

Tips for Donors Following a Mass Violence Incident

- Give carefully – make sure the organization is reputable and clear on how funds are distributed, what fees are deducted, how long it will be before funds are shared with victims and what portion of funds is given directly to victims or for victim services.
- Donate directly to the city’s One Fund to bypass administration fees. Listen for public announcements with information on where to donate or volunteer.
- Consider donating to the National Compassion Fund, which was set up to give all donations to victims directly. They do not fund memorials or victim services and have separate funding for operational costs.
- Volunteer your time through the city’s designated agency. Do not just “show up”.
- Give money instead of gifts. Money allows the charity to purchase what people need. Donated items may cause additional problems and end up in a warehouse or landfill.
- Give without strings attached if possible. If you trust the charity, you should trust how they decide to respond to emergencies.
- Look out for scammers who play on emotions via Twitter, Facebook or other “click-bait” schemes. Don’t click on links in unsolicited emails, texts or from unfamiliar websites. Never pay by gift card or wire transfer. Search the charity name plus “review”, “scam” or “complaint” in a search engine prior to donating. Some scams use names very similar to legitimate charities. Check before you send money.
- Be wary of phone solicitations. Hang up. Instead donate to your local community funds.
- Verify Go Fund Me or other crowdfunding sources – is it someone you know or a friend of a friend? If not, check if they are registered as a reputable 501(c)(3) public organization.
- Be aware that not all donations are tax deductible. Donations directly to families are not. Donations to registered charities usually are.
- Donations of blood are needed for weeks and months after
- Research before giving:
 - The Better Business Bureau - <https://www.give.org/>
 - The Charity Navigator - <https://www.charitynavigator.org/index.cfm?bay=search.advanced>
 - The National Association of State Charity Officials (NASCO) - <https://www.nasconet.org/>
 - The Federal Trade Commission - <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/donating-through-online-giving-portal>