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## **Cox Reminds Consumers to Make Informed Donations to Hurricane Katrina Charities**

***Attorney General: Donate to Familiar Organizations, Watch for Scams***

**LANSING** -- Attorney General Mike Cox announced today that he is reminding Michigan consumers to be generous as well as informed when making charitable donations to victims of Hurricane Katrina.

“As today’s *Detroit Free Press* and *Detroit News* both noted, Michigan’s residents are the most charitable in the country, even when faced with their own economic hardships,” said Cox. “By following three simple rules, consumers can prevent scam artists from taking advantage of this generosity: first, donate to familiar charities that you know and trust; two, contact my office’s Charitable Trust Division for information on lesser-known charities before making a donation; and three, never respond or provide information to unsolicited emails or telephone calls.”

In a Consumer Alert, “Don’t Be Taken In By Disaster Scams,” posted on the Attorney General’s Web site at [www.michigan.gov/ag](http://www.michigan.gov/ag), Cox warns consumers to be particularly skeptical of e-mail requests for donations by unfamiliar organizations, which may be nothing more than identity thieves trying to collect consumers’ personal information under false pretense. Even messages that seem to come from established charities can be scams. Consumers should contact organizations of their choice directly and never respond to unsolicited e-mails seeking money or personal information.

Anyone who believes they have information about a scam, or has been victimized, should contact Cox’s Consumer Protection Division toll-free at 1-877-765-8388, online at [www.michigan.gov/ag](http://www.michigan.gov/ag), or in writing at: Consumer Protection Division, P.O. Box 30213, Lansing, MI 48909.

To reach the Attorney General's Charitable Trust Section, call 1-517-373-1152. To check on a police or fire organization, consumers may call toll-free 1-800-769-4515.

To reach the following charities and to make Hurricane Katrina donations:

- United Way of America's Hurricane Katrina Response Fund:

100% of money contributed to this fund will be used for hurricane relief in the form of community rebuilding. United Way will not deduct any administrative expenses from donations.

Contributions by check may be sent to:

Hurricane Katrina Response Fund  
United Way of America  
P.O. Box 630568  
Baltimore, MD 21263-0568

To donate online or for information, visit [www.unitedway.org](http://www.unitedway.org). Michigan donors may also direct questions to the Michigan Association of United Ways at 517-371-4360.

- Salvation Army's Hurricane Relief Fund 2005:

Hurricane Relief Fund 2005  
Salvation Army  
P.O. Box 4857  
Jackson, MS 39296-4857

To donate online or for information, visit [www.salvationarmyusa.org](http://www.salvationarmyusa.org) or call 1-800-SAL-ARMY.

- American Red Cross:

American Red Cross  
P.O. Box 37243  
Washington, D.C. 20013

To make a donation or for information, visit [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) or call 1-800-HELP-NOW.