

False claim by group in the area; how to donate safely to charity of your choice



The City Mission

For Immediate Release

Door-to-Door Solicitors Not Authorized by The City Mission

How to safely donate to the charity you want to support

Cleveland, OH - October 15, 2009 - The City Mission has received calls from friends and supporters indicating that door-to-door solicitors are claiming they have been contracted by the Mission to ask for money. But it is not true.

"The City Mission provides a variety of ways for people to participate in the work we do, including making financial contributions," said Reverend Richard Trickel, The City Mission's Chief Executive Officer. "We do not go door-to-door to ask for donations. We would never hire anyone else to do it for us."

Rescue missions in Akron and Canton report that they have received similar calls asking about door-to-door solicitors. They also do not use that method to raise funds and advise the caller to report the incident to the police.

"The best way to ensure that your donation goes where you intend is to donate directly to the organization. Many have several secure ways to receive your donation, including through their websites. If you are in doubt, call the charity you want to support," said says Jim Whiteman, The City Mission's Chief Development Officer.

The community's support of The City Mission has been vital in its 99-year history. The Mission does not receive any government funding; all of the support comes from individuals, companies, foundations or organizations. Any misrepresentation by those seeking donations is taken very seriously, as it could potentially undermine the confidence of the public and negatively affect donations for those in need.

Although in previous years similar calls had been received reporting door-to-door solicitors, this is the first time that the Mission was able to identify who was making the claim. Residents of South Euclid and Solon recently called asking about Volunteer Rescue Missions (also known as "Reach Out") based in Canton, Ohio and its affiliation with The City Mission.

The Mission has left several messages at the phone number associated with the organization but

none of the calls have been returned.

"Sometimes third parties will hold special events or drives in which part of the money raised will be donated to the Mission," said Whiteman. "These groups will present us or mail us a check to ensure proper accounting on both ends."

Whiteman said no donations have ever been recorded coming to The City Mission from Volunteer Rescue Missions, Reach Out or Reach Out Shelter.

"Northeast Ohio is a very generous community. So many people want to help those truly in need especially in this difficult economy," says Whiteman, who is responsible for raising the \$5.2 million annual budget. His office began receiving calls last month from individuals and groups who want to do something special for the holidays.

Giving to The City Mission

Anyone who wants to donate to The City Mission can call (216) 431-3510, go to the website at www.thecitymission.org, respond to the upcoming holiday mailing to homes in Greater Cleveland or inserts in the local paper, participate in the online giving campaign ([Team Hope 99](#)), schedule electronic fund transfers for periodic contributions, participate in planned giving programs, or mail a check to 5310 Carnegie Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44103.

Individuals can also donate through an employer's program, if available, or the Combined Federal Campaign. United Way forms can be used only if the donor completes the section for 'non-United Way agencies' and contributes at least an equal amount to United Way agencies.

During the fall [Holiday Food Drive](#) and [New Toys and Games Collection](#) and in the spring for [Operation Hope Tote](#), area churches, recreation centers, and businesses serve as collection sites for the public. These locations are listed on the Mission's website.

One of the upcoming special events is the Cleveland Pops Orchestra's "[Holiday in Toyland](#)" concert on November 29. The City Mission will receive the toys donated by concert goers.

Churches, schools, civic organizations, businesses and others sometimes will hold a special collection to help the Mission at various times during the year.

All of these efforts by the members of the community to help are greatly appreciated by The City Mission.

About The City Mission - Celebrating 100 Years of Service in 2010!

Since 1910, The City Mission has served the homeless and others in need in Northeast Ohio. Today, The City Mission's two Cleveland locations serve thousands of individuals annually through its crisis programs for men, women and children; spiritual aid and personal support for inmates; and dynamic programs for youth and their families.

Website: <http://www.thecitymission.org>

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