

## HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF WHILE HELPING OTHER

Donating to a cause you care about is rewarding. Unfortunately, not all charities are created equal. Taking the proper precautions before giving ensure that your donations go to the people and organizations you want to help – and that you're meeting both your personal and financial goals.

### SIMPLE STEPS FOR PROTECTING YOURSELF

**1. TRUST, BUT VERIFY.** Be cautious of charities that spring up overnight in response to current events or natural disasters. Many of them may not have the infrastructure to get your donations to the affected areas or people.

**2. DO YOUR HOMEWORK.** Confirm that

the charity is a true 501(c) organization by checking the IRS website. Other third-party sites, such as Charity Navigator and GuideStar, can also offer insights into how the organization runs and spends its donations. You can also get a better idea of how effective their efforts are.

**3. VERIFY SOLICITATIONS.** If someone solicits you for a donation, call the charity and ask if they're aware of a solicitation you received. If not, it may be a scam.

**4. IGNORE HIGH-PRESSURE SALES.** Legitimate fundraisers generally don't push you to give on the spot. Be wary of charities offering to send a courier or overnight delivery service to collect your donation immediately.

**5. TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS.** Some scammers may try to trick you by thanking you for a

pledge you didn't make. If you don't remember making the donation or don't have a record of your previous pledge, resist the pressure to give.

**6. CONSIDER THE COSTS OF YOUR GIFT.** When buying merchandise or tickets for special events from a charity, remember that these items cost money and generally are paid for out of your contribution. The same principle applies when receiving free goods in exchange for a donation. Although this can be an effective fundraising tool, giving this way means that less money goes directly to the charity.

**7. AVOID THOSE CLAIMING SWEEPSTAKES WINNINGS IN EXCHANGE FOR A CONTRIBUTION.** Under U.S. law, you don't have to donate to be eligible for a sweepstakes.

*...continued on back*



# CLADIS

INVESTMENT ADVISORY, LLC

180 S 32nd Street West, Suite 1  
Billings, MT 59102

*"When  
prosperity  
comes, do not  
use all of it."*

- CONFUCIUS

## HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF WHILE HELPING OTHER

*(continued)*

**8. DO NOT SEND OR GIVE CASH.** Cash can be lost or stolen. For security and tax purposes, it's best to pay by credit card or check made payable to the charity, not the solicitor.

### **DEDUCT CHARITABLE GIVING FROM YOUR TAXES CAREFULLY**

When you donate, ask the organization for a receipt showing the amount of your contribution, the name of the organization, the date, and a statement that the contribution is tax-deductible.

For any donations over \$250, you must show the above documentation, plus a written acknowledgement of the donation amount and if it was in exchange for goods or services.

**WHEN IN DOUBT, TALK TO AN EXPERT.** If you have questions about your charitable giving, talk to your tax advisor or financial advisor. They are your best resources as you consider how to give in a way that aligns with your goals.

The content is developed from sources believed to be providing accurate information. The information in this material is not intended as tax or legal advice. It may

not be used for the purpose of avoiding any federal tax penalties. Please consult legal or tax professionals for specific information regarding your individual situation. This material was developed and produced by FMeX to provide information on a topic that may be of interest. FMeX is not affiliated with the named broker-dealer, state- or SEC-registered investment advisory firm. The opinions expressed and material provided are for general information and should not be considered a solicitation for the purchase or sale of any security. Copyright © 2023 FMeX. All rights reserved. Distributed by Financial Media Exchange.

**WISHING YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES A HAPPY THANKSGIVING!  
WE WILL BE CLOSING EARLY ON WEDNESDAY,  
NOVEMBER 22ND AND CLOSED ON NOVEMBER 23RD AND  
24TH IN OBSERVANCE OF THE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY.**