow National Headquarters | 2.9 |
| 28 | Wishing Well Foundation USA | 4.6 |
| 22 | Woman To Woman Breast Cancer Foundation | 0.4 |
| 12 | Youth Development Fund | 0.8 |

* ranked according to money spent on fundraising over a decade