



GIVE WISELY



To qualify for a tax deduction, donors also must make their yearly giving decisions by Dec. 31. As a result, a large number of charitable donations occur between #GivingTuesday, the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, and the end of the year.

If you are deciding whether to donate to a charity this season, BBB encourages you to take your time and do your research to be sure your donations are doing the most good for the good causes closest to your heart. We hope you'll use BBB's Wise Holiday Giving Guide to find charities you can trust.

Happiest holidays from BBB Serving Northern Indiana



Accredited Charity Spotlights



Hoosiers Feeding the Hungry
www.hoosiersfeedingthehungry.org
(260) 233-2444

At Hoosiers Feeding the Hungry, we have a mission of making a positive impact on the quality of life for Hoosiers by providing nutritious meat to hunger relief agencies within Indiana and a vision of ensuring that all in need have access to good quality, nutritious protein - creating a stronger, healthier Indiana. According to Feeding America, approximately 883,260 Indiana residents struggle with food insecurity - 274,080 of which are children. We encourage hunters and farmers to donate deer and livestock through a participating meat processor, raise funds to pay processing fees, and give this nutritious meat to hunger relief agencies.



The Literacy Alliance
www.literacyalliance.org
(260) 426-7323

Your gift helps The Literacy Alliance reach 30,000+ adults in our community without their high school diploma and the 34,000+ adults who need help learning English and improving their basic reading, writing, numeracy, and digital skills. Additionally, your gift helps children in grades K-3 who need help reaching grade-level reading goals. The Literacy Alliance works, every day, to empower students to succeed at home, at work, at school, and in the community, leading to a decrease in poverty, adverse health outcomes, and crime. Please visit TLA's website to learn about our programs, volunteer, refer a student, or donate.



Audiences Unlimited
www.audiencesunlimited.org
(260) 424-1064

For 49 years, Audiences Unlimited, Inc. (AUI) has provided arts and cultural opportunities for individuals with limited access throughout Northeast Indiana. AUI believes in bringing the joy of performative arts to all. We offer live music performances to people in long-term care facilities and additional dance and theatre opportunities to individuals with cognitive and developmental disabilities. Through the kindness of community support, we are able to provide live performances, recordings of local artists, and tickets to local events. We hope you consider making us a part of your holiday giving. Join us in making the season merrier and brighter for everyone.



Matthew 25 Health and Care
www.matthew25online.org | (260) 426-3250

Give the gift of health and hope this holiday season! Matthew 25 Health and Care provides healthcare to those who would likely go without. We are the only full-time health center in the area providing care at no cost to patients. Low-income adults without insurance can access medical, dental, vision, and mental health care all under one roof. As an organization that receives no government funding, we rely on personal contributions like yours. Your donation not only helps one person become healthier, it creates a ripple effect, improving the health of our entire community. Will you join us?



Don't Get Scammed: Tips to Protect Your Donations

Watch out for name similarities.

When charities seek support for the same cause, their names are often similar. Before you give, be sure you have the exact name of the charity to avoid a case of mistaken identity.



Review the website carefully.

A responsible charity will include the following facts on its website: its mission and programs, measurable goals, and concrete criteria that describe its achievements. You should also be able to find information on their finances. Keep in mind, the type of work a charity does will affect its costs.



Avoid on-the-spot donation decisions from unfamiliar organizations.

The holidays bring a higher frequency of donation requests outside public locations. Don't succumb to pressure to make an immediate giving decision. Responsible organizations will welcome your gift tomorrow as much as they do today.



Be wary of emotional appeals.

Marketers have been known to exploit the holidays to make emotional pleas to donors. Instead of making an impulse decision based on emotion, do some research first to verify that your selected charity operates ethically.



Check with state charity officials.

In many states, charities are required to register with the office of the attorney general before soliciting. Checking your state's appropriate office is an easy way to detect if an organization is legitimate or not.



Avoid charities that don't disclose.

Although participation is voluntary, charities that don't disclose any of the requested information to BBB Wise Giving Alliance raise a critical red flag for donors. Visit Give.org to find out if your selected charity is nondisclosure.



Rely on standards-based evaluations.

Charities can demonstrate they are trustworthy by agreeing to in-depth evaluations such as the 20 BBB Standards for Charity Accountability. Get free access to charity reports at Give.org.



Research tax status.

Don't assume every organization claiming to do good is a tax-exempt charity. You can check an organization's tax status with the IRS Tax Exempt Organization Search tool. Also, make sure your contribution is tax deductible.



Other ways to give:

- * Send a care package to a troop member.
- * Donate a useful, non-cash item to a charity of your choice.
- * Give canned and boxed goods to a local food bank.
- * Volunteer your time for a service project with a charity near you.
- * Spread the word about your favorite charities on social media.



More Accredited Charities to Support



www.oki.wish.org/NEIN
(260) 215-9292



www.ErinsHouse.org
(260) 423-2466



www.crossroad-fwch.org
(260) 484-4153



www.joshuashand.org
(260) 745-5676



www.turnstone.org
(260) 483-2100



www.kateskart.org
(260) 999-6173