

Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Minnesota
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N E W S R E L E A S E

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ALERT: Telemarketers allegedly claiming to raise money for Make-A-Wish Foundation® do not represent the organization.

Make-A-Wish Foundation reminds public that it does not engage in telemarketing.

MINNEAPOLIS (November 17, 2008) – The Make-A-Wish Foundation of Minnesota has received a number of complaint calls from area residents who have been contacted by telemarketers claiming to raise money for the chapter.

As a matter of national policy, the Make-A-Wish Foundation **does not engage in telephone fundraising** for several reasons, including a desire to keep its fundraising expenses low and because so many people find the practice invasive, said Tom McKinney, executive director of the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Minnesota.

“In the past week, we have heard from quite a few individuals complaining that they’ve received telephone solicitations from telemarketers who claim to be affiliated with the Make-A-Wish Foundation,” McKinney said. “The simple answer is that we do not, and would not, authorize any telephone solicitations on our behalf. We prefer to use our funds for granting children’s wishes, rather than paying telemarketers.”

McKinney is asking anyone who receives one of these calls to: 1) not make a donation if a telephone solicitor claims to be working with or for the Make-A-Wish Foundation, and 2) contact the Make-A-Wish Foundation office at 612.767.9474 to share their experience.

“Contacting the chapter office will help us understand the nature of these telemarketing calls, as well as when and where they are occurring in our area,” he added.

Approximately 81 percent of funds raised by the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Minnesota are used to support program services, including wish granting. McKinney said that part of the reason the chapter is able to maintain its excellent expenses ratio is because it does not employ telemarketing.

About the Make-A-Wish Foundation®

The Make-A-Wish Foundation® grants the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy. It is the largest wish-granting charity in the world, with 67 chapters in the United States and its territories and 28 international affiliates spanning five continents. Founded in 1982, the Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Minnesota has granted nearly 3,000 wishes to children across the state. Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Minnesota has been reviewed by the Charities Review Council and is proud to have met its Accountability Standards. To read the charity review report, visit the Charities Review Council at www.SmartGivers.org. For more information about the Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Minnesota, please call 612.767.9474 or visit the web site at www.wishmn.org.

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