

Spotsylvania County Sheriff's Office

Crime Solvers



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(540) 582-5822 OR 1-800-928-5822



SEPTEMBER 23 THRU SEPTEMBER 29 2020

TIP OF THE WEEK

Spot and stop dishonest charity fundraisers September 16, 2020

What's worse than a bogus charity? A bogus charity with a dishonest fundraiser. That's what we saw in a case announced today against Outreach Calling, Inc., its founder Mark Gelvan, and others.

The defendants in this FTC case are fundraisers that called millions of Americans on behalf of bogus charities. They claimed that the charities delivered care packages to Vietnam veterans in need, helped breast cancer survivors, gave grants to family members of fallen officers, and other things. But these fundraisers kept 90% or more of the donations they got. The bogus charities spent most of their share on salaries for their founders and family members, or administrative costs.

Today's settlement bans the defendants from charitable fundraising. But when you get a call from a charity fundraiser, how do you know the caller is telling you the truth? Here are a few tips: Ask the caller specific questions: What is the charity's name, phone number, or address? Write these down so you can confirm them later. Keep in mind that many charity names sound alike.

How much of your donation will go directly to the programs you want to support?

Will your donation be tax-deductible? Not every call seeking a donation is from a charity. Some calls might be from Political Action Committees or other groups where donations are not deductible. See more questions to ask here.

Resist the pressure to donate now. After you've listened to the caller, hang up the phone and think about what they said. Then, go online and do your own research:

Search for the organization's name and phone number, plus the word "scam" or "complaint." What you find might help you decide if you want to make that donation.

Look up the organization's name and address. Does it show up? If it doesn't, that could be a sign the caller was lying to you.

See what these rating organizations say about the charity: BBB Wise Giving Alliance, Charity Navigator, Charity Watch, and GuideStar.

If you get a donation request in the mail, do some research online before you donate. And if you spot a charity scam, report it to the FTC at ftc.gov/complaint.

Rosario Méndez Attorney, Division of Consumer and Business Education, FTC

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ARMED ROBBERY CFS 20-85491

Exxon, 5123 Mudd Tavern Road, on September 23 2020 between 12:18am and 12:26am a black male entered the store and picked some candy and went to the register and pulled out a black handgun and the cashier took the money and placed it in a bag and the suspect left. He is described as a black male wearing a mask, a gray beanie, a black jacket with a symbol on the left side and wore khaki pants. CFS 20-85491

GRAND LARCENY SHOPLIFT CFS20-85641

AT&T Phone Store, 5635 Plank Road, on September 23, 2020 between 10:00am and 2:53pm a male took a black iPhone 11 valued at \$700.00 and a gray iPhone 11 valued at \$1,000.00 from an unsecured display and left the store and walked out while the employee was storing some items. The suspect is a black male, 30 to 40 years, 6'2", 200 lbs, bald, wore a black mask, a no collar long sleeve white shirt, blue jeans and black and white sneakers. CFS20-85641

GRAND LARCENY FROM AUTOMOBILE CFS 20-86942

7000 block Towles Mill Road, on September 27, at 12:34pm someone entered the victims' unlocked 2015 Dodge pickup and stole an all-black 380 Ruger semi-automatic handgun. It is valued at \$249.00. CFS 20-86942

GRAND LARCENY OTHER CFS 20-86610

4200 block Mine Road, between September 24, 4:00pm and the 26th, 2:30pm someone stole the victims' black 5'x10' Leonard brand utility trailer from the victims' lot. It is valued at \$1400.00. CFS 20-86610

PETIT LARCENY BICYCLES-WESTFIELD CFS 20-86946

10400 Kings Cove Court, between September 26, 12:01am and the 27th 2020 1:00am someone stole two children bicycles from the driveway of the residence. One is a girls Mongoose 24" gray Mongoose and the other is a black 20" black brawler Mongoose bicycle. Each is valued at \$100.00. CFS 20-86946

PETIT LARCENY OTHER-LAKE WILDERNESS CFS 20-85840

12000 block Platoon Drive, on September 24, 2020 between 1:20 and 1:54am a male and female stole an inflatable 4 feet tall Jack O' Lantern lawn decoration valued at \$45.00 from the front yard. CFS 20-85840

MISSILE AT A DWELLING CFS 20-87122

2000 block Liberty Loop between September 27, 11:30pm and the 28th, 12:32am someone threw a rock through a bedroom window while the victim was sleeping. CFS 20-87122

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FRAUD-COVENTRY CREEK CFS 20-85691

4100 block England Town Road on September 23, 2020 between 4:08 and 6:38pm the victim received a call from a male identified as a DEA chief investigator and said that someone was using the victim's personal information to purchase a vehicle. He asked the victim to withdraw money and to purchase "Target" cards. The victim agreed and converted \$8,000 and provided the "agent" with the card numbers. CFS 20-85691

FRAUD-CHANCELLOR GREEN CFS 20-86004

Unit block Lavelle Drive, on September 24, 2020 between 1:55 and 3:45pm someone that has the same name as the victim has been using the victim's social security number to make purchases. This time the suspect opened a Direct TV account and is in collections. CFS 20-86004

COUNTERFEIT CURRENCY CFS 20-87122

Food Lion, 6320 Jefferson Davis Highway, on September 24, 2020 between 2:30 and 2:50pm the victim received a counterfeit \$20.00 in change after making a purchase at the store. The store manager gave the victim another bill and turned the counterfeit to the deputy. CFS 20-87122

VANDALISM-SUMMERSET CFS 20-86306

11400 Roslyn road, on September 25, 2020 between 12:01am and 2:00am unknown person(s) tore down and wrinkled several political yard signs from the victim's yard. Value of the signs is unknown. CFS 20-86306

VANDALISM-SALEM FIELDS CFS 20-86296

Salem Fields Recreation Center, 11125 Rappahannock Drive, between September 24, 9:00am and the 25th, 2020 8:30am unknown persons broke the Plexiglas window of the book box located outside the community center. CFS 20-86296

VANDALISM CFS 20-86242

10800 block Gordon Road, on September 25, 2020 between 10:53am and 1:14pm unknown person(s) broke all the windows and lights of several old buildings. Damage is estimated at \$2,500.00. CFS 20-86242

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Crime Solvers Statistics

From January 2000 through December 2019, the Spotsylvania County Crime Solvers has paid out over **\$100,000 in CASH REWARDS** for information through 2,320 calls to the Crime Solvers Telephone Tip line, Crime Solvers Web Tip page, the former Text-A-Tip phone number, and the new P3 App Tip system. Information obtained has resulted in 207 arrests involving burglaries, drug distribution, arson, vandalism, breaking & entering and other crimes against the citizens of Spotsylvania County. To date there has been \$164,132 worth of stolen property recovered, and property and assorted types of drugs seized. From June 2010 through December 2019 64 Wanted Fugitives have been arrested.

Remember your phone call, Web Tip or
P3 App Tip can make a difference.

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