



Consumer Advisory

Bogus Charitable Websites

Coloradans have seen their share of tragedy in recent years and have responded by generously giving to charities and fund drives. The recent death of Claire Davis at Arapahoe High School is no exception. Sadly, as witnessed in past tragedies, fake websites that purport to be raising funds for families of victims often spring up overnight. This is especially true in high visibility events, where thousands of dollars contributed by the well-intentioned are instead pocketed by crooks. Although no such websites have surfaced as yet or have been identified with the Arapahoe High School shooting, individuals who are interested in contributing should be on the look-out for the following:

Phony websites. Anyone can establish a website, so consumers wishing to give to a cause should not take websites they are unfamiliar with at face value. Fortunately, there are services on the internet that can help consumers scrutinize websites first before contributing on-line to a charitable cause. *Siteadvisor.com* is a free download offered by MacAfee that runs analytics on websites. Likewise, entering the name or domain name of a particular charity or organization on the *whois.com* website will bring up useful information such as the person for whom the site is registered.

Requests from unfamiliar solicitors. Be wary of charitable requests that come from strangers, or who solicit through social networking sites, emails, over the phone, or through the mail. Fundraising groups that organize around a particular tragedy will not call asking for contributions. Legitimate fundraisers get the word out through reputable sources, such as through the media. Participate only in fundraising efforts undertaken by individuals you know and trust. However, even if you know the person behind the solicitation, verify by calling that person first before contributing.

A variety of fund-raising and other drives have been set up in the aftermath of the Arapahoe High School shooting. For individuals who would like to contribute, the following are verifiable fundraisers and other efforts underway in the community:

- **Arapahoe Donation Fund for Claire Davis**
First Bank
2323 E. Arapahoe Rd.
Centennial, CO 80122
Note: Donations can be dropped off at any First Bank branch

continued

- **Youth Mental Health Awareness and Support Programs**
Littleton Hospital Foundation
303-715-7600
www.littletonhospitalfoundation.org/gift
- **TLC Meals on Wheels** (on Claire's behalf)
PO Box 3108
Centennial, CO. 80122
<http://tlcmealsonwheels.org/donate/>.
- **The Denver Foundation**
The Arapahoe High School Community Fund Honoring Claire Davis
For information on contributing, contact the Philanthropic Services Group at 303-300-1790, or click on www.denverfoundation.org/
- Cards for the Davis family are still being collected and can be dropped off at **Littleton Adventist Hospital, 7700 S. Broadway, Littleton, CO.**

Suspicious websites, charities or individuals alleging to be raising funds in Claire's name or for students of Arapahoe High School should be reported to the 18th Judicial District Attorney's Consumer Protection line at 720-874-8547.

DA – 18th Consumer Protection Line: 720-874-8547

