



How to Verify a Hurricane Relief Charity



Elaine J. Marshall



Find lists of vetted charities on:

- [give.org](https://www.give.org)
- [charitynavigator.org](https://www.charitynavigator.org)
- [charitywatch.org](https://www.charitywatch.org)
- [guidestar.org](https://www.guidestar.org)

Search the charity name online.
Do people say it's a scam?

Did You Know?

Charities soliciting for donations in North Carolina must be registered with the North Carolina Department of the Secretary of State Charitable Solicitation Licensing Division. Search Our Registry at <http://sosnc.gov/CSL/>

Avoid Scams this Hurricane Season: Give to Charities Experienced in Disaster Relief

The aftermath of multiple hurricanes in recent years has been more devastating than initially imagined with local and state emergency management officials still conducting damage assessments throughout the state. Secretary Elaine Marshall knows that many are looking for ways to help families and communities affected.

North Carolinians are encouraged to continue their charitable giving to “established charities and organizations that have experience assisting with disaster relief,” such as these which addresses unmet needs in the aftermath of a disaster:

- North Carolina Disaster Relief Fund
- American Red Cross
- Food Bank of Central & Eastern NC
- The Salvation Army
- United Way of North Carolina

These and other recognized charities know how to leverage and maximize your giving. Gift cards are welcomed and allows for a more effective and impactful relief due to the ease in use, virtually no transportation cost, reduction in manual labor and storage space.

Report Scams to:
<https://ftc.gov/complaint>

Also search our charity registry at
https://sosnc.gov/online_services/search/by_title/_charities



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Be alert to names that closely resemble those of better-known, reputable organizations.



Designate the relief effort you wish to support.



Be skeptical of callers thanking you for a pledge you don't remember making.



Research charities that spring up overnight.

Hurricane Disaster – Giving Tips

Avoid Being Scammed: Donors face many challenges in their giving, being scammed should not be one of them. Thank you for your generous giving.

Giving Tips:

- **NC Secretary of State “Check Before you Write One” Checklist** - https://sosnc.gov/documents/Guides/Charities/Donor_Checklist.pdf
- **Get the name of charity and Search Our Registry** at <http://sosnc.gov/CSL/>.
- **Visit the charity’s website.**
- **Ask how your donation will be used.**
- **Be cautious on giving out personal information.**
- **Never give cash.**
- **Telephone solicitors should also be registered in North Carolina.**
- **Before sending contributions via text verify the charity.**
- **Avoid phishing attacks through unsolicited spam emails.**

Hurricane Disaster – Charity Evaluation

Tools for Evaluating Charities: See the following links for valuable information on a charity.

- **NC Secretary of State Charitable Solicitation Licensing Division**
- **American Institute of Philanthropy**
- **Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance**
- **Charity Navigator**
- **GuideStar**