

# The More you know...

Knowledge to combat fraud schemes

## Know who you are donating to!

Want to give to the less fortunate or a cause you are passionate about? Make sure you know to whom you are donating and where your money will go!

Be on the look out for any charity or fundraiser that:



- Uses a name that closely resembles that of a better-known, reputable organization;
- Uses high-pressure tactics like trying to get you to donate immediately, without giving you time to think about it and do research;
- Requires donations in cash, a check made out to an individual instead of an organization, or via wire transfer;
- Offers to send a courier or overnight delivery service to collect the donation immediately; and/or
- Guarantees sweepstakes winnings in exchange for a contribution. (By law, you never have to give a donation to be eligible to win a sweepstakes.)

### Before you donate, check to see if the organization is legitimate!

- Donate to local organizations you are involved in, such as your church or neighborhood school groups.
- Call your local BBB or the PA State Attorney General's Office to find out more information about the organization.
- Research (or have a family member) research the organization online.

And remember: do not give out your personal or financial information—including your credit card or bank account number—unless you know the charity is reputable!

### PA Senior Center Charity Mail Scam

**What should I look for?** A solicitation from "The Seniors Center" asking for a monetary donation to keep the center from closing.

**Is it real?** No! This is not from your local senior center, a PA senior center, or any senior center

**What should I do if I receive this?** Do not send any money or call or write the organization.

### Want to report A possible Fraud?

**General Reports:** Anti-Fraud Hotline (provided by the U.S. Senate Aging Commission)

1.855.303.9470 or [www.aging.senate.gov/fraud-hotline](http://www.aging.senate.gov/fraud-hotline)

**Telephone or online fraud scheme?** Federal Trade Commission (877.FTC.Help, [www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov](http://www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov)) or Internet Crime Complaint Center ([www.ic3.gov](http://www.ic3.gov))

**Mail fraud scheme?** United States Postal Inspection Service

1.717.257.2330 or [www.postalinspectors.uspis.gov](http://www.postalinspectors.uspis.gov)

**Scheme involving money sent with GreenDot, MoneyGram or Western Union?**

Green Dot: 1.866.795.7597

MoneyGram: 1.800.MONEYGRAM or 1.800.666.3947

Western Union Fraud Hotline: 1.800.448.1492