

The More you know...

Knowledge to combat fraud schemes

Fraud Schemes in the News

St. Joseph's Indian School Fundraising under Investigation



Have you heard of St. Joseph's Indian School? The 200-child boarding school in Chamberlain, South Dakota, sends out mailers detailing the plight of their attendees. The stories are heartbreaking and you are called to donate a few dollars to assist the children. The few dollars donated by caring individuals raised more than \$50 million for the School last year alone!

CNN investigated St. Joseph's Indian School and uncovered some disturbing facts. Specifically, CNN alleges that the children and stories used in the mailers are a complete fabrication! The children described in the mailer do not actually go to St. Joseph's Indian School and the stories are a compilation of events that may or may not have happened. CNN did determine that the funds raised appeared to benefit the children who attend the South Dakota boarding school.

The lesson in all of this? Before you fall for a compelling story on a mailer, stop and think about whether you are donating to the story you read or to the cause that stands behind the story!

For more information, go here: <http://tinyurl.com/qe9zb39>

'Tis the Season for Giving

Here are some helpful tips for making donations to charities:

- Check with the Pennsylvania Department of State to determine if the charity is registered in Pennsylvania. All charities soliciting for donations in Pennsylvania are required to register with the State.
- Even if you make a pledge to donate a certain amount, you are not required to donate that amount. You can modify your contribution up until the time you actually turn the money over. Additionally, you can decide not to contribute at all without penalty!
- If someone calls you on the phone about giving a donation, you are entitled to ask any and all questions you may have about the organization, the organization's financial posture, and how your donation will be used. Do not feel pressured to make a donation immediately. Take your time to consider whether the organization is something you would like to support.
- Always remember that there are organizations in your community who also need donations.

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

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

Mail fraud scheme? United States Postal Inspection Service

1.717.257.2330 or 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