

June 2015

Dear Clients and Friends:

At a Petco recently, workers for East County Animal Rescue were showing off kittens for adoption. I decided to make a donation, using some method other than cash in the jar. The amount was going to be large enough that I wanted a tax receipt, but with anonymity.

I was thinking about it on the way home. My wife has a big heart for animals and used to make donations to a couple of organizations. Pretty soon we were receiving mail every week from a host of animal charities, making it obvious our name and address were being passed around. But how do you get a cash tax receipt without the organization knowing who you are? I looked into it, and found there's a way.

Network for Good is a non-profit organization that will direct your contribution to any of the 1.4 million charities on their list. I went online to [www.networkforgood.org](http://www.networkforgood.org), clicked on "donate," typed in "East County Animal Rescue," and it popped right up. There was a research tab, with information about ECAR's mission statement, assets and liabilities, number of employees, and status as a 501(c)(3) public charity.

I opted for a one-time donation and checked the box directing that none of my personal information be given to the charity. You can use a credit card for payment, but I chose PayPal which already has my credit card information. Network for Good sent me an email for my tax records, certifying the contribution to a qualified charity.

The processing fee was 5%, which I opted to add to my total rather than deducting it from the amount going to the charity. That extra cost was worth it, for the sake of anonymity. Plus, by documenting my tax-deductible gift rather than just putting money in the jar, the IRS is going to chip in and help those kittens find a good home.

Regards,



Charles M. Shackelford