



Crime Watch

Fight Charity Fraud

(NAPSA)—Giving to charity helps others, leaves you feeling good about yourself and can even mean a tax deduction—but it can also encourage crooks.



Most mail solicitations for charitable contributions are legitimate appeals for a good cause. But watch out; some are phony.

Most charities are legitimate organizations that support good causes. Some, however, are run by swindlers. To help your generosity reach the right people, Postal Inspectors say:

- Know with whom you're doing business. Check out the organization with the Better Business Bureau.
- If you're unfamiliar with the charity, request an annual report and financial statement.
- Don't be fooled by names that resemble a well-known reputable organization.
- Don't give cash; always make contributions by check or money order payable to the charity, not to the individual.

To learn more or to report fraud, visit the U.S. Postal Inspection Service Web site, www.usps.com/postalinspectors.