

## How to vet charities before giving

Donating to a favorite charity or charities is a great way to make a difference in the lives of people that need a helping hand.

Choosing a charity to support can be a difficult decision, as many organizations are in need and worthy of your charitable dollars. Learning how to vet charities can help prospective donors make the best decisions in regard to which charities to support.

• Do your research. The holiday season tends to be the most popular time to give, but charities accept donations year-round. That said, the holiday season may serve as a great reminder to give. If you plan to give this holiday season or during any time of year, resolve to research charities rather than make knee-jerk donations when the impulse to donate strikes. The Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance has reviewed more than 1,000 charities, assessing each on a host of factors that include organizational oversight and program effectiveness. Such reviews are free to access and can help donors rest easy knowing they made informed donation decisions.

• Volunteer with an orga-

nization. Another way to vet a charity is to volunteer with it. This hands-on approach can give a first-hand glimpse in to just how effective a charity's programs are and how the organization directs donations. In addition, volunteering has been linked with improved happiness and provides a great way to meet people.

• Look into the organization's financials. A charity's financial filings are public record. In the United States, donors can look on Form 990 in the organization's filing with the Internal Revenue Service (equivalent forms are accessible in Canada as well). This form indicates if a charity finished the year with positive or negative assets. If it's the latter, the charity might be suffering from misman-



Some charities will sit down with prospective donors to discuss the specifics of how their donations will be spent.

agement or legal troubles that are preventing it from meeting its mission statement. That's not the case in every instance, but it should at least present a red flag to would-be donors.

• Speak with representatives of the charity. Many charities will happily speak with prospective donors. Such organizations will be specific regarding how donation dollars are spent, including where your donation will be directed should you decide to go forward. Many will even allow donors to dictate how their donations

will be spent, as many donors want to know their money is going toward programs and not organizational operating costs.

Vetting a charity is a wise move for donors who want to make sure their money is truly benefiting those in need.

**GIVE THE BEST OF THE WEST**

We offer a full line of professional shoe repair, resoling and restoration services.

**THE BOOT DOCTOR**

**1306 Kansas, Great Bend 620-792-3008**

**OLATHE BOOT CO.**  
Tony Lama BOOTS Justin BOOTS

Memories for a Lifetime

**Riggs**  
artistry in PHOTOGRAPHY

Families : Seniors :  
Restoration: Framing  
Video/ Movie Transfer

1217 Main - Great Bend  
620-793-7889

**THE GROMMET**  
Discover What's Next

**Your Secret Gift Shop**  
Get that gift list ready!  
The Grommet searches all year for the most innovative and unique products from small businesses—you're sure to find something unexpected.

**\$19.99**  
Pudus™ Plush Slipper Socks  
Plush faux shearing inside feels super soft on your feet. Stride around the house and the silicone grips give you a little extra traction on wood and tile.  
9761453

**\$ 299.99 ACE EXCLUSIVE+  
Uuni Wood Pellet Oven**  
Make delicious wood-fired dishes in your backyard. This outdoor pizza oven heats up to 900+ degrees in a flash (literally, less than 10 minutes). Foodies love this powerhouse.  
8960189

**\$ 69.99 ACE EXCLUSIVE+  
DiamondKingSmoker Grill Box**  
This BBQ smoker box makes smoking meats and fish easy, because it works inside any type of grill.  
8014614

**\$ 12.99  
Bear Paw Lift & Carve Shredding Forks**  
Six super sharp prongs easily shred meat, like pulled pork. They offer great grip to lift large roasts or turkeys, and hold them stable when carving. Made in the USA.  
9472929

**DEFY EXPECTATIONS CLOTHING COMPANY**

**BLACK FRIDAY** OPEN: 10a-4p  
**ABSOLUTELY EVERYTHING IS ON SALE!**

**FLASH SALES:**

**10AM-12PM - 40% OFF ALL METAL MULISHA MERCH**  
**12PM-2PM - 35% OFF ALL HOODIES & ZIP-UPS**  
**2PM-4PM - 30% OFF ALL MERCH THAT IS BLACK**

EXTRA 20% OF THE SALE RACK  
SWIMWEAR & SHORTS - BUY 1 GET 1 FREE (MIX & MATCH)  
STRIDER BIKE SPECIAL PRICING  
FREE CHARMIES OR STICKER PACK WITH ANY \$100+ PURCHASE  
BUY REG PRICED SHIRT, PICK A PIECE OF JEWELRY 50% OFF  
ALL ITEMS NOT OF FLASH SALE ARE 10% OFF ALL DAY

**www.DEFYclothingcompany.com**  
Use Code **BLACKFRIDAY2018** save 25% off your online order

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK, TWITTER, PINTEREST & INSTAGRAM  
**268 S HWY 281, GREAT BEND, KS 67530**

**\$ 14.99  
6-in-1 Flint Multi-Tool Carabiner**  
Features a low-profile fire starter, bottle opener, utility blade, screwdriver, and more.  
9637554

**\$39.99  
Quickloader Retractable Ratchet Tie Downs**  
This ratchet self-adjusts to keep tension so webbing won't loosen and get tangled (or jammed), and it retracts for neater storage between jobs.  
8015339

**\$ 29.99 ACE EXCLUSIVE+  
Triple Lite® Original 180° Flashlight**  
A curved design and three ultra-bright LED bulbs create a 180° arc of light, providing improved visibility in all directions—not just straight ahead.  
3850088

**\$ 14.99 each  
Peeps™ Carbon Eyeglass Cleaner**  
This carbon eyeglass cleaner leaves the inside and outside of your lenses smudge- and oil-free every time.  
9414715, 9414723, 9414764

**\$ 12.99 each ACE EXCLUSIVE+  
Paincakes® Reusable Adhesive Cold Pack**  
A reusable, stick-on cold pack with medical-grade, non-toxic nanogel that sticks to your skin without irritating it or pulling out hair. 9793167

**ACE**  
The helpful place.

**DOERR'S**  
**ACE HARDWARE**  
602 BROADWAY, LARNED  
620-285-2171  
or 800-696-0258

**NAPA AUTO PARTS**

**GREAT GIFT IDEAS!**  
**Biggest Holiday Sale Ever!**

**SAE/Metric Ratcheting Combo Wrench Sets**

**32 piece wrench set \$89.99**

**20 piece wrench set \$54.99**

**Rich's Automotive Supply, Inc.**  
2510 10th Street, Great Bend - 620-792-4421

**Jump Starter Portable Power Supply, 2000 Amp, 12 Volts**

**\*USB Port  
\*On/Off Switch  
\*Digital Display  
\*12V DC Power Outlet  
\*2 Amp Ext. Charger  
\*Reverse Connection Warning**

**\$119.99**

**Booster PAC ES2500 Jump Starter/Portable Power Supply**

**\*12 Volt  
\*1,100 Peak Amps  
\*300 Cranking Amps  
\*19" #4 AWG Cable Reach  
\*ES Series AGM Battery  
\*Reverse Hook-up Connection**

**\$119.99**