

A Donor Bill of Rights

PHILANTHROPY is based on voluntary action for the welfare of the general public. It is a tradition of giving and sharing that is essential to the quality of life. To guarantee that philanthropy deserves the respect and trust of the general public, and that donors and potential donors can have full confidence in the not-for-profit organizations and causes they are asked to support, we declare that all donors have these rights:

I.

TO BE INFORMED of the organization's mission, of the way the organization intends to use donated resources, and of its ability to efficiently use the donations for their planned purposes.

II.

TO UNDERSTAND who the governing board is that manages the direction of the organization and to expect the board to use wise judgment in their specific responsibilities.

III.

TO HAVE ACCESS to the organization's most recent financial statements.

IV.

TO BE ASSURED their gifts will be used for the purpose that the gifts were given.

V.

TO FEEL FREE to ask questions when making a donation and to receive prompt, truthful and straightforward answers.

VI.

TO BE GUARANTEED that information about their donations is handled with respect and with confidentiality to the most that the law can provide.

VII.

TO EXPECT that all relationships with individuals from the organizations the donor is interested in will be professional in nature.

VIII.

TO BE INFORMED whether the people asking for donations are volunteers, employees of the organization or hired solicitors.

IX.

TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY to have their names deleted from mailing lists that an organization may intend to share.

X.

TO RECEIVE appropriate acknowledgement and recognition.

DEVELOPED BY

Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP)
Association for Healthcare Philanthropy (AHP)
Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE)
Giving Institute: Leading Consultants to Non-Profits

ENDORSED BY

Heal the Bay
Independent Sector
National Catholic Development Conference (NCDC)
National Committee on Planned Giving (NCPG)
Council for Resource Development (CRD)
United Way of America