

Don't Fall for Fake Solicitations for Cook Children's *Door-to-door scams reported in Fort Worth as Holidays Approach*

Fort Worth, TX – With the holiday season fast approaching, Cook Children's wants to make sure you aren't scammed by fraudulent fundraising activity. According to the Fort Worth Police Department, several residents in north Fort Worth recently reported door-to-door solicitors asking for monetary donations for Cook Children's. Please know that Cook Children's never solicits donor support door-to-door nor do we sanction door-to-door solicitations on our behalf.

In order to keep yourself from falling victim to a scam, take the time to check out the organization – whether it's Cook Children's or another charity.

1. Visit their website and look for the following things:

- Correct spelling and use of grammar.
- Mission statement.
- List of board members.
- Permanent street address (not a PO Box) and a phone number.
- Statements of financial transparency.

2. Seek proof

- Ask the charity to mail you information on the program they are asking you to support and how the funds will be used.
- Request a copy of their tax information.
- Check the company's status with the Better Business Bureau.

3. Ask if you can write a check

Donations of cash are not trackable and any legitimate non-profit organization would be willing and able to accept a check.

4. Use common sense

Don't provide financial information to anyone over the phone. Don't give in to forceful or demanding requests for your immediate support. Use caution on social media sites and websites that you are unfamiliar with.

Each year, more than 70 community partners hold special event fundraisers that benefit Cook Children's. Each of these partners events have been approved by [Cook Children's Health Foundation](#) and have been provided a letter of authorization to validate the authenticity of the event and its organizers. Also,

all requests for proposed fundraising activities benefiting Cook Children's must be submitted for approval, including the use of Cook Children's name and/or logo prior to the event.

If you have a question about the validity of a group or individual who is soliciting funds on behalf of Cook Children's, contact our Community Partners specialist at 682-885-4105.

If you suspect that you are being solicited by or have fallen victim to a charity scam, document the details and contact your credit card company or bank to report the incident.

Don't let the possibility of charity scams keep you from supporting the causes that you believe in, but do let it raise your awareness and guide you in your decision making. Do your research, identify your top charities of choice and reach out to them. Real charities have nothing to hide.

About Cook Children's

Cook Children's Health Care System embraces an inspiring Promise – to improve the health of every child in our region through the prevention and treatment of illness, disease and injury. Based in Fort Worth, Texas, we're proud of our long and rich tradition of serving our community.

For 100 years, we've worked to improve the health of children from across our primary service area of Denton, Hood, Johnson, Parker, Tarrant and Wise counties. We combine the art of caring with leading technology and extraordinary collaboration to provide exceptional care for every child. This has earned Cook Children's a strong, far-reaching reputation with patients traveling from around the country and the globe to receive life-saving pediatric care.

For more information, visit cookchildrens.org.

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