Protect Yourself – Charity Scams

The Community Foundation’s Preventing Financial Scams Initiative protects our community. Here are some tips on charity scams:

Red Flags:
- You are pressured into donating right away.
- You are asked to give cash, prepaid debit cards, or wire money.
- Refuses to share information about the organization’s mission and background and does not answer your calls.
- Will not verify that your donation is tax-deductible and will not provide a gift receipt.
- Cannot provide details on how your information will be used.

What to do:
- Ask for contact information for the charity and research them or search for the charity in the resources below.
- Call the charity directly to verify if the solicitation was legitimate.

Resources:
Community Foundation of Western Nevada
Phone: 775-333-5499

Better Business Bureau
Wise Giving Alliance
http://www.give.org/

Guidestar
https://www.guidestar.org/

Charity Navigator
https://www.charitynavigator.org/

IRS
Tax Exempt Organization Search
https://apps.irs.gov/app/eos/

Report the scam with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) by calling their Consumer Response Center at 1-877-382-4357 or visiting https://ftc.gov/complaint. Filing a report can help others from getting scammed and can assist law enforcement with stopping scammers.

The Community Foundation of Western Nevada, a 501 (c) 3 organization, is established to strengthen communities in our region through leadership and philanthropy. Your contribution may be tax-deductible under federal law. The information provided on this flyer does not, and is not intended to, constitute legal advice; instead, all information, content, and materials available on this flyer are for general informational purposes only.