

▶ Protect Yourself from Charitable Donation Scams

▶ WISE GIVING ALLIANCE

The **Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance** publishes information to help you in your charitable donation decisions. While it is the donors decision, **BBB Wise Giving Alliance** recommends you avoid or be extremely cautious when contributing to non disclosure charities.

The **Wise Giving Alliance** does not rank charities but rather seeks to assist donors in making informed judgments about those that solicit their support

Visit www.give.org for more information on about 1,300 nationally soliciting charities and over 10,000 locally soliciting charities.

▶ POLICE AND FIREFIGHTER APPEALS

Don't assume that the words "police" or "firefighter" in an organizations name means your local department is involved

Don't believe the suggestion that your donation will give you "special treatment" from police or firefighters; **IT'S ILLEGAL**

Ask for specifics about the programs your donation would support

If you don't like their answers, you can choose **NOT** to donate to their organization

▶ THE BASICS

Get the charity's exact name

Be wary of heart wrenching appeals

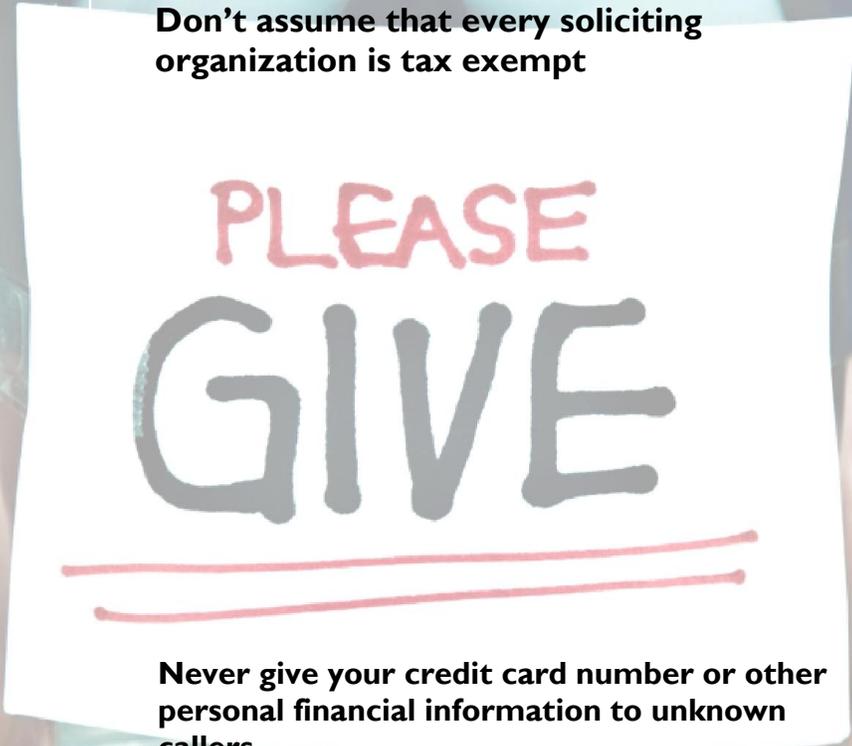
Resist pressure to give on the spot

Press for specifics, ask for written material

Check websites for the charity's basic information

Check with state charity officials

Don't assume that every soliciting organization is tax exempt



PLEASE
GIVE

▶ OTHER THINGS TO REMEMBER

Never give your credit card number or other personal financial information to unknown callers

Opt out of future calls from the soliciting charity if you wish, that is your right

Write directly to charities whose mail you don't want

Be wary of claims that 100% of donations will assist relief victims, it is most often not true

Postal statutes make it illegal to require a donation to enter a sweepstakes conducted through the mail

