



A Donor Bill of Rights

Philanthropy is based on voluntary action for the common good. It is a tradition of giving and sharing that is primary to the quality of life. To assure that philanthropy merits the respect and trust of the general public, and that donors and prospective donors can have full confidence in the nonprofit (social profit) organizations they are asked to support, we declare that **all donors have these rights**:

1. To be informed of the organization's mission, of the way the organization intends to use donated resources and of its capacity to use donations effectively for their intended purposes.
2. To be informed of the identity of those serving on the organization's governing board, and to expect the board to exercise prudent judgment in its stewardship responsibilities. *(Note: Visit www.lcms.org/bod to see our current Board of Directors and access the Board's policy manual.)*
3. To have access to the organization's most recent financial statements. *(Visit www.lcms.org/bod to access our most recent audited financial statements and budget documents.)*
4. To be assured their gifts will be used for the purpose for which they were given. *(The LCMS complies with Financial Accounting Standards Board, or FASB, Statements No. 116 and No. 117 with respect to all charitable donations.)*
5. To receive appropriate acknowledgment and recognition.
6. To be assured that information about their donations is handled with respect and with confidentiality to the extent provided by law.
7. To expect that all relationships with individuals representing organizations of interest to the donor will be professional in nature.
8. To be informed whether those seeking donations are volunteers, employees of the organization or hired solicitors. *(The LCMS **does not** utilize hired solicitors. Those who solicit donations are either full or part-time professional employees, or volunteers.)*
9. To have the opportunity to have their names to be deleted from mailing lists that an organization may intend to share. *(The LCMS **does not** sell, trade or share its lists.)*
10. To feel free to ask questions when making a donation and to receive prompt, truthful and forthright answers. *(The LCMS offers constituents a Toll-free Donor Care Line and e-mail address: 888-930-4438 and mission.advancement@lcms.org)*