

North Carolina Department of the Secretary of State

NEWS

January 13, 2010

For Immediate Release

Contact: Liz Proctor (919) 807-2154

George Jeter (919) 807-2155

Elaine F. Marshall
Secretary of State

Secretary of State Marshall Urges Charitable Givers to Beware Scam Artists Posing as Relief Organizations in the Aftermath of Haiti Earthquake

RALEIGH – Secretary of State Elaine F. Marshall today issued this statement regarding charitable giving to relief efforts in the wake of Tuesday’s earthquake in Haiti:

“I know North Carolina’s generous spirit of giving will come to the fore in many ways to help earthquake victims in the coming days, but I caution citizens to do their homework when making donations. Sadly, there are people who view tragedies such as this as an opportunity to take advantage of the giving public, so make sure you know the group you are giving to.

The best way to make sure that your charitable dollar is spent wisely is to be proactive when you choose to give. Do not wait until you get an email from a group that you are not familiar with, imploring you to help with an online donation. Instead, decide how much you want to give, and then seek out the relief organization you want to get your donation. The US Department of State has current, up to date information about disaster relief efforts on the ground in Haiti and how you can help on its website at www.state.gov/.

If you suspect that you have been contacted by a scam group posing as a relief organization, please report it to the Secretary of State’s Charitable Solicitation Licensing Division at 1-888-830-4989.”

-30-

www.sosnc.com

P.O. Box 29622, Raleigh, NC 27626-0622