



PROVINCE POLICY ON CHARITABLE GIVING

Approved by the Bishops of Florida on September 19, 2009

Background:

The Catholic Church and its entities are compelled by the Gospel to be socially responsible stewards who promote the protection of human life and the common good. As our society faces ever more complex technological and bioethical issues, the Florida Bishops have a moral responsibility to shape the dialogue with corporate, bioethical and community organizations engaged in or supporting initiatives that many of our laity endorse “in good faith” but whose mission or affiliation may be morally objectionable or, at least, questionable. The Florida Bishops call upon pastors, clergy and the lay faithful to use guidelines based on the virtue of prudence and justice when making charitable giving decisions.

Church teaching:

All life is sacred and must be protected. This is why we do not support or endorse individuals, companies or organizations whose activities include direct participation in or indirect support of abortion, reproductive/family planning rights, contraception, and embryonic stem cell research.

Guidelines:

When evaluating the appropriateness of making a donation to a community or national foundation, individuals, parishes and Catholic schools are asked to consider whether the organization supports partisan public policy efforts or endorses political party candidates and agendas. The mission of the organization/foundation should be considered as to its consistency with Catholic Church teaching particularly as it pertains to the sacredness and dignity of human life. Parish facilities should not be used to promote, endorse or fundraise for such organizations if their policies are contrary to Church teaching. These include:

Amnesty International: In 2007, the Executive Council of Amnesty International (AI) recommended that AI abandon its neutral stance on abortion to a pro-abortion position. See: <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/abortion/abortion-the-first-human-rights-abuse.cfm>

Crop Walk/Church World Service: CROP Walk, an annual hunger awareness and fundraising effort that benefits many local food pantries, is sponsored by Church World Service (CWS), an agency of the National Council of Churches. Catholic Relief Services withdrew its name from the list of funding recipients since some of the partners of CWS support the provision of contraceptives in their overseas missions and programs and CRS could not guarantee that donations, particularly Catholic donors who have earmarked their contribution to those efforts consistent with Church teaching, would not be utilized for objectionable services.

March of Dimes: A research, education and advocacy organization whose focus is the prevention of birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality. March of Dimes has expressed support for embryonic stem cell research, pre-implantation genetic diagnosis, and advocates for mandatory contraceptive coverage for insurance plans.

Susan G. Komen for the Cure: An organization whose stated goal is “to save lives and end breast cancer forever by empowering people, ensuring quality care for all and energizing science to find the cures.” There is documentation of grants made to Planned Parenthood facilities through affiliates sponsoring “Race for the Cure” fundraising activities.

It may be generally advised that only Catholic organizations, entities and others who support Catholic teaching be permitted to utilize parish and diocesan facilities for fundraising purposes. This, however, is strictly determined by the Ordinary of each diocese.

As a general rule, individuals, parishes and Catholic schools should only support those organizations that are listed in the Kennedy Directory.

Alternatives for Charitable Giving

Research:

National Catholic Bioethics Center: www.ncbcenter.org

The National Catholic Bioethics Center (NCBC), established in 1972, conducts research, consultation, publishing and education to promote human dignity in health care and the life sciences, and derives its message directly from the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Abortion/Breast Cancer Research:

Breast Cancer Prevention Institute: <http://www.bcpinstitute.org/home.htm>

The Breast Cancer Prevention Institute is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) corporation, which educates healthcare professionals and the general public through research publications, lectures, and the internet, on ways to reduce breast cancer incidence.

Genetic Research:

The Michael Fund: www.michaelfund.org

Pro-life genetic research institute dedicated to studying Down syndrome.

International Hunger Relief and Education:

Catholic Relief Services: www.crs.org

Our mission is to assist impoverished and disadvantaged people overseas, working in the spirit of Catholic social teaching to promote the sacredness of human life and the dignity of the human person.

Caritas Internationalis: www.caritas.org

Caritas Internationalis is confederation of over 160 members who are working at the grassroots in almost every country of the world. When a crisis hits, Caritas is already on the ground. The diverse members give us our strength – from small groups of volunteers to some of the biggest global charities. Inspired by Catholic faith, Caritas is the helping hand of the Church

Local Food Distribution and Hunger Awareness:

Diocesan Catholic Charities agencies: www.cflcc.org/

Whether they are young or old, hungry and homeless, Catholic Charities of Central Florida sees the face of God in those in need. By providing food, clothing, shelter, and counseling, we bring hope to the hopeless in the nine counties where we serve and help them reach self-sufficiency.

Catholic Campaign for Human Development: www.usccb.org/about/catholic-campaign-for-human-development/ and www.povertyusa.org

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development is the domestic anti-poverty program of the U.S. Catholic Bishops, working to carry out the mission of Jesus Christ "... to bring good news to the poor ... release to captives ... sight to the blind, and let the oppressed go free." (Luke 4:18)

Society of St. Vincent de Paul Friends of the Poor Walk: www.svdpusa.org

Inspired by Gospel values, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, a Catholic lay organization, leads women and men to join together to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to those who are needy and suffering in the tradition of its founder, Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, and patron, St. Vincent de Paul.

*****Diocese of Orlando Addendum*****

ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, a.k.a. “Lou Gehrig’s Disease”)

John Paul II Medical Research Institute <http://jp2mri.org/>

The John Paul II Medical Research Institute in Iowa City is doing research in several areas including ALS, and does not support embryonic stem cell research. Most diseases share a common technical requirement to create therapies. The Institute’s research focuses on these common technical requirements by recruiting patients to procure tissue to develop stem cells and cancer cells for medical research. They devote more than half their budget to medical research which is far more than most established foundations.

Autism

Autism Society – Treatment Guided Research <http://www.autism-society.org/research/treatment-guided-research/>

Under the direction of Dr. Martha Herbert, assistant professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School, the objective of the Autism Society’s Treatment-Guided Research Initiative (TGRI), is to support a new generation of treatment-based research that will bring early and effective treatment to all people with autism. Treatment-guided research seeks to turn current treatment experience collected by families every day into data for science. It does not simply wait for basic science to eventually result in treatments while letting present treatments and their outcomes go unexamined. It also means doing science that respects the complex individuality of each person with autism rather than lumping people together as if they were all the same. It is the Autism Society’s hope that this initiative will encourage policymakers, researchers and practitioners to work together to help people who are living with an autism spectrum disorder now.

Autism Speaks <https://www.autismspeaks.org/>

Autism Speaks was founded in February 2005 by Bob and Suzanne Wright, grandparents of a child with autism. Their longtime friend Bernie Marcus donated \$25 million to help financially launch the organization. Since then, Autism Speaks has grown into the world’s leading autism science and advocacy organization, dedicated to funding research into the causes, prevention, treatments and a cure for autism; increasing awareness of autism spectrum disorders; and advocating for the needs of individuals with autism and their families.

Autoimmune Diseases

The Scleroderma Foundation http://www.scleroderma.org/site/PageServer#.VE_bYk8tDcs

Scleroderma, or systemic sclerosis, is a chronic connective tissue disease generally classified as one of the autoimmune rheumatic diseases. The word “scleroderma” comes from two Greek words: “sclero” meaning hard, and “derma” meaning skin. Hardening of the skin is one of the most visible manifestations of the disease. The Scleroderma Foundation is the national organization for people with scleroderma and their families and friends. It was formed January 1, 1998, by a merger between the West Coast-based United Scleroderma Foundation and the East Coast-based Scleroderma Federation. The national office is headquartered in Danvers, Mass. Currently, they budget an average of \$1 million per year for research funding, their single largest budgeted expense. The Scleroderma Foundation takes its fiduciary responsibility to donors very seriously, especially with regard to the research grant program. They do not support research grants in embryonic stem cell research. However, there are studies on stem cell transplants for individuals using their OWN cells.

Blood Disorders:

Florida Hemophilia Association: <http://floridahemophilia.org/>

The Florida Hemophilia Association is a Not-for-Profit organization that is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in the bleeding disorders community by creating programs and services that provide education, emotional support and advocacy. Donations enable them to fund vital research and provide key educational programs and public policy initiatives to help people with bleeding disorders such as hemophilia and von Willebrand disease as well as coagulation disorders like thrombophilia.

Cancer:

John Paul II Medical Research Institute <http://jp2mri.org/>

The John Paul II Medical Research Institute in Iowa City is doing research in several areas including cancer, and does not support embryonic stem cell research. Most diseases share a common technical requirement to create therapies. The Institute's research focuses on these common technical requirements by recruiting patients to procure tissue to develop stem cells and cancer cells for medical research. They devote more than half their budget to medical research which is far more than most established foundations.

St. Baldrick's Foundation: <http://www.stbaldricks.org/>

The St. Baldrick's Foundation currently funds more in childhood cancer research grants than any organization except the U.S. government. The Foundation coordinates its signature head-shaving events worldwide, where volunteers get bald to stand in solidarity with kids fighting cancer and raise money to support life-saving childhood cancer research. St. Baldrick's events are the largest volunteer-driven fundraising opportunity benefitting pediatric cancer research.

The Avon Breast Cancer Crusade: <http://www.avonfoundation.org/causes/breast-cancer-crusade/>

Since 1992, the Avon Breast Cancer Crusade has been working tirelessly to help prevent, treat, and ultimately eradicate this disease. With more than \$780 million raised and donated to breast cancer programs around the world through 2012, Avon is the leading corporate supporter of the cause globally. The Crusade's life-saving work supports awareness and education, screening and diagnosis, access to care, support services, and scientific research.

Beneficiaries range from leading cancer research centers to local, nonprofit breast health programs, creating a powerful international network of research, medical, social service, and community-based breast cancer organizations.

Kids Beating Cancer: <http://www.kidsbeatingcancer.com/>

Kids Beating Cancer was created in 1992 by Margaret Voight Guedes in memory of her son John Voight, who lost his battle with leukemia earlier that year. Kids Beating Cancer has tested over 37,000 potential donors, resulting in monthly marrow and blood stem collection requests a year for patients that would die without a transplant.

The Cure Starts Now: <http://www.thecurestartsnow.org/> (Vetted March 2016)

The Cure Starts Now mission is to educate and aid families battling cancer with patient centered programs focusing on facilitating continued interaction between school and patients through the Monkey In My Chair program. As well as fund cures for pediatric brain cancer.

In its efforts to focus on those cancers that present the greatest opportunities for an encompassing cancer cure, The Cure Starts Now Foundation bi-annually awards research grants to institutions and medical professionals. Typically grants awarded have a focus on pediatric brain cancers with a specific concentration on Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma, as this was the origin of The Cure Starts Now's philosophy.

Cardiovascular Disease/Heart Disease:

The Texas Heart Institute: <http://www.texasheart.org/> (Vetted September 2014)

The mission of the Texas Heart Institute is to reduce the devastating toll of cardiovascular disease through innovative programs in [research](#), [education](#) and improved [patient care](#).

Texas Heart Institute is a nonprofit organization founded by Dr. Denton A. Cooley in 1962. Its location in and affiliations with [CHI St. Luke's Health - Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center](#) and [Texas Children's Hospital](#) assured that all age groups would be treated and freed the Institute of the burden of financing a health care facility. Patient care information is available [here](#).

Texas Heart Institute is a nonprofit organization in the truest sense. Unlike most institutions that have a source of operating revenue, Texas Heart Institute relies solely on government grants, research contracts and, above all, philanthropy. In fact, [donations](#) from grateful patients, foundations, corporations, physicians, and the general public account for more than half of the Institute's annual operating budget. The [Stem Cell Center](#) of THI at SLEH was the first such center in the United States to receive US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval for a randomized, clinical (human) trial of **adult stem cells** to treat patients with advanced heart failure.

Cystic Fibrosis:

Cystic Fibrosis Foundation: <http://www.cff.org/>

The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation is the world's leader in the search for a cure for cystic fibrosis. We fund more CF research than any other organization, and nearly every CF drug available today was made possible because of Foundation support. We are a nonprofit donor-supported organization dedicated to attacking cystic fibrosis from every angle.

Children

Give Kids the World: <http://www.gktw.org/>

Give Kids The World is a non-profit organization that exists only to fulfill the wishes of all children with life-threatening illnesses and their families from around the world to experience a memorable, joyful, cost-free visit to the Central Florida attractions, and to enjoy the magic of Give Kids The World Village for as long as there is a need.

Over 122,000 children have had their dream come true at Give Kids The World. No child in need has ever been turned away – and no child ever will. Give Kids The World is a place where families find joy, laughter, serenity, and a lifetime of memories. Through the tireless support of our volunteers, employees and generous partners, we dedicate each and every day to these special families.

Kids House: www.kidshouse.org/

Our mission is to prevent child abuse and to aid child abuse victims and families by providing coordinated services in a safe, child-friendly environment from report and investigation through treatment and resolution.

In collaboration with all agencies of law enforcement, the state attorney's office, medical personnel, child protection professionals, social workers, and licensed mental health counselors, we are working to break the cycle of violence so often seen with incidents of child abuse and neglect.

St Jude Children's Research Hospital: www.stjude.org/

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, founded in 1962, is a pediatric treatment and research facility focused on children's catastrophic diseases. It is located in Memphis, Tennessee, and is a nonprofit medical corporation chartered as a 501c tax-exempt organization under IRS regulations

Make a Wish Foundation: www.wish.org

The Make-A-Wish Foundation is a 501c non-profit organization founded in the United States that arranges experiences to children with life-threatening medical conditions. In order to qualify for a wish, the child must be between the ages of 3 to 17 at the time of referral. It is the child's physician that ultimately decides if a child is eligible.

Covenant House: <https://www.covenanthouse.org/homeless-charity/florida> (Vetted December 2015)

Every day, Covenant House Florida reaches over 200 kids in the Ft. Lauderdale and Orlando areas through our street outreach programs, crisis shelters, and transitional housing programs. Our Ft. Lauderdale house opened in 1985. We then expanded to Orlando in 1995, making Covenant House Florida one of the state's largest private agencies providing services to runaway and homeless youth.

Crisis Pregnancy Centers

JMJ Crisis Pregnancy Center: <http://jmjlifecenter.org/>

JMJ Life Center, established in 1990, is a non-profit community organization, offering free services to women and families faced with the challenges of an expected pregnancy. We are a pregnancy resource center in Orlando that provides free assistance to women regardless of age, marital status, religion or race. Our goal is to support the right of every pregnant woman to give birth by providing assistance before and after the birth of their babies.

Life Choices for Women: <http://www.lifechoicesfl.com/index.html>

At Life Choices, we recognize that this (an unplanned pregnancy) may be the most difficult situation you have ever been in. We are here to serve you. Our center offers lab quality pregnancy tests, practical information and support during this critical period in your life. All our services are totally FREE and completely confidential.

Diabetes

The Translational Research Institute for Metabolism and Diabetes (TRI): <http://www.tri-md.org/>

TRI is the product of an innovative affiliation between Florida Hospital and Sanford Burnham Medical Research Institute. By linking the largest healthcare provider in Central Florida with a nationally renowned basic science leader, the TRI bridges the gap between the research bench and the patient's bedside. At a state of the art facility located on the Florida Hospital Campus, a talented team of brilliant researchers and experienced, caring medical professionals is bringing medical discoveries from the laboratory to the community for further testing, through clinical trials, in an effort to tackle some of today's biggest health problems – obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease.

Food Distribution/Financial Assistance

Christian Service Center: <http://www.christianservicecenter.org/>

Compelled by the love of Jesus Christ, the Christian Service Center for Central Florida; seeks to mobilize the Central Florida community under one common mission to eradicate poverty through the provision of services and resources that foster hope, well-being and empowerment. The work of the Christian Service Center and those serving on its behalf shall be a living testament to Christ's example clothed in compassion, humility and servanthood; radiating grace, hope, love and above all, bringing glory to God.

The Christian Sharing Center: <http://thesharingcenter.org/home>

The Christian Sharing Center assists with basic and essential needs during times of personal financial crises caused by job loss and medical issues. Clients may receive food and clothing, help with costs of rent/mortgage, transportation, bus tokens, costs of prescriptions and other medical issues, utilities, household goods. Children or adults in the family may be assisted in special ways specific to their individual or family needs.

Housing

Habitat for Humanity: <http://www.habitat-orlando.org/>

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Orlando Area is part of a global, nonprofit housing organization operated on Christian principles that seeks to put God's love into action by building homes, communities and hope. Habitat for Humanity of Greater Orlando Area is dedicated to eliminating substandard housing locally and worldwide through constructing, rehabilitating and preserving homes; by advocating for fair and just housing policies; and by providing training and access to resources to help families improve their shelter conditions.

Maternal Care

MaterCare International: <http://www.matercare.org/>

MCI is an international group of Catholic obstetricians and gynecologists, which has adopted a preferential option for mothers and babies. MCI's mission is to carry out the work of Evangelium Vitae (the Gospel of Life) by improving the lives and health of mothers and babies both born and unborn, through new initiatives of service, training, research, and advocacy designed to reduce the tragic levels of abortion world-wide and maternal and perinatal mortality, morbidity in developing countries.

Sacredness of Life

Charlotte Lozier Institute: <https://www.lozierinstitute.org/>

Founded in 2011, and named for Dr. Charlotte Denman Lozier (1844–1870), an early feminist and contemporary of Susan B. Anthony and a model and inspiration for medicine, science, and research devoted to the cause of life, Charlotte Lozier Institute (CLI) brings together physicians, sociologists, statisticians, and policy researchers to do both original and interpretative research on a wide range of life issues. The Charlotte Lozier Institute is committed to bringing the power of science, medicine, and research to bear in life-related policy making, media, and debates to promote a culture and polity of life. Your gift to CLI helps support a growing network of policy experts and scholars dedicated to advancing science and statistics for life. Our work serves the well-being of mothers, the strength of families, and the value of every human life.

Service Projects

The Apparent Project (Vetted August 2014)

The Apparent Project is trying to help mothers and fathers in poverty be A PARENT to their children. They are educating and taking care of street kids who don't have A PARENT. They are using media and the arts to make the needs of Haiti APPARENT to those who can help, and they are doing this all with the hope that the love of God will be made more APPARENT to those we humbly serve and that He will be known as A PARENT to the parentless.

Groups can register to sell bracelets as a means of fundraising for the organization. See more information here:

<http://www.apparentproject.org/>

Success by 6 Family Fundamentals (Vetted August 2014)

Family Fundamentals is a parent resource center and a project of Success By 6. Success By 6 is a community-wide children's initiative, spearheaded by United Way of Central Florida and founded by Carol Barnett, President of Publix Charities in 1995 that brings together resources to form a community partnership. Success By 6 is an initiative to make early childhood development a top priority in Polk, Hardee and Highlands counties and to ensure that all children, by the age of six, have the physical, emotional, social, and mental foundation to succeed in school and in life.

To learn more about Family Fundamentals, you can visit Family Fundamentals

<https://www.uwcf.org/servlet/eAndar.article/432/Family+Fundamentals> or Success By 6, Family Fundamentals
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Success-By-6-Family-Fundamentals/241623121729>

Fair Trade

The Apparent Project (Vetted August 2014)

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Groups can register to sell bracelets as a means of fundraising for the organization. See more information here:

<http://www.apparentproject.org/>

**For More Information Please Contact the
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www.advocacyjustice.org**