

Knights of Columbus Council 12510
Charitable Giving Guidelines
April 30, 2013

1. Donations should reflect the commandment to love our neighbor.
2. There must be a clear and defined need.
3. Highest consideration should be given to:
 - Basic human needs such as food, shelter and clothing;
 - The needs of the disabled;
 - Programs that support pro-life stances;
 - Religious and lay vocations;
 - The elderly;
 - The ill;
 - Widows and orphans, and
 - The development of Christian values in youth.
4. Our first priority is to our Church through our Pastor and our parishioners.
5. Our second priority is to our community and extended community (e.g., St. Anthony Padua Parish in Croix Fer, Haiti, and St. Rita Parish in Indianapolis).
6. Outside organizations need not be Catholic organizations, but their beliefs must be consistent with Catholic beliefs.
7. Political organizations must be avoided.
8. Finances of organizations outside the Parish need to be transparent.
9. The needs of organizations supported by the Council in the past should be given consideration.
10. Organizations considered for donations over \$500 should be reviewed by the Finance Council.
11. An outside organization considered for a contribution should be reviewed (vetted).
The review should include:
 - Definition of the need and what the money is used for.
 - Whenever possible a review of an organization's mission statement, charter, financials, moral positions, political positions, and its leadership to determine if it meets our objectives.
 - Identification of members of the Council or Parish who are associated with the organization.
12. The Council should follow up to determine if the funds were spent as expected.

Organizations the committee believed should be considered:

Special Olympics
Habitat for Humanity
Parish Devotional Space
Sister Parishes
St. Vincent DePaul

Little Sisters of the Poor
Caring Center
Catholic Charities
Vocations
Gibault Center

In the absence of other factors, the distribution of Charity Donations should generally follow the common tithing formula of:

- 50% to the Parish; the youth of the parish; parish organizations and initiatives; sister parishes of St. Anthony Padua and St. Rita, and lastly to included approved community initiatives.
- 10% to Diocesan efforts, mainly to seminarians.
- 40% to outside charitable organizations that the Council has vetted.

BACKGROUND

The Ad Hoc Charity Committee is a subcommittee of the Finance Committee. Knights who have participated in the committee are Al Harris, Len Pata, Dan McCarthy, Rafael Seneriz, Patrick Pape, Tony Kaufmann, Ted Shay, Bob Crook, Tim Shaw, Ed DeWitt, Tom Weintraut.

Excerpt from “Plan and Budget Overview” by GK Ed DeWitt 9-17-2011

I have also asked Tom Weintraut to Chair the Charity Committee which has become dormant. My request is that he reviews all of our charity activities to insure they are in line with our charter and the best use of our efforts. We have become a significant donor and with that come a responsibility to know we are helping the right things and not naively supporting causes that go against our beliefs. Please give Tom your input and desires. This is an opportunity for everyone to participate.

To paraphrase our Holy Father Charity without truth (God) would be more or less interchangeable with a pool of good sentiments, helpful for social cohesion, but of little relevance.