

Know Your Charity

Solicitors seeking donations for charitable organizations are out in full force during the holiday season, and North Carolinians are

urged to be cautious to ensure that
money they donate is used for its
intended purpose.

Ed Edgerton, head of the N.C.
Department of Human Resources'
Solicitation Liceusing Branch,
estimates that approximately one estimates that approximately one percent of all charitable donations in the United States are lost through fraud, and another 10 perthrough fraud, and another 10 per-cent through misrepresentation. In 1981, this country's citizens, businesses, and foundations con-tributed approximately \$53 billion to charity, including over \$1 billion in North Carolina alone.

"Despite the high rise in infla-tion, individuals contributed about

tion, individuals contributed about 84 percent of the total donations last year, while corporations, last year, while corporations, foundations, and bequests contributed the other 16 percent," Edgerton said. "With citizens picking up the lion's share of the giving, it's all the more important that they be familiar with the charty that's giving their money. that they're giving their money to. Nobody wants to be taken by a fast-talking con man."

Edgerton recommended the following tips for people to follow when donating money to see selled.

when donating money to so-called charitable groups.

- Know your charity. Request

written information.

- Demand identification from both the solicitor and the charity.

- Don't be fooled by a convincing name or one that closely resembles the name of a respected,

legitimate concern. Find out where your money goes. If at least 50 percent of your dollar is going for fundraising and administrative costs, reconsider and give your money to another charity where more of your dollar is going for programs.



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