



Start With Trust®

Donating Wisely After Natural Disasters:

Research the charity with BBB.

Visit BBB's Wise Giving Alliance at bbb.org/charity to see a list of nationally soliciting charities which meet BBB's 20 Standards for Charity Accountability.

Beware of inexperienced organizations.

New non-profits and relief organizations often spring up following major disasters. While these groups may have the best of intentions, they also may lack the resources, experience and management needed to be effective. Look for established organizations with the correct expertise and experience.

Understand where your money is going.

Find out how the organization plans to spend donated funds. Charities may be promoting additional activities along with primary relief programs. Ask whether the organization restricts your donation for use in one specific area of need or intends to use it toward general support for all of its programs.

Volunteering may require special skills or training.

Consumers may not be eligible to help without certification to handle hazardous materials or training to care for injured wildlife or people. Many charities with volunteer programs ask that consumers register first so they can assess individual skills and place them appropriately when openings arise.

Be on the lookout for scams.

As a result of media attention, job scams offering assistance in recovery efforts and phony charity solicitations may arise. Be sure to avoid any high pressure sales tactics from door-to-door or phone solicitors and never send cash or wire money to an individual you do not know.

For more Austin area consumer tips, scams and alerts, read the BBB blog (Austin.bbb.org/blog) for the most up-to-date details. If there are specific topics you'd like to get advice on from BBB, please let us know by calling 512-445-2911 or email us at info@austin.bbb.org.