

A Donor Bill of Rights

PHILANTHROPY is based on voluntary action for the common good. It is a tradition of giving and sharing that is primary to the quality of life. To assure that philanthropy merits the respect and trust of the general public, and that donors and prospective 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 capacity to use donations effectively for their intended purposes.

II.

To be informed of the identity of those serving on the organization's governing board, and to expect the board to exercise prudent judgement in its stewardship responsibilities.

III.

To have access to the organization's most recent financial statements.

IV.

To be assured their gifts will be used for the purposes for which they were given and that every effort will be made to advise them if this is not possible and a new need is identified by the charity.

V.

To receive appropriate acknowledgement and recognition.

VI.

To be assured that information about their donations is handled with respect and with confidentiality to the extent provided by law.

VII.

To expect that all relationships with individuals representing organizations of interest to the donor will be professional in nature.

VIII.

To be informed whether those seeking donations are volunteers, employees of the organization or hired solicitors.

IX.

To be assured that all information relating to the donor is kept confidential and that we do not share our mailing lists with any other organizations.

X.

To feel free to ask questions when making a donation and to receive prompt, truthful and forthright answers.

ADAPTED IN 2016 BY BONNY LEA FARM FROM A DONOR BILL OF RIGHTS CREATED BY:

Association for Healthcare Philanthropy (AHP)

Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP)

Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE)

Giving Institute: Leading Consultants to Non-Profits