

If someone comes to your door or stops you on the street and says he is collecting money for The City Mission, please call the police.



**The City Mission**

**For Immediate Release**

**Door-to-Door Solicitors and Panhandlers Not Authorized by  
The City Mission to Collect Money  
Residents Urged to Call the Police**

**Cleveland, OH - November 10, 2011** - The City Mission continues to receive calls from donors and supporters, particularly in the suburbs of Cleveland, asking about someone who came to their door asking for money for the Mission.

"It happens every year," said Reverend Richard Trickel, Chief Executive Officer of the 101 year-old organization. "We never have, and never will, go door-to-door asking for donations. If someone claims to be from the Mission or that he has been authorized to collect for the Mission, please call the police."

This year the Mission received a call from a check cashing company that someone has tried cashing checks made payable to the Mission.

Michael Parry, the Mission's Chief Development Officer who has worked for other well-known charities, has seen them also become targets of such scams, especially during the holidays.

"Kindhearted people want to help those in need in our community. In our busy lives, the thought of being able to make a quick donation without going online or writing a check seems so easy. The solicitor might even flash a credential that appears legitimate. However, the risk is that your donation may never reach the intended charity," Parry warned.

Panhandlers have also told pedestrians that they are collecting for the Mission.

"They can sound very convincing if they have stayed at the Mission," said Mark Charvat, the Chief Financial Officer.

The City Mission has many ways to give including through the website at [www.thecitymission.org](http://www.thecitymission.org), by calling the Mission, or mailing a check. The website also lists the fundraisers in which the Mission is partnering with a local company or organization.

"If you are in doubt, call the charity you want to support," said Parry. "We appreciate those who have called to make us aware of what is happening."

Despite the length of the economic troubles faced by many people, the Northeast Ohio community has continued to generously support the Mission. It 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.

*For more information, please contact:*

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### **About The City Mission**

Since 1910, The City Mission has served the needs of the homeless and those in need in the Greater Cleveland area. Today we serve thousands of clients annually through a variety of programs: crisis services through short-term and long-term programs for men, women and children; spiritual aid for those incarcerated; and dynamic programs for youth and their families.



