

# charitable review solicitations program



## Better Business Bureau Charity Seal

The Better Business Bureau serving Chicago and Northern Illinois is now offering the Better Business Bureau Charity Seal to qualifying charities for use on their solicitation materials and on their website as a hyperlink to their BBB report. Displaying the BBB Charity Seal is a great way for an organization to demonstrate transparency to the donating public and make donors aware that their charity meets the 20 BBB standards for charity accountability. Only charities meeting all 20 of the BBB charity standards can participate in this new program. Charities that are interested in participating in this program may begin the process by contacting Nina Castle at [ncastle@chicago.bbb.org](mailto:ncastle@chicago.bbb.org) or 312-245-2516.



## Holiday Giving Tips

### Watch Out For Name Confusion.

Look at the appeal carefully; some charities' names sound the same. More than 1,000,000 organizations have received charitable tax exempt status from the IRS.

### Question Vague Appeals.

Make sure the charity's appeals clearly identify the nature of the charity programs. For example, if the charity says it's helping the homeless, does it explain how (shelter, food, medical care) and where this is taking place?

### Be Wary Of Excessive Pressure In Fund Raising.

Don't be pressured to make an immediate on-the-spot donation. Charities should welcome your gift whenever you want to send it.

### How Will The Charity Use Donated Goods?

Many will consider donating all types of used items to charity from clothing to cars. Find out how the charity benefits. Sometimes the charity receives only a small portion of the resale price of the item.

### Internet Appeals Require Careful Scrutiny.

For those making donations to giving sites on the Internet, look for clear disclosures that explain how much of the gift goes to the charity, the privacy policy, and whether there is appropriate security on the site for credit card transactions.

### Cause Related Marketing: How Much Of The Sale Goes To Charity?

If the purchase of a product or credit card is being promoted as helping a charity, does it specify what portion of the purchase price goes to the organization?

### Do Not Give Cash.

If you contribute, write out a check to the charity's full official name, not to an individual or third party that might be collecting the donation.

### Keep Records of Your Donations.

Keep receipts, canceled checks, and bank statements that verify your contribution amounts. The IRS also requires donations to be substantiated through a written confirmation from the charity.

### Check With Outside Sources.

Check with your appropriate state government authorities to verify that the charity is registered to solicit in your state. This is usually a division of the state's office of the attorney general. Check [www.bbb.org](http://www.bbb.org) for reports on charities.

These findings are reflective of evaluations completed as of NOVEMBER 24, 2011 and can change at any time without notice. Check our website [www.bbb.org](http://www.bbb.org) for the latest reports on these organizations.

NAME OF CHARITY	BBB CHARITY SEAL HOLDER	MET STANDARDS	STANDARDS NOT MET	UNABLE TO VERIFY	REVIEW IN PROGRESS
A Refuge for Saving the Wildlife, Inc.		See p. 12			
A Safe Haven			3, 8, 16	1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 15, 17, 18	
Abraham Lincoln Centre			16, 17	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 15, 18, 19	
Access Living of Metropolitan Chicago		See p. 12			
Action for Healthy Kids		✓			
Active Transportation Alliance			6, 14		
*ADA Foundation		See p. 12			
Ada S. McKinley Community Services, Inc.			18		
Adler Planetarium				1	
AFFTER					◆
African American Christian Foundation		See p. 12			
After School Matters			1		
AGAPE Care Team Health Services		✓			
Aid for Women			17	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 15, 18, 19	
<b>AIDS Foundation of Chicago</b>	*	✓			
AIDS Legal Council of Chicago			3, 6, 7, 9, 14, 17		
Albany Park Community Center			14		
Alivio Medical Center		See p. 12			
Allendale Association, Inc.			9		
Alliance for the Great Lakes		See p. 12			
Alternative Behavior Treatment Centers		See p. 12			
Alternatives, Inc.		✓			
*Alzheimer's Association		✓			
*American Brain Tumor Association			6, 7		
American Cancer Society, Illinois Division, Inc.		See p. 12			
American Red Cross of Greater Chicago					◆
American Veterinary Medical Foundation			6, 7		
Anderson Animal Shelter			17, 18		
Animal House Shelter			1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 16, 17, 18	15	
Animal Welfare League			6, 7, 17, 19	1, 4	
Animals Deserving of Proper Treatment					◆
Anti-Cruelty Society					◆
Arthritis Foundation, Greater Chicago Chapter		✓			
Association House of Chicago			18	1, 3, 6, 7, 15, 19	
Association of Horizon, Inc.		✓			
Aunt Martha's Youth Service Center				◆	
*Awana Clubs International			4, 7, 12, 14, 16, 17	15	
Barrington Area Community Foundation		✓			
Barrington Area Council on Aging			7, 8, 14, 17	15	
Battered & Abused Women & Children		See p. 12			
Bear Necessities Pediatric Cancer Foundation		See p. 12			
Because Animals Really Kount, Inc.		See p. 12			
Belvidere/Boone County Food Pantry		See p. 12			
Bethel New Life			9, 17	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 15, 19	
Between Friends			6, 17		
*Bible League International		✓			
Big Brothers Big Sisters of McHenry County, Inc.		See p. 12			
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metropolitan Chicago		✓			
Black United Fund of Illinois					◆

NAME OF CHARITY	BBB CHARITY SEAL HOLDER	MET STANDARDS	STANDARDS NOT MET	UNABLE TO VERIFY	REVIEW IN PROGRESS
Boys and Girls Clubs of Chicago		See p. 12			
Bridge Communities, Inc.		✓			
BridgeMar Research Foundation		See p. 12			
Bridges to a New Day, NFP			16, 17		
Buddin Praed Foundation		See p. 12			
Buffalo Grove Friends of the Park Foundation			16	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 15, 17, 18, 19	
*Bugles Across America			1, 3, 11, 14, 16, 17	8, 9, 10, 12, 13	
Cabrini Connections			16, 17	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 15, 18, 19	
Cabrini Green Legal Aid Clinic					◆
CAEL (The Council for Adult & Experiential Learning)					◆
Campfire USA Illinois Prairie Council, Inc.		See p. 12			
Canavan Research Illinois		See p. 12			
Cancer Care Foundation		See p. 12			
Cancer Research Foundation			3	1, 5, 6, 7, 14, 15, 19	
Cardiac Surgery Clinical Research Center, Inc.		See p. 12			
Career Transitions Center of Chicago		✓			
Carole Robertson Center for Learning					◆
Casa Hogar del Niño, Inc.		See p. 12			
<b>CASA Kane County, Inc.</b>	*	✓			
CASA of DuPage County, Inc.					◆
Caspari Center for Biblical and Jewish Studies			1, 3, 6, 7		
Cathedral Shelter of Chicago					◆
Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago		✓			
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Joliet			3, 17	1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 15, 18, 19	
*Catholic Church Extension Society of the U.S.A.		See p. 12			
Ceiba Foundation for Tropical Conservation		See p. 12			
*Center For Companies that Care		See p. 12			
Center for Conflict Resolution			6, 18		
Center for Economic and Business Development, Inc.		See p. 12			
Center for Enriched Living			6		
Center for Independence Through Conductive Education			17		
Central City Housing Ventures			8, 16	1	
Central DuPage Pastoral Counseling Center		See p. 12			
Centro Romero		See p. 12			
Changing Worlds		See p. 12			
Channahon Lions Club		See p. 12			
Charity (Love) Christian Outreach Center			3, 6, 13, 14, 17	1	
Chicago a cappella			6, 7	15	
Chicago Anti-Hunger Federation			1, 14, 17, 18		
Chicago Area Council, Boy Scouts of America			14, 16, 17, 18		
Chicago Asthma Consortium			6, 9, 14, 16, 18	15	
Chicago Canine Rescue					◆
Chicago Cares, Inc.		✓			
Chicago Child Care Society					◆
Chicago Children's Advocacy Center			16, 17	1, 3, 6, 7, 15, 18, 19	
Chicago Coalition for the Homeless		See p. 12			
Chicago Commons Association			7		
Chicago Defender Charities, Inc.		See p. 12			

\* Denotes National Charity

NAME OF CHARITY	BBB CHARITY SEAL HOLDER	MET STANDARDS	STANDARDS NOT MET	UNABLE TO VERIFY	REVIEW IN PROGRESS
Chicago Foundation for Women		✓			
Chicago House and Social Services Agency			14, 17, 18	3, 6, 7	
Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Inc.		See p. 12			
Chicago Legal Clinic, Inc.		✓			
Chicago Lighthouse			3	7	
Chicago Neighborhood's Brightest Athletes			1, 2, 3, 6, 13, 14		
Chicago Public Library Foundation					◆
Chicago Scholars Foundation			3, 6, 9, 14, 16, 17, 18	1, 4, 5, 7, 12	
Chicago School of Violin Making		See p. 12			
Chicago State University Foundation			3, 6, 7, 8, 14, 16, 17	18	
Chicago Urban Day School		See p. 12			
Chicago Volunteer Legal Services Foundation			6, 7, 14, 17	1	
Chicago Youth Centers					◆
Chicago Zoological Society					◆
Chicagoland Historical Bus Museum		See p. 12			
*Child and Adolescent Bipolar Foundation		✓			
Children's Memorial Medical Center					◆
Chinese Mutual Aid Association				1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 18	
Christopher House					◆
CircEsteem, Inc.					◆
Circle of Love Foundation				7	
Circle Theatre of Forest Park		See p. 12			
<b>CJE Senior Life</b>	*	✓			
Clearbrook			9		
*Common Threads		✓			
Community Counseling Centers of Chicago		See p. 12			
Community Organizing and Family Issues					◆
Community Outreach Volunteers		✓			
Community Services Foundation			1, 2, 11, 13, 14, 16	8, 9, 10, 12	
Community Support Services, Inc.		See p. 12			
Community TV Network		See p. 12			
*Compassionate Friends		✓			
Concerned Haitian-Americans of Illinois			3, 6, 8, 9, 10, 14, 17	1	
Conley Outreach Community Services		✓			
Connections For Abused Women and their Children			17		
Council on Jewish Workplace Issues		See p. 12			
Countryside Association For People With Disabilities, Inc.			18		
Court Appointed Special Advocates of Cook County			17		
Creative Choices (A Unique Choice) NFP		See p. 12			
Darkim Responsible Living for Women, Inc.			3, 6, 7, 15, 16, 17, 18	1, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14	
Deborah's Place		✓			
DeKalb County Youth Service Bureau, Inc.			6, 17, 18		
Developing Communities Project		See p. 12			
Dharma Drum Mountain Buddhist Association		See p. 12			
<b>Diabetes Scholars Foundation</b>	*	✓			
Digital Workforce Education Society		See p. 12			
Dimensions of Light Recovery Homes NFP		See p. 12			
Dixon Main Street			3, 6, 7, 8, 16	1, 18	

NAME OF CHARITY	BBB CHARITY SEAL HOLDER	MET STANDARDS	STANDARDS NOT MET	UNABLE TO VERIFY	REVIEW IN PROGRESS
Dreams for Kids					◆
DuPage Convalescent Center Foundation			3, 16, 18	1, 4, 6, 7, 17	
DuPage Homeownership Center, Inc		✓			
DuSable Museum of African American History					◆
*Dystonia Medical Research Foundation		✓			
*Easter Seals		✓			
Easter Seals of Metropolitan Chicago			3, 9, 16, 17		
Eclipse Theatre Company			7, 8, 11, 17, 18	1	
<b>Educational Assistance</b>	*	✓			
Emmaus House of Hospitality			4, 6, 16, 17	1, 15, 18	
<b>Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Chicago</b>	*	✓			
Erika's Lighthouse: A Beacon of Hope for Adolescent Depression		See p. 12			
Ethiopian Community Association of Chicago		See p. 12			
Evangelical Child & Family Agency			17		
Evanston In-School Music Association			6, 7, 12, 14, 16, 17, 18	3	
Evanston Symphony Orchestra Association		See p. 12			
Exodus World Service		✓			
Faith Community Homes			16, 17, 18		
Faith in Action of McHenry County			1, 6, 7, 8		
Families of Spinal Muscular Atrophy			3, 6, 7, 17		
Family Counseling Service of Aurora			16, 17, 18		
<b>Family Outreach Program</b>	*	✓			
Family Resource Center on Disabilities		See p. 12			
Family Service of Winnetka-Northfield Inc.			17		
Family Service: Prevention, Education & Counseling		✓			
*Feeding America		✓			
Fellowship Housing Corporation		✓			
Fertile Ground Foundation					◆
First Defense Legal Aid		See p. 12			
First Love International Ministries		See p. 12			
FISH of McHenry, Inc.		See p. 12			
*Food Animal Concerns Trust		✓			
Food for Friends		See p. 12			
*Foods Resource Bank			3		
Forgotten Heroes		See p. 12			
Fortunate Pooches and Lab Rescue			3, 16, 17, 18	1, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14	
*Foundation for Children in Need		✓			
Fox Valley Micro Loan Fund		See p. 12			
Fox Valley United Way		See p. 12			
Franciscan Outreach Association		✓			
Franklin Park Elementary School Dist 84 Educational Foundation					◆
Friends of McHenry County College Foundation			3, 7, 11, 16	1, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20	
Friends of the Glenside Public Library District		See p. 12			
Friends of the Lake Villa District Library		See p. 12			
Friends of the McHenry County Sheriff's Dept. Foundation		See p. 12			
*Friends of the Orphans		✓			
FUNDation		See p. 12			

\* Denotes National Charity

NAME OF CHARITY	BBB CHARITY SEAL HOLDER	MET STANDARDS	STANDARDS NOT MET	UNABLE TO VERIFY	REVIEW IN PROGRESS
Gads Hill Center		✓			
*Gaia Movement Living Earth Green World Action Movement USA, Inc.					◆
Gandhi Memorial Trust Fund			1, 8, 13, 17, 18		
*Gateway for Cancer Research			6, 7, 12, 13, 14		
Genesis at the Crossroads, Inc.					◆
German Shepherd Dog Rescue of Northern Illinois, Inc.		See p. 12			
*Gift of Adoption Fund		✓			
Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana Inc.		✓			
GIVINGCARE, Inc.		See p. 12			
Glen Ellyn Children's Chorus, Inc.			1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 16, 17, 18		
Glenkirk Foundation					◆
Golden Apple Foundation for Excellence in Teaching		See p. 12			
Goldie's Place			1, 4, 6, 14, 16, 17, 18		
Good News Partners					◆
Good Shepherd Manor, Inc.		See p. 12			
Goodcity					◆
Goodwill Industries of Metropolitan Chicago					◆
Gram Seva Foundation		See p. 12			
Great Lakes Adaptive Sports				1	
Great Lakes Lab Rescue		See p. 12			
Greater Chicago Ferret Association		See p. 12			
Greater Chicago Food Depository			19		
Growthrac Ministries		✓			
Guild for the Blind		✓			
Healing the Children					◆
Health for Humanity			3		
HealthConnect One			6	5, 15	
Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights			3, 16, 17	1, 12, 14, 15, 18, 19	
Heartland International			13, 17	9, 18	
Hearts in Service Just for You		See p. 12			
Help-A-Pet		See p. 12			
Hephzibah Children's Association					◆
Hispanic Alliance for Career Enhancement			8, 11, 14, 17	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 12, 15, 16, 18, 19	
*Hooved Animal Humane Society			19		
Hooved Animal Rescue & Protection Society					◆
Hope for Tomorrow, Inc.			1, 8, 14, 16		
Horizon Hospice & Palliative Care Inc.			9	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 15, 18, 19	
Horizons Community Services		See p. 12			
House of Good Shepherd			1, 6, 17, 18		
Housing Opportunities and Maintenance for the Elderly (HOME)		✓			
Housing Opportunity Development Corporation			16		
Howard Area Community Center			17	18	
Howard Brown Health Center		See p. 12			
Hull House Association			1, 16, 17, 18		
Human Development Foundation		See p. 12			
Humboldt Community Christian School		See p. 12			
I Am Able Center for Family Development, Inc.					◆
Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health			6	3, 15	

NAME OF CHARITY	BBB CHARITY SEAL HOLDER	MET STANDARDS	STANDARDS NOT MET	UNABLE TO VERIFY	REVIEW IN PROGRESS
Illinois Currency Exchange Charitable Foundation					◆
Illinois Doberman Rescue Plus		See p. 12			
<b>IMD Guest House Foundation</b>	*	✓			
<b>Impact Chicago Self Defense</b>	*	✓			
Infant Welfare Society of Chicago			8		
Inner City Impact		✓	8, 16, 17	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 14, 15, 18, 19	
Inner City Teaching Corps of America					◆
*Inner-City Muslim Action Network		✓			
Innocent Children Foundation					◆
Inspiration Corporation			17		
Instituto Del Progreso Latino		See p. 12			
Interfaith Community Partners		See p. 12			
*International Fellowship of Christians and Jews		✓			
International Music Foundation			6, 7, 12, 16, 17, 18		
Jakolbi House for Women in Transition		See p. 12			
Jane Addams Juvenile Court Foundation		See p. 12			
Janet Wattles Center		See p. 12			
Jobs for Illinois Graduates		See p. 12			
*Juvenile Protective Association		✓			
Juvenile Welfare Association			3		
*Kidney Cancer Association		✓			
Kids Around the World		See p. 12			
Kids' Klubs, Inc.			3, 4, 8, 16	1, 10, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18	
Korean American Community Services			14, 17, 18		
*La Leche League International		✓			
Lakeview Pantry			14, 18	1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 15, 16, 17, 19	
Lambs Farm					◆
Lawrence Hall Youth Services		✓			
*LeaderShape			3, 6, 13, 16, 17	9	
Leave No Veteran Behind		See p. 12			
LeeLouila, Inc.		See p. 12			
Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago		✓			
<b>Les Turner Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Foundation, Ltd.</b>	*	✓			
Lesbian Community Cancer Project		See p. 12			
Lester & Rosalie Anixter Center			7, 16, 17, 18		
Leukemia Research Foundation		✓			
LifeSource, Chicagoland's Blood Center		See p. 12			
Light Center Foundation, Inc.		See p. 12			
Lincoln Park Zoo					◆
Lions of Illinois Foundation			16, 17	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 15, 18, 19	
Little Brothers - Friends of the Elderly			9, 10, 14	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 15	
Little City Foundation		✓			
Love Inc of Lake County			1, 16, 17, 18		
*LUNGeivity Foundation			6, 7, 8, 16, 18		
Lutheran Child & Family Services of Illinois					◆
Lutheran Social Services of Illinois		✓			
Lynn Sage Cancer Research			8		
*MAGIC Foundation		See p. 12			

\* Denotes National Charity

NAME OF CHARITY	BBB CHARITY SEAL HOLDER	MET STANDARDS	STANDARDS NOT MET	UNABLE TO VERIFY	REVIEW IN PROGRESS
Maine Community Youth Assistance Foundation		✓			
<b>Make-A-Wish Foundation of Illinois</b>	*	✓			
March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation-Illinois Chapter			17	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 15, 19	
Marcy-Newberry Association, Inc.			14, 16, 18	1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 15, 19	
Marie Wilkinson Child Development Center		See p. 12			
Maryville Academy			16, 17, 18	1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 15, 19	
MayaWorks			6, 7, 17		
MCCD (Midwest Council for Children with Disabilities)		✓			
Meals on Wheels Foundation of Cook County			1, 2, 14, 16, 17	18	
Mental Health Association of Greater Chicago		✓			
*Mercy Home for Boys and Girls		✓			
Metropolitan Family Services			1, 3, 6, 7, 17, 18		
Midwest Christian Outreach, Inc.		See p. 12			
Misericordia Home - Heart of Mercy Center					◆
Mission Honduras			16		
MorningStar Mission Ministries, Inc.					◆
Mothers Trust Foundation					◆
*MPN Research Foundation		✓			
Mujeres Latinas en Accion		See p. 12			
*National Anti-Vivisection Society		✓			
*National Association for the Exchange of Industrial Resources			2, 4		
*National Congress of Parents and Teachers			7, 12		
*National Council of Young Men's Christian Associations		✓			
*National Headache Foundation		See p. 12			
*National Runaway Switchboard		✓			
Natural Land Institute			10, 16, 17	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 15, 18, 19, 20	
N'DIGO Foundation		See p. 12			
Neighborhood Boys and Girls Club					◆
Neighborhood Housing Services of Chicago					◆
Neighborhood Writing Alliance			6, 16, 17, 18		
New Foundation of Hope			3, 4, 11, 14		
New Neighborhood Development					◆
New Phoenix Assistance Center		See p. 12			
Nicasa, NFP			3, 6, 16, 17	1, 7, 14	
Noble Network of Charter Schools			4, 16	1, 14	
*North American Spine Society		See p. 12			
*North South Foundation		See p. 12			
Northern Illinois Food Bank			1, 6, 14, 16, 17	5, 19	
Northfield Township Food Pantry			1, 3		
Northwestern University Settlement Association		✓			
Off The Street Club		See p. 12			
OMNI Youth Services		See p. 12			
One Acre Fund		See p. 12			
Open Books Ltd.					◆
Operation Blessing of Southwest Chicagoland		See p. 12			
Operation Support Our Troops					◆
*Opportunity International		✓			
Organization of Chinese Americans of Greater Chicago		See p. 12			

NAME OF CHARITY	BBB CHARITY SEAL HOLDER	MET STANDARDS	STANDARDS NOT MET	UNABLE TO VERIFY	REVIEW IN PROGRESS
Pacific Garden Mission					◆
Palos 118 Education		See p. 12			
PAWS Chicago		See p. 12			
People's Resource Center		✓			
Pets in Need			8, 11, 16, 17, 18	1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 10, 12, 14, 15, 19	
PetsNPatients					◆
<b>Pioneer Center for Human Services</b>	*	✓			
Planned Parenthood of Illinois		✓			
Polish American Association		✓			
*Prevent Blindness America		✓			
*Prevent Child Abuse America		✓			
Project Exploration		See p. 12			
Propionic Acidemia Foundation			3, 6, 7, 11, 15, 17		
*Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation			1, 3, 4, 16, 18	13, 15	
Rainbows For All Children			16, 17	18	
Ray Graham Association for People with Disabilities			16, 17		
Reading In Motion			14, 17, 18		
Red Door Animal Shelter		See p. 12			
Reel Beauty, Inc.					◆
Resources for Community Living		✓			
<b>Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago</b>	*	✓			
Respond Now		✓			
Rockford Area Pregnancy Care Center			3, 8, 16, 17, 18	1, 15, 19	
*Ronald McDonald House Charities		✓			
*Rotary Foundation of Rotary International		✓			
Rumble Arts Center			1, 3, 4, 6, 16, 18		
Safer Foundation			7, 16, 17, 18		
Sarah's Circle		✓			
SARET			16, 17, 18	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 19	
Save a Pet			6, 7, 8, 18		
Seniors Action Service, Inc.			9, 14	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 15, 17, 18, 20	
Shelter Care Ministries			16, 17, 18	1, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14	
Snow City Arts Foundation			18		
SOS Children's Villages Illinois		See p. 12			
South Central Community Services		See p. 12			
South East Alcohol and Drug Abuse Center		See p. 12			
South Suburban Family Shelter Inc.			6, 7, 16		
South Suburban Humane Society		✓			
South Suburban PADS		✓			
Southwest Chicago PADS					◆
Spanish Coalition for Jobs		See p. 12			
Special Children's Charities		See p. 12			
Special Olympics Illinois				1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 15, 19	
Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies			6, 7, 17		
St. Leonard's Ministries		See p. 12			
St. Mary's Services			16, 17	1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 14, 15, 19	
Starfish Learning Center			8, 16, 17	1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 18	
<b>Starlight Children's Foundation Midwest</b>	*	✓			

\* Denotes National Charity

NAME OF CHARITY	BBB CHARITY SEAL HOLDER	MET STANDARDS	STANDARDS NOT MET	UNABLE TO VERIFY	REVIEW IN PROGRESS
Stepping Stones of Rockford		See p. 12			
Support Advocates for Women				1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 15, 16, 18, 19	
*Survivors Network for Those Abused by Priests			4		
Target Hope		See p. 12			
*TCT Ministries		See p. 12			
Teen Living Programs			17	1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 15, 19	
Teen Parent Connection, Inc.		See p. 12			
The Center for Multicultural Communities			8, 9, 16	1, 3, 4, 10, 15, 17, 18	
The Chicago Academy of Sciences and its Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum.		✓			
The Cradle Foundation		✓			
The Family Centered Educational Agency, Inc.		See p. 12			
The Field Museum			17	1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 15, 18	
The Hadley School for the Blind			3		
The Heartland Institute					◆
The Illinois Safe Schools Alliance			6, 10, 14		
The Night Ministry			16, 18	1, 3, 6, 7	
The Olive Branch Mission		See p. 12			
The Pearl Foundation		See p. 12			
The Salvation Army Metropolitan Division		See p. 12			
The Salvation Army Oakbrook Terrace		See p. 12			
Tree House Humane Society			6, 7, 18	1, 4	
*Tree Research and Educational Endowment Fund			7, 8, 12, 16, 17, 18	13	
United Way of Eastern LaSalle County					◆
United Way of Elgin				1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 15, 19	
United Way of Kankakee County		See p. 12			
<b>United Way of Lake County</b>	*	✓			
United Way of Lee County, Inc.					◆
United Way of McHenry County, Inc.					◆
United Way of Metropolitan Chicago		✓			
United Way of Rock River Valley					◆
United Way of Will County					◆
Urban Gateways		✓			
Vietnamese Association of Illinois			6, 14, 16, 18	15, 19	
*VietNow		See p. 12			
Village of Oak Park Residence Corporation			7, 8, 13, 14, 16, 18	9	
Village Treasure House					◆
Volunteers of America of Illinois			6, 7, 9, 14, 16		
*Warm Blankets Childrens Foundation		✓			
Waukegan Water Safety Association		See p. 12			
West Suburban Humane Society			8, 16, 17	14	
*Wheat Ridge Ministries		✓			
Windy City Habitat for Humanity		✓			
Wings Program		✓			
Women Enuff		See p. 12			
Wood Dale Historical Society					◆
*Y-ME National Breast Cancer Organization			1, 7, 14, 16, 19		

\* Denotes National Charity

# Standards for Charitable Accountability

## GOVERNANCE AND OVERSIGHT

*The governing board has the ultimate oversight authority for any charitable organization. This section of the standards seeks to ensure that the volunteer board is active, independent and free of self-dealing. To meet these standards, the organization shall have:*

- 1. A board of directors that provides adequate oversight of the charity's operations and its staff.** Indication of adequate oversight includes, but is not limited to, regularly scheduled appraisals of the CEO's performance, evidence of disbursement controls such as board approval of the budget, fund raising practices, establishment of a conflict of interest policy, and establishment of accounting procedures sufficient to safeguard charity finances.
- 2. A board of directors with a minimum of five voting members.**
- 3. A minimum of three evenly spaced meetings per year of the full governing body with a majority in attendance, with face-to-face participation.** A conference call of the full board can substitute for one of the three meetings of the governing body. For all meetings, alternative modes of participation are acceptable for those with physical disabilities.
- 4. Not more than one or 10% (whichever is greater) directly or indirectly compensated person(s) serving as voting member(s) of the board. Compensated members shall not serve as the board's chair or treasurer.** [Publicly soliciting churches and other houses of worship: see the *Implementation Guide* at [www.give.org](http://www.give.org) for further information about the application of this standard.]
- 5. No transaction(s) in which any board or staff members have material conflicting interests with the charity resulting from any relationship or business affiliation.** Factors that will be considered when concluding whether or not a related party transaction constitutes a conflict of interest and if such a conflict is material, include, but are not limited to: any arm's length procedures established by the charity; the size of the transaction relative to

like expenses of the charity; whether the interested party participated in the board vote on the transaction; if competitive bids were sought and whether the transaction is one-time, recurring or ongoing.

## MEASURING EFFECTIVENESS

*An organization should regularly assess its effectiveness in achieving its mission. This section seeks to ensure that an organization has defined, measurable goals and objectives in place and a defined process in place to evaluate the success and impact of its program(s) in fulfilling the goals and objectives of the organization and that also identifies ways to address any deficiencies. To meet these standards, a charitable organization shall:*

- 6. Have a board policy of assessing, no less than every two years, the organization's performance and effectiveness and of determining future actions required to achieve its mission.**
- 7. Submit to the organization's governing body, for its approval, a written report that outlines the results of the aforementioned performance and effectiveness assessment and recommendations for future actions.**

## FINANCES

*This section of the standards seeks to ensure that the charity spends its funds honestly, prudently and in accordance with statements made in fund raising appeals. To meet these standards, the charitable organization shall:*

- Please note that standards 8 and 9 have different denominators.
- 8. Spend at least 65% of its total expenses on program activities.**

### Formula for Standard 8:

$$\frac{\text{Total Program Service Expenses}}{\text{Total Expenses}} \text{ should be at least } 65\%$$

- 9. Spend no more than 35% of related contributions on fund raising.** Related contributions include donations, legacies, and other gifts received as a result of fund raising efforts.

### Formula for Standard 9:

$$\frac{\text{Total Fund Raising Expenses}}{\text{Total Related Contributions}} \text{ should be no more than } 35\%$$

- 10. Avoid accumulating funds that could be used for current program activities. To meet this standard, the charity's unrestricted net assets available for use should not be more than three times the size of the past year's expenses or three times the size of the current year's budget, whichever is higher.**

An organization that does not meet Standards 8, 9 and/or 10 may provide evidence to demonstrate that its use of funds is reasonable. The higher fund raising and administrative costs of a newly created organization, donor restrictions on the use of funds, exceptional bequests, a stigma associated with a cause and environmental or political events beyond an organization's control are among factors which may result in expenditures that are reasonable although they do not meet the financial measures cited in these standards.

- 11. Make available to all, on request, complete annual financial statements prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.** When total annual gross income exceeds \$250,000, these statements should be audited in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. For charities whose annual gross income is less than \$250,000, a review by a certified public accountant is sufficient to meet this standard. For charities whose annual gross income is less than \$100,000, an internally produced, complete financial statement is sufficient to meet this standard.

continued on page 12

# Standards for Charitable Accountability

continued from page 11

**12. Include in the financial statements a breakdown of expenses (e.g., salaries, travel, postage, etc.) that shows what portion of these expenses was allocated to program, fund raising, and administrative activities.**

If the charity has more than one major program category, the schedule should provide a breakdown for each category.

**13. Accurately report the charity's expenses, including any joint cost allocations, in its financial statements.**

For example, audited or unaudited statements which inaccurately claim zero fund raising expenses or otherwise understate the amount a charity spends on fund raising, and/or overstate the amount it spends on programs will not meet this standard.

**14. Have a board-approved annual budget for its current fiscal year, outlining projected expenses for major program activities, fund raising, and administration.**

## FUND RAISING AND INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

*A fund raising appeal is often the only contact a donor has with a charity and may be the sole impetus for giving. This section of the standards seeks to ensure that a charity's representations to the public are accurate, complete and respectful. To meet these standards, the charitable organization shall:*

**15. Have solicitations and informational materials, distributed by any means, that are accurate, truthful and not misleading, both in whole and in part.** Appeals that omit a clear description of program(s) for which contributions are sought will not meet this standard.

A charity should also be able to substantiate that the timing and nature of its expenditures are in accordance with what is stated, expressed, or implied in the charity's solicitations.

**16. Have an annual report available to all, on request, that includes:**

- the organization's mission statement,
- a summary of the past year's program service accomplishments,
- a roster of the officers and members of the board of directors,
- financial information that includes (i) total income in the past fiscal year, (ii) expenses in the same program, fund raising and administrative categories as in the financial statements, and (iii) ending net assets.

**17. Include on any charity websites that solicit contributions, the same information that is recommended for annual reports, as well as the mailing address of the charity and electronic access to its most recent IRS Form 990.**

**18. Address privacy concerns of donors by**

- providing in written appeals, at least annually, a means (e.g., such as a check off box) for both new and continuing donors to inform the charity if they do not want their name and address shared outside the organization, and
- providing a clear, prominent and easily accessible privacy policy on any of its websites that tells visitors (i) what information, if any, is being collected about them by the charity and how this information will be

used, (ii) how to contact the charity to review personal information collected and request corrections, (iii) how to inform the charity (e.g., a check off box) that the visitor does not wish his/her personal information to be shared outside the organization, and (iv) what security measures the charity has in place to protect personal information.

**19. Clearly disclose how the charity benefits from the sale of products or services (i.e., cause-related marketing) that state or imply that a charity will benefit from a consumer sale or transaction. Such promotions should disclose, at the point of solicitation:**

- the actual or anticipated portion of the purchase price that will benefit the charity (e.g., 5 cents will be contributed to abc charity for every xyz company product sold),
- the duration of the campaign (e.g., the month of October),
- any maximum or guaranteed minimum contribution amount (e.g., up to a maximum of \$200,000).

**20. Respond promptly to and act on complaints brought to its attention by the BBB Wise Giving Alliance and/or local Better Business Bureaus about fund raising practices, privacy policy violations and/or other issues.**

## ■ DECLINED TO BE EVALUATED OR DID NOT RESPOND

These charitable organizations either have not responded to Bureau requests for information or have declined to be evaluated in relation to the *Alliance's Standards for Charity Accountability*. While participation in the BBB's charity review efforts is voluntary, the Bureau believes that failure to participate may indicate a lack of commitment to transparency. Without the requested information, the Alliance cannot determine if these charities adhere to the *Standards for Charity Accountability*. A charity's willing disclosure of information beyond that typically included in its financial statements and government filings is, in the Alliance's view, an expression of openness that strengthens public trust in the charitable sector.

© 2003, BBB Wise Giving Alliance



*Remember to Give, But Give Wisely™*