



Donating to various organizations in time of disasters

With the tragedy in Haiti and knowing the hearts of our members, I thought it appropriate to send some information on what a PTA can do to help Haiti (or any other disaster situation).

The best recommendation for Councils and PTA's that want to help in times like this is to provide information for their members to make donations directly to charitable organizations. Organizations like; Red Cross, UNICEF, Doctors without Borders (this is just a small sampling).

Local Units and Councils should NOT ask for donations made out to the PTA/Council, and then write a check for the total. It is against the IRS regulations to do that.

- If checks were to come in made out to the (lets use Red Cross for this example) - Red Cross, and your PTA just delivered the checks that's a different matter. When you accept checks made out to ABC PTA, deposit into ABC PTA account and then write a check - (basically and in/out account) it's seen as money laundering.

Unless a PTA has a line item in their budget for "fundraiser for Haiti", it's not an approved expenditure. The line item would have to be approved by the general membership, advertised, money collected and all aspects of the 'event' ran by PTA in order for it to be a PTA event.

Discussion should also be around if fundraising for disaster relief in other countries, fits within the vision/mission/goals the PTA unit - set forth by the membership.

If you have any questions, please contact your Region Director, or service delivery team.

For more information from PTA National: <http://www.pta.org/3786.htm>