

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		Rank *	Charity (listed alphabetically)	% to direct cash aid
9	American Association of State Troopers		8.6	7	International Union of Police Associations, AFL-CIO	0.5
32	American Association of the Deaf & Blind		0.1	1	Kids Wish Network	2.5
4	American Breast Cancer Foundation		5.3	21	National Cancer Coalition	1.0
46	American Foundation for Children With Aids		0	16	National Caregiving Foundation	3.5
23	American Foundation For Disabled Children		0.8	45	National Narcotic Officers Associations Coalition	0
14	Association for Firefighters and Paramedics	${\sqcap}$	3.1	31	National Police Defense Foundation	5.8
6	Breast Cancer Relief Foundation	_	2.2	8	National Veterans Service Fund	7.8
2	Cancer Fund of America		0.9	17	Operation Lookout National Center For Missing Youth	0
44	Caring for Our Children Foundation		1.6	34	Optimal Medical Foundation	0.2
10	Children's Cancer Fund of America		5.3	47	Our American Veterans	2.3
11	Children's Cancer Recovery Foundation		0.6	20	Police Protective Fund	0.8
27	Children's Charity Fund	${\Box}$	2.3	15	Project Cure (Bradenton, FL)	0
37	Children's Leukemia Research Association		11.1	33	Reserve Police Officers Association	1.1
3	Children's Wish Foundation International		10.8	48	Roger Wyburn-Mason & Jack M. Blount	0
40	Circle of Friends For American Veterans		6.5		Foundation For Eradication of Rheumatoid Disease	
13	Committee For Missing Children		0.8	39	Shiloh International Ministries	1.3
29	Defeat Diabetes Foundation		0.1	42	Survivors and Victims Empowered	0
35	Disabled Police and Sheriffs Foundation		1.0	24	The Veterans Fund	2.3
36	Disabled Police Officers Counseling Center		0.1	38	United Breast Cancer Foundation	6.3
30	Disabled Police Officers of America Inc.	_	2.5	18	United States Deputy Sheriffs' Association	0.6
41	Find the Children		5.7	26	Veterans Assistance Foundation	10.5
43	Firefighters Assistance Fund	_	3.2	19	Vietnow National Headquarters	2.9
49	Firefighters Burn Fund	<u> </u>	1.5	28	Wishing Well Foundation USA	4.6
5	Firefighters Charitable Foundation		8.1	22	Woman To Woman Breast Cancer Foundation	0.4
25	Heart Support of America	${\sqcap}$	3.4	12	Youth Development Fund	0.8
50	Hope Cancer Fund		0.5			

^{*} ranked according to money spent on fundraising over a decade