



About Matthew Crider, J.D.

Matthew Crider formed [Crider Law PC](#) in 1999 so he could help individuals and business owners by providing creative solutions and be their trusted advisor and legal counselor. He serves his clients by listening closely to their goals, dreams and concerns and working with them to develop superior and comprehensive estate and asset protection plans. His estate planning practice focuses on preserving and growing wealth by providing comprehensive, highly personalized estate planning counsel to couples, families, individuals and businesses.

Be careful about the charities you help

By Matthew Crider, JD | Family Wealth Protection Attorney

Americans are generous people. Every year we give billions to thousands of charities that purport to do good work. But there are lots of bad charities out there. You have to investigate before you give.

For example. According to an article in the [Tampa Bay Times](#), one of the country's worst charities is housed behind a gas station in Holiday, Florida. The charity, Kids Wish Network, collects millions in donations each year. But the newspaper found it spends only 3 cents from every dollar it collects helping kids. The rest goes to the people who run the charity and the for-profit companies it hires to seek out donations. The charity's founder has siphoned off \$4.8 million for himself.

The newspaper, along with the Center for Investigative Reporting, has identified 6,000 charities that pay for-profit companies to go out and do their collecting for them. The 50 worst charities identified by the paper have paid out \$1 billion over 10 years to professional donation-seeking companies.

Some of these phony charities use names that sound like established charities that do spend most of the money they collect on the people who they seek to help. For example, the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Central and North Florida actually spent \$1.8 million last year granting wishes. They say these sound-a-like charities give them a bad name.

The article includes links to the worst charities and a form to fill out to find out if a charity that has asked you for money is legitimate.