

DOWNLOAD PDF FUND RAISING BY AND IN BEHALF OF VETERANS AND VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS

Chapter 1 : Top Veterans Nonprofits and Charities | GreatNonprofits

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T-Shirt Fundraising Spread the word for your military-related cause by creating custom t-shirts for your supporters. Search for one that lets you create professional-quality products no matter your design skills. You can even create multiple products and styles so that everyone in your community receives a shirt they love. Consider using red, white, and blue as a starting point for your color scheme and go from there. The options are limitless when your fundraising team starts brainstorming! All you need to do to promote this fundraising idea is ensure your friends and family are aware about their matching gift options!

Shoe Drive Raise money for the veterans in your community by partnering with a company like Fund2Orgs to host a shoe drive fundraiser! A shoe drive fundraiser is simple: Encourage your friends and family to clean out their closets as a way to raise funds for your worthy cause.

Flag Subscription Service A flag subscription fundraiser is a longer-term military and veterans fundraiser, but it can also help your community show some patriotism. All you have to do is sign people up for the service, charge a small monthly or yearly fee, and hang holiday-appropriate flags on their front porches.

Coffee Fundraising Everyone loves a hot cup of joe, and many people would be willing to pay for coffee or coffee beans if it meant helping the military. For this military fundraising idea, partner up with a local coffee shop or a wholesale coffee bean distributor and sell cups of coffee or bagged coffee beans or grounds to your local community. You can enlist the help of local artists and bands to determine the line-up. Alternatively, you could make your concert have more of a karaoke vibe. Sell tickets at the door and offer concessions for a small price.

Create a Military-Themed Cookbook If you have a star-spangled recipe or know someone that cooks with patriotic flair, consider compiling a military-themed cookbook to raise money for a military or veteran-related cause. Ask for submissions well in advance and categorize them according to food type. You can even include pictures if you want! Then, advertise your cookbooks online and with physical promotions. Military and civilian families will be lining up to purchase your patriotic recipe books.

Hold a Backyard Barbecue Everyone loves a good old-fashioned barbecue. You can use your summer barbecue as a way to raise money for military or veteran-related causes. All you have to do is advertise! You can either charge a fee for your barbecue or simply set up a donation table with a jar for change.

Sell Patriotic Merchandise T-shirts, hoodies, sunglasses, and more! These are all items that you can customize, personalize, and sell as a way to bring in a few extra bucks for your military or veteran-related cause. Whether you know someone in the Marine Corps, the Air Force, or another branch, you can use personalized merchandise to boost your fundraising efforts. You can use a wholesaler or work with a local manufacturer.

Sell First Aid Kits Safety is important, and you can help your community be more prepared by selling first aid kits. This is an item that families and other supporters will find useful. Plus, knowing that the money is going to a good cause will motivate them to purchase a kit even more. You can sell your kits online or through traditional door to door sales.

Try a Quilt Fundraiser Quilts have character and usually tell a story. Have a Potluck Fundraiser A potluck is an excellent way to enjoy food and conversation with your friends, family, and community members. People can bring delicious dishes and donations to help you reach your goal. You can charge people a small fee to come and enjoy the food, or ask those who bring their dishes to make a donation to your cause. Either way, you can raise a lot of money with this fundraiser!

Give Hug-a-Grams A hug-a-gram is similar to a candy or appreciation gram, but instead of sending a note you send hugs. Your hug-a-grams can come with a personalized message from the person who purchased the gram. You can do this for a day or multiples days to really raise money for military- and veteran-related causes.

Wine and Cheese Tasting Event A great way to get together with friends and family and raise money for military and veterans is to have a wine and cheese tasting party. You can charge an entrance fee or add a unique twist to this event by asking everyone to bring a cheap bottle of wine. Everyone can sample each wine

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and vote on their favorite using their dollars. Peer-to-Peer Fundraising Peer-to-peer fundraising is a great fundraising idea for military causes of all kinds. Each supporter builds his or her own donation page from a template that is tied back to your main fundraising page. Then, your supporters reach out to their friends and family members and ask for donations for your cause or project! You also have the opportunity to form some solid business connections! Ask for charity auction items from local businesses; try to get as many items donated for close to nothing. That way, you can put your budget into creating a great atmosphere for your attendees. Hire an auctioneer, send out invites, and cater in food and drinks. Make sure that everyone is aware of the rules of your charity auction beforehand. People will walk away with some unique items and experiences, and you can raise more money! Writing Letters Writing letters is a great way to raise money for your cause, project, or event. You can send out letters asking for general donations, sponsorships, charity auction items, volunteer time, and more! Your letters should be genuine and personal. You can use letters to direct people to your online giving pages or crowdfunding campaign, but you should also include a self-addressed envelope within your letter to encourage people to send in checks make sure you tell donors not to send cash! Plus, if you find the right auction items , you have the potential to raise a lot of money! Ask local businesses and individuals if they would like to donate items to your silent auction. Common items include gift cards to restaurants, signed memorabilia, lessons from a professional of some kind, gift baskets, and more! You can enlist the help of a mobile bidding tool to create a tech-enhanced bidding experience for your attendees. Mobile bidding software also makes checking in, checking out, and item monitoring easier on your auction volunteers and staff. Walkathons Walkathons are perfect for active supporters who like to show their passion for a military cause. Walkathons are well-suited for healthcare-related issues and causes, but they can technically be used for any type of fundraising effort! Choose a season that is a good temperature with minimal risk of rain. Make sure you have a backup location just in case! Then, send out invitations and design some merchandise like t-shirts and water bottles. Make sure you have medical and first-aid supplies nearby in the case of an accident.

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Chapter 2 : Fundraising for Veterans

A flag subscription fundraiser is a longer-term military and veterans fundraiser, but it can also help your community show some patriotism. All you have to do is sign people up for the service, charge a small monthly or yearly fee, and hang holiday-appropriate flags on their front porches.

Continue to article content The warning was prophetic. Maurice Levite sat in a modest office in Falls Church, Virginia, about a decade ago, and cautioned his longtime friend, Brian Arthur Hampton, against continuing to use telemarketers to fund his small veterans charity. But there was a catch – a costly one. The fundraisers were keeping most of the contributions donors were giving to the charity. Veterans themselves received scraps. Levite says he protested, but Hampton ignored him. He hired another telemarketer, Outreach Calling, to assist a related veterans nonprofit he runs out of the same office. Hampton has already cashed in: Hampton said he hires telemarketers because it is too expensive and time-consuming to try to raise money on his own. I am always working. Telemarketer Outreach Calling has contracted with at least a dozen other charities – two of which have been shut down by New York regulators – and keeps an average of 90 percent of the money it raises for them, according to state government records. And other veterans groups, such as the Wounded Warrior Project, have recently endured scandals surrounding their spending. He enlisted in the U. He retired with the rank of major. Hampton said he and his business partners initially tried to raise funds themselves, but it was grueling, inefficient work. When they turned to telemarketers, they found they had more time to dedicate to charitable work, he said. The charitable work initially involved running a transitional shelter for homeless veterans in northeast Washington, D. But running a shelter took up all their time. Hampton decided he could help more veterans by putting to use his communications background, which involved working as a political campaign consultant and operating fundraising and communications businesses. He abandoned the shelter concept and launched a nationwide educational program instead, aimed at raising awareness of the needs of veterans. The Circle of Friends for American Veterans began to stage rallies around the country. Hampton said he has hosted more than members of Congress across veterans shelter-themed forums in 46 cities. But Hampton stopped hosting rallies earlier this decade. They were too expensive and took too much time to plan, he said. Now, Hampton said the nonprofit focuses on communicating the needs of veterans to politicians, donors and the public. Hampton and his employees have persuaded current and former members of Congress – including several on the House and Senate veterans affairs committees – to get behind a four-paragraph Veterans Bill of Rights that calls for reforms at the U. Department of Veterans Affairs. According to the tax statement filed by the Center for American Homeless Veterans, Hampton and his employees wrote news releases on behalf of candidates, who in turn sent them to media outlets. He reminded Hampton that the National Society of Fund Raising Executives, the organization that first brought the two friends together in the s, cautioned against the use of telemarketers that kept a high percentage of the money they raised, Levite said during a phone interview from his home in Alabama. Hampton told the Center for Public Integrity that he planned to let telemarketers keep no more than 20 percent of the proceeds they raised when he first turned to outside fundraisers. Telemarketing, Hampton said, proved to be more expensive than he thought: PAC, the political action committee Hampton runs out of the same Falls Church office as his nonprofits. That Outreach Calling keeps 90 percent of the donations it raises on behalf of the Center for American Homeless Veterans was shocking for Dave Silver, president and founder of Operation Yellow Ribbon of South Jersey , a small nonprofit that sends care packages to active-duty American service members in the Middle East. He said he spends 20 to 30 hours a week running the nonprofit in addition to his full-time banking job. The telemarketers shoulder the liabilities and create awareness among potential donors while the charities, freed from the burden of dialing for dollars, focus on their mission. The Better Business Bureau of St. According to the alert, a woman in Quincy, Illinois, told the Better Business Bureau a telemarketer led her to believe her contribution to the nonprofit would provide direct assistance to

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homeless veterans. Charity Navigator, another watchdog that evaluates nonprofits, gives the highest ratings to charities that spend at least 75 percent on programs and no more than 25 percent on fundraising and administrative overhead. But a pair of U. Tim Walz of Minnesota, the highest-ranking enlisted service member ever to serve in Congress and the ranking Democrat on the House Veterans Affairs Committee. At the very least, it should be easier for donors to research how charities are using their money, he said. None responded to requests for comment. Hampton said these deferments are reported as liabilities. Accountability Nonprofit organizations of all sorts are invariably led by boards of directors that, among their duties, provide financial oversight. John Thomas Burch Jr. The telemarketing firm that earned the most? In June, Burch pleaded guilty to one count of wire fraud in the U. District Court for the District of Columbia. He was sentenced in October to five months in prison followed by 24 months of supervision, including five months of home detention. At the sentencing hearing, Burch declined to comment to the Center for Public Integrity. PAC out of the same Falls Church office. But starting in , Put Vets First! None of the money went to candidate committees. So far, Put Vets First! Residential Programs did not respond to a message left in person or to several phone calls. The treasurer for the super PAC, which may raise and spend unlimited amounts of money to advocate for and against politicians, is Brent Evans, who could not be reached for comment. A former treasurer, Thomas Datwyler , declined to comment. The rest has gone to fundraising consulting and bank fees, according to federal disclosure reports. Colton Strawser, a spokesman for the Coalition for American Veterans, said the super PAC is spending a large portion of its money on fundraising because it recently reopened after a period of inactivity and is trying to grow. Strawser would not divulge the identities of the founders of the super PAC. He said they did not wish to speak to a reporter. I eat, breathe and sleep veterans issues. Kappel, government affairs and public policy partner with the law firm Akerman LLP. The FEC cannot change its regulations to address this gap unless the law is changed, Kappel said. FEC officials have asked Congress to expand its fraud jurisdiction for at least a decade, to no avail. Sarbanes, a vocal opponent of super PACs, condemned their use as fundraising mechanisms. This article tagged under:

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Chapter 3 : FTC Announces Operation False Charity Law Enforcement Sweep | Federal Trade Commission

1 FUNDRAISING APPEALS FOR VETERANS CHARITIES Californians are generous contributors to charity and are more likely to make a donation to veterans, firefighter, and law enforcement organizations than to any.

These include two FTC actions against alleged sham non-profits and the telemarketers who made deceptive claims about these so-called charities. The FTC and state agencies also released new education materials, in both English and Spanish, to help consumers recognize and avoid charitable solicitation fraud. The bad news is that some unscrupulous operators have seized on this goodwill to make a quick buck. By doing research and asking questions of a charity or its professional fundraisers, consumers can help ensure their donations have the impact they expect. According to the FTC, the defendants used legitimate-sounding names and described sympathetic causes to give their sham organizations a veneer of credibility. Their real goal, however, was to dupe consumers into contributing money that the defendants used overwhelmingly just to support themselves and their fundraisers. COPS , and Disabled Firefighters Fund DFF , all based at the same address in Santa Ana, California, were created almost entirely to provide profits for the individual defendants and the for-profit fundraisers they hired. Another defendant, Kathy Clinkenbeard, managed the telemarketers with which the entities contracted. The complaint also alleges that COPS misrepresents its affiliation with police officers and sheriffs, and charges the defendants with assisting others to commit deceptive acts and practices. It also prohibits the defendants from violating the Telemarketing Sales Rule, requires that they make certain disclosures when fundraising, and it requires that they monitor any fundraisers that solicit on their behalf. In the second case, the FTC alleged that defendant David Scott Marleau ran several for-profit fundraisers that solicited money on behalf of sham police, fire, and veterans non-profit charitable organizations. The Commission also alleged that their operations often targeted seniors, sometimes debiting their accounts for donations without permission. The proposed order settling the charges requires the defendants to stop misrepresenting facts, make certain disclosures when soliciting money from consumers, and stop violating the Telemarketing Sales Rule. The order also requires that the defendants substantiate any claims they make about a nonprofit or its programs prior to soliciting consumers, and requires that they train and monitor their telemarketers. Consumer Education The FTC today issued a new consumer alert providing tips about charities that solicit donations on behalf of veterans and military families. Others are paid fundraisers whose fees can use up most of your donation. Many of these tips apply to charitable giving to other types of organizations, as well. Check out an organization before donating. Some phony charities use names, seals, and logos that look or sound like those of respected, legitimate organizations. Donate to charities with a track record and a history. Charities that spring up overnight may disappear just as quickly. Call the office in your state that regulates charitable organizations to see whether the charity or fundraising organization has to be registered. Do not send or give cash donations. Ask for a receipt showing the amount of your contribution. Be wary of promises of guaranteed sweepstakes winnings in exchange for a contribution. You never have to give a donation to be eligible to win a sweepstakes. Some sites where consumers can check out a charity include:

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Chapter 4 : National Association of State Charity Officials – Welcome

The way things are going, the U.S. Defense Department may have to launch a military-like campaign to put down the many organizations claiming to collect money on behalf of veterans but mostly keeping what they raise for their personal benefit.

Despite Widespread Outrage, Groups Continue To Abuse Public Trust For hundreds of thousands of veterans returning home from the battlefronts in Iraq and Afghanistan, making it home alive is just the first challenge. An estimated 25 percent of returning U. More veterans are committing suicide than are dying in combat overseas -- 1, former soldiers receiving care from the Department of Veterans Affairs attempt suicide every month. And the unemployment rate for 18 to year-old veterans is 21 percent, much higher than the Though the VA has come a long way from the s, when many Vietnam veterans failed to reintegrate into society and became homeless and addicted to drugs, the department still has problems. The VA bureaucracy is notoriously difficult to navigate, and veterans are left to figure out on their own what benefits they are eligible for. As a result, many fall through the cracks -- more than , veterans do not take advantage of VA benefits for which they are eligible. To fill in the gap, veterans charities are a crucial resource -- providing financial assistance and job training, funding medical research and rehabilitative services, and helping veterans obtain government benefits. But as a group, veterans charities are prone to abuse, profiteering and outright fraud, say philanthropy watchdogs. Some of these groups defend their spending by arguing that reliance on such ratios is misleading, claiming that new nonprofits may have to spend over 50 percent of their revenue on outreach, education and fundraising for a while. But charities that spend up to 90 percent of their donations on overhead have been widely condemned and were the subject of congressional hearings in Despite bipartisan outrage at such practices, there was no real follow-up, either through enforcement efforts or new rules and regulations. And several of the charities publicly shamed at those hearings continue to receive poor grades. Through the group, he was given a car to help him start his cleaning business and provided with transitional housing and food. The North Carolina native says he sold his business and cashed in his savings and retirement to pay for the cost of moving in with Eric and his family to provide round-the-clock care. But when his office recently surveyed the rising number of charities in Oregon and which ones spend the most on overhead as opposed to charity, "a number of veterans groups came up extraordinarily high on the list. One was outright fraud -- a guy setting up a table at a shopping mall -- and another problem was people who were raising money and not being honest about where the money was going. This is a huge problem. Among his cases is a lawsuit against Veterans of Oregon, charging that the charity claimed that donations were helping homeless and hospitalized veterans when in fact it was largely used to award medals to veterans. In addition, the group failed to disclose to donors that its fundraising partner kept 80 percent of the money it raised. The head of the charity, William "John" Neuman, is fighting the case, adamantly denying to the Chronicle of Philanthropy that he misled donors. Kroger also sued the Oregon War Veterans Association and Military Family Support Foundation, claiming that founder Greg Warnock kept most of the money he raised and used donations to make contributions to powerful politicians in the state. The group has called the suit "baseless" and called for an investigation of Kroger. After initially declining to comment, Warnock wrote HuffPost a lengthy statement. Warnock also says the campaign contributions were permitted political activity. In , the New York Evening Post exposed a plot hatched in the wake of the armistice that ended World War One by the "battalions of bunk" to raise several million dollars "purporting to aid former soldiers but actually hiding the proceeds away in secret bank accounts. That same year, Rep. Olin Teague "found so much abuse in fund raising [sic] for veterans" that he urged the House Government Operations Committee to open a wide-ranging probe into the entire field of tax-exempt charitable fundraising, reported the Gadsden Times. In , the Senate Finance Committee called for a panel to examine nonprofit governance, transparency and ethical standards. Though it concluded that government oversight and regulation was necessary to deter abuse, misrepresentation and fraud, it also

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maintained that charities are granted wide latitude in their activities due to First Amendment protections and did not recommend any new legislation. In December and January , the House Oversight Committee held hearings to spotlight abuses in the system, highlighting several egregious examples. Then-chairman Henry Waxman D-Calif. They fall into the category of what I would call "profiteering," profiteering by those who use the name of a soldier or a cause in order to justify fundraising that ultimately leads to profit for individuals who may or may not be veterans, may or may not have any need, may simply be good at fundraising. That particular charity is now defunct, but two other prominent charities whose leaders were subpoenaed to appear before the committee still operate and continue their questionable practices. One of those charities, Help Hospitalized Veterans, has been praised for distributing millions of therapeutic arts and crafts gifts to patients at VA medical centers, state nursing homes and military hospitals. The group, which also provides a variety of services to homebound veterans and cash support to many VA special events, has been praised by presidents and Congressional leaders since its founding in 1971. In addition, the magazine reported that out of every dollar donated to HHV, only 9 cents went to the kits, 5 cents went to administrative expenses and for counselors visiting hospitals and 47 cents went to direct-mail expenses. He added, "I am concerned, the negative effect that the few self-serving non-profits will have on the ability of the legitimate non-profits to obtain funding from the general public. It would be an unfortunate turn of events if the service they provide is not available. As I have shared, the service they provide is immediate and personalized to the needs of the soldiers and their families. When he did finally appear a month later, he explained that fundraising for many charities across the country depends on direct-mail expenses and that it was unfair to pick on his charity. He continued to defend the heavy reliance and spending on direct mail practitioners, even in the age of Facebook and Twitter and online charitable tools. But something is a hell of a lot better than nothing. Its fundraising ratio has grown even higher, with only 5 percent going to charitable programs. On the first day of the hearings, former Rep. Sarbanes, the author of the post-Enron accounting rules that bear his name, stated that there may be a need for stricter regulation of charities, emphasizing that "charities that serve our veterans have an extra obligation because there is a deeper trust placed in them, a broader trust than with respect to just about any other charitable endeavor. Though some watchdog groups have pressed for more hearings to re-examine the issue, none are planned. A spokesman for Rep. Issa, who now chairs the Oversight Committee, did not return emails requesting comment. He says that veterans charities have slightly improved their performance, noting that the number which failed to meet one or more of their standards dropped from 62 to 54 percent. They also claim that he was charging veterans to stay at a shelter that offered horrible living conditions. His lawyer denies the charges, saying that the money raised went to aid veterans. And last week, an associate of one of the most brazen fundraising fraudsters in recent history pled guilty to corruption, theft and money laundering at a county court in Ohio. Bianca Contreras was the treasurer of the U. Navy Veterans Association, a group founded by a man known as Bobby Thompson, who is accused of using a false identity to raise millions of dollars. Though the money was ostensibly intended for Navy veterans and Thompson attracted praise from Congressional leaders for his purported efforts, the money went into his own pocket, say attorneys general in several states. Thompson is currently a fugitive , and officials remain tight-lipped about any progress in finding him. But Contreras is expected to cooperate with prosecutors, which may reveal some clues to his identity. The year-old Tampa woman faces up to 25 years in prison when she comes up for sentencing in August.

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Chapter 5 : non-profit status Archives - VFW Post and Auxiliary

The act defines a "veterans ' charitable organization" as a person, firm, or corporation that is or claims to be established for a benevolent, educational, philanthropic, humane, scientific, patriotic, social welfare, or advocacy purpose for or on behalf of veterans.

Resources 50 State Crowdfunding Survey: Links and contact information for state charity regulators and state agencies that provide consumer protection. Links to a variety of national associations and councils that provide information and guidance to nonprofits and donors. Links to Federal Trade Commission guidance on online giving portals. Guidebooks with information about regulatory compliance, theft avoidance, and best practices for charities and donors. Current Developments in Regulation and Enforcement: Consumers, Contributions, and Charity: Guidelines on charitable solicitations using the internet. In the process, they harm not only well-meaning donors, but also the many legitimate charities that actually do great work on behalf of veterans and servicemembers. The initiative includes an education campaign, in English and Spanish, to help consumers recognize charitable solicitation fraud and identify legitimate charities. Charities fraud of any kind is abhorrent, and veterans charities fraud is especially upsetting. This campaign will offer important resources to help donors identify charities that match their own values. Department of Veterans Affairs. I commend the FTC and its state partners for taking strong action on this important issue. To ensure that donors to HTV are not victimized again, HTV and Paulson must destroy all donor lists and notify their fundraisers to do so. The judgment will be partially suspended when the defendants have paid a charitable contribution to one or more legitimate veterans charities recommended by the states and approved by the court. Peterson allegedly made millions of robocalls asking people to donate automobiles, watercraft, real estate, and timeshares, falsely claiming that donations would go to veterans charities and were tax deductible. In fact, none of the names used in the robocalls is a real charity with tax exempt status. State Enforcement Actions In the state actions announced today, charities and fundraisers sought donations online and via telemarketing, direct mail, door-to-door contacts, and at retail stores, falsely promising to help homeless and disabled veterans, to provide veterans with employment counseling, mental health counseling or other assistance, and to send care packages to deployed servicemembers. Some actions charged veterans charities with using deceptive prize promotion solicitations. Others targeted non-charities that falsely claimed that donations would be tax deductible. Some cases focused on veterans charities engaged in flagrant self-dealing to benefit individuals running the charity, and some alleged that fundraisers made misrepresentations on behalf of veterans charities or stole money solicited for a veterans charity. Make sure your donations go to reputable, well-established charities. The FTC has new educational materials, including a video link is external on how to research charities, and two new infographics. Donors and business owners can find information to help them donate wisely and make their donations count at FTC. New and updated guidance includes:

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Chapter 6 : Spotting Veterans Fundraising Scams - Military Authority

The American Legion, which bills itself as the "nation's largest wartime veterans service organization," doesn't monitor the fundraising practices of other organizations but is proud of.

Maurice Levite sat in a modest office in Falls Church, Virginia, about a decade ago, and cautioned his longtime friend, Brian Arthur Hampton, against continuing to use telemarketers to fund his small veterans charity. But there was a catch – a costly one. The fundraisers were keeping most of the contributions donors were giving to the charity. Veterans themselves received scraps. Levite says he protested, but Hampton ignored him. He hired another telemarketer, Outreach Calling, to assist a related veterans nonprofit he runs out of the same office. Hampton has already cashed in: Charities employ controversial telemarketers to tug on heartstrings – and loosen purse strings Hampton said he hires telemarketers because it is too expensive and time-consuming to try to raise money on his own. I am always working. Telemarketer Outreach Calling has contracted with at least a dozen other charities – two of which have been shut down by New York regulators – and keeps an average of 90 percent of the money it raises for them, according to state government records. And other veterans groups, such as the Wounded Warrior Project, have recently endured scandals surrounding their spending. He enlisted in the U. He retired with the rank of major. Hampton said he and his business partners initially tried to raise funds themselves, but it was grueling, inefficient work. When they turned to telemarketers, they found they had more time to dedicate to charitable work, he said. The charitable work initially involved running a transitional shelter for homeless veterans in Northeast Washington, D. But running a shelter took up all their time. Hampton decided he could help more veterans by putting to use his communications background, which involved working as a political campaign consultant and operating fundraising and communications businesses. He abandoned the shelter concept and launched a nationwide educational program instead, aimed at raising awareness of the needs of veterans. The Circle of Friends for American Veterans began to stage rallies around the country. Hampton said he has hosted more than members of Congress across veterans shelter-themed forums in 46 cities. But Hampton stopped hosting rallies earlier this decade. They were too expensive and took too much time to plan, he said. Now, Hampton said the nonprofit focuses on communicating the needs of veterans to politicians, donors and the public. Hampton and his employees have convinced current and former members of Congress – including several on the House and Senate veterans affairs committees – to get behind a four-paragraph Veterans Bill of Rights that calls for reforms at the U. Department of Veterans Affairs. According to the tax statement filed by the Center for American Homeless Veterans, Hampton and his employees wrote news releases on behalf of candidates, which in turn sent them to media outlets. He reminded Hampton that the National Society of Fund Raising Executives, the organization that first brought the two friends together in the s, cautioned against the use of telemarketers that kept a high percentage of the money they raised, Levite said during a phone interview from his home in Alabama. Hampton told the Center for Public Integrity that he planned to let telemarketers keep no more than 20 percent of the proceeds they raised when he first turned to outside fundraisers. Telemarketing, Hampton said, proved to be more expensive than he thought: PAC, the political action committee Hampton runs out of the same Falls Church office as his nonprofits. That Outreach Calling keeps 90 percent of the donations it raises on behalf of the Center for American Homeless Veterans was shocking for Dave Silver, the president and founder of Operation Yellow Ribbon of South Jersey , a small nonprofit that sends care packages to active-duty American service members in the Middle East. He said he spends 20 to 30 hours a week running the nonprofit in addition to his full-time banking job. The telemarketers shoulder the liabilities and create awareness among potential donors while the charities, freed from the burden of dialing for dollars, focus on their mission. The Better Business Bureau of St. According to the alert, a woman in Quincy, Illinois, told the Better Business Bureau a telemarketer led her to believe her contribution to the nonprofit would provide direct assistance to homeless veterans. Charity Navigator, another watchdog that evaluates nonprofits,

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gives the highest ratings to charities that spend at least 75 percent on programs and no more than 25 percent on fundraising and administrative overhead. But a pair of U. Tim Walz of Minnesota, the highest ranking enlisted service member ever to serve in Congress and the ranking Democrat on the House Veterans Affairs Committee. At the very least, it should be easier for donors to research how charities are using their money, he said. None responded to requests for comment. Hampton said these deferments are reported as liabilities.

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Chapter 7 : AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDRAISING BY VETERANS' ORGANIZATIONS

Veterans tend to trust other veterans over just about anyone else. And most of us live up to that trust. In some cases, however, veterans are hired as sales representatives, specifically to gain the trust of other veterans.

Acting on a tip earlier this month, law enforcement traced a suspect to a bar in Portland, Oregon. The scam is an old one: The alleged crime spanned some 40 states. Veterans Affinity Fraud Veterans tend to trust other veterans over just about anyone else. And most of us live up to that trust. In some cases, however, veterans are hired as sales representatives, specifically to gain the trust of other veterans. These recently retired officers and NCOs then go back to their former colleagues and leverage the trust and bond others have with them to form business relationships. Other times, there is, but the veteran may not be in on the game. Perhaps he just used his own influence to gather other veterans together in a seminar, and then turned it over to a guest speaker. In other cases, the veteran is in on the scam. And in still other cases, the con-man is lying about being a veteran. The tragedy is this: So many legitimate veterans support organizations are doing terrific work in many niches. The criminals make it much more difficult for the legitimate operators to raise the much needed money for these charities to function. Fraud Prevention There are really two levels of fraud you have to worry about: The first is agent-level fraud. This occurs when you have a legitimate charity that hired a bad, dishonest agent or representative. The agent then pockets some or all cash donations, and may launder other donations or misdirect them to his own bank account. In other cases, the whole organization may be corrupt. She could be stealing money from the organization, or she may be a weak executive who has failed to implement the necessary accounting controls within the organization. To guard against agent-level fraud, give directly to the organizations, rather than via an agent, if at all possible. For example, a credit card donation on a secure website of a reputable and well-known charity is better and safer than a cash donation, handed to an agent you may barely even know. You can also use CharityNavigator. A few other tips: A significant portion of your donation will go to the cost of the event or fundraising drive itself. Instead, do your own investigation, and give directly. Be careful of charities with names that sound very close, but not quite alike. Unscrupulous people will attempt to exploit donor confusion by naming themselves very similarly to established and reputable charities. Verify the c 3 tax-exempt status of charitable organizations independently. Compare executive compensation to the mission. Executive director salaries at the average charity that CharityNavigator. In some cases, large charities can warrant paying a capable and experienced executive competitively with the private sector.

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Chapter 8 : Chicago Tribune - We are currently unavailable in your region

Organizations helping veterans If you're a veteran, there are community resources available to you, and these three community-based organizations are where you can start. We Honor Veterans (WHV) helps connect volunteers with veteran organizations in their local area.

The difficulty increases if the veteran had a traumatic experience during his or her service or was in a war zone. Even just finding a job in the civilian employment realm can be downright frustrating. There often seems to be a language barrier between actual military experience and what civilian employers see. This can result in a person who successfully managed 30 people in the military only being qualified for an entry-level position in the civilian world. This results in a big communication gap. Other reasons may include: Returning to family life: After a deployment or even just getting off active duty in the military, there is a transition when returning to the family as roles must be re-developed. Learning how to look for a job: Often, veterans never have held a job other than the military or never gained the skills needed to search for a job. This can be challenging and overwhelming. Reduction of day-to-day routine and structure: Food, clothing, shelter, and other necessities are usually provided in the military, as well as set schedules for things like meal times. Having to transition to providing these necessities for yourself as well as a reduction in a set schedule can be hard to adjust to. Competitive environment in the work force: In many civilian job environments, the culture can be quite competitive, and people are looking to help themselves get ahead rather than working as a team. This is different than the military, where teamwork is the foundation of many aspects. There are many more reasons why the transition to civilian life can be tricky. There are many veterans support organizations that can help you with the education and career transition, and also the readjustment to civilian life itself. Organizations That Help Veterans Developing camaraderie with fellow veterans is one way to ease the transition burden. Communicating with people like you who are facing the same issues can help substantially. There are many veterans organizations around the country with the mission of assisting this group. Here is a list of groups where connecting with veterans is paramount to the organization. No one was acknowledging what the soldiers, especially wounded soldiers, had faced and were dealing with. The mission of IAVA is to connect veterans to one another and educate them on: Through assistance, awareness, and advocacy, IAVA provides many opportunities and resources for veterans to connect with each other and the community, as well as receiving information and resources for education, employment, healthcare, and more. This helps to ensure veterans have a support network and the tools they need to foster a successful transition to civilian life. The organization can act as a liaison and offer resources for communicating with health care professionals, benefits administrators, the general public, and more. Any veteran can face challenges with the return to civilian life, but if there were injuries, post-traumatic stress disorder, or bouts of depression, the obstacles increase exponentially for the veteran and their families. Through organizations like NAAV, resources and support are available for veterans themselves as well as families and caregivers. American Legion First established in , the American Legion is a well-known organization with a multitude of programs dedicated to fostering patriotism and citizenship for youth and helping veterans acclimate back into their communities. Through programs like American Legion Baseball, Operation Comfort Warriors Program, and more, the American Legion provides a community for veterans to volunteer, connect, and generally feel like they have somewhere to belong. It offers a career portal with job search tools and information as well. The organization also has a strong political presence, actively keeping Washington accountable to veteran benefits. In addition, the American Legion has a strong fundraising program, raising millions each year to provide veterans and their families with assistance during difficult times and also for scholarship opportunities for continuing education. Wounded Warrior Project While each veteran faces his or her own unique challenges when leaving the military, wounded veterans often have additional factors they must overcome. The Wounded Warrior Project provides many programs to help wounded veterans make the transition and know they are not alone. The Combat Stress

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Recovery program: Veterans participate in retreats and workshops that help foster camaraderie and develop and enhance relationships between veterans and their family members. This speeds up the recovery and adjustment process. Physical Health and Wellness: When veterans are wounded, they must go through an adjustment process. Through the health and wellness program, a variety of activities are offered to help these veterans develop their physical fitness and skills during their transition. The participation in programs is also designed to help veterans connect with one another, and it can help reduce the likelihood of depression by giving them something to look forward to and be a part of. This program is designed to ensure these wounded service members feel like they belong by providing resources and events that encourage communication, support, and networking opportunities. Since social interaction with individuals in similar situations and facing the same challenges is paramount to recovery, the Alumni program provides veterans with mentors in addition to the other arenas for fostering camaraderie. Then the veterans also have the opportunity to give back by becoming alumni themselves. The group of soldiers that had banded together after these conflicts continued to grow in size. By 1950, membership was at 5 million, and by 1960, membership had risen to an astonishing 10 million. Today, the organization has nearly two million members. With the backing of so many individuals who have fought for our freedom in this country, VFW is able to be a substantial advocate for veterans and their families. Just a few of the things VFW has been involved in include: VFW was also the first of any veterans organizations to help fund the construction of the Disabled Veterans for Life Memorial. Volunteering in the community; members provide over eight million hours of volunteer work each year. Veterans Support Organizations with Career Placement Assistance There is some overlap in the organizations that provide an environment that fosters camaraderie and those that offer extensive resources for job search assistance. Below is a list of organizations that are either focused on helping veterans find jobs or that include it as a major aspect of their mission. The organization has a network of National Service Officers NSOs who are available, at no cost for veterans, to provide advice and assist veterans with claims regarding compensation. These NSOs are located in nearly every state, so there is a sound support network in place. Members of the organization are also encouraged to get out and make a difference in their local communities by volunteering for things like Special Olympics, scouts, ROTC, and more. This can be a huge component in helping veterans getting back into civilian life as many often feel isolated. Educational scholarships are also available through the organization. Each year, funds are awarded to deserving candidates in ROTC, high school seniors, or veterans who are looking to pursue additional education. It is free of charge and can help get you back on your feet in a job that matches your skills. America Wants You This organization partners with business and corporations from around the country to find adequate job opportunities for veterans. With a high unemployment rate nationally, and over 10 million veterans among those unemployed, this organization provides a job board and other resources to assist veterans with finding jobs and adequately preparing so they can be competitive in the job market. The original goal was to establish a food bank for veterans, but as time passed, it became clear that these people needed more than just food. They needed help with being able to earn an income and becoming financially independent. The funds for this program come from the general public as well as the money raised through the work program. VetJobs VetJobs is an online military jobs board with over 100,000 current job listings. The organization was established in 1994 after it was realized that there was a gap between employers and veteran candidates. In 1994, Veterans of Foreign Wars sponsored VetJobs, and since then, VetJobs has earned more endorsements from veterans support organizations than any other job board. The mission of the organization is to bridge the gap between civilian employers and the highly qualified veteran candidates. Aside from a wide array of available jobs, VetJobs also offers resources for veterans to help with resume writing, job search organization, and what to look for in an employer. USO The USO is a non-profit, private organization dedicated to helping veterans and their families feel like they have a home away from home. With locations throughout the United States and around the world, the USO provides support, comfort, and resources for veterans at all levels of their military career. For those veterans transitioning back into the civilian sector, the organization provides many resources for the return to family life as well as employment assistance. These

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programs aid in:

Chapter 9 : Support & Fundraising for Disabled Veterans, Golf Events

Many veterans' organizations know that helping veterans find employment or receiving additional education is a key component in easing the transition into civilian life. Below is a list of organizations that are either focused on helping veterans find jobs or that include it as a major aspect of their mission.