

Secretary of State Pedro A. Cortés announced that 5 disciplinary actions have been taken against charitable organizations, professional solicitors and professional fundraising counsel by the Bureau of Corporations and Charitable Organizations.

## **Actions**

### **In State**

#### **Crawford County**

Dwight Huston (“Huston”) and Homeless Outreach of Crawford County, Ltd. (“Organization”) of Meadville, PA were assessed an administrative fine in the amount of \$3,000 and ordered to cease and desist from all manner of fundraising and solicitation activities for a period of three years. Huston and Homeless Outreach of Crawford County, Ltd., failed to keep true and accurate fiscal records of the activities of the Organization. Further, Huston, in his role as founder and sole board member of Homeless Outreach of Crawford County, Ltd. misappropriated funds from charitable contributions made to the organization and used them for his own personal use and benefit in a manner inconsistent with the charitable purpose of the organization. Additionally, Huston and Homeless Outreach of Crawford County, Ltd. continued solicitation activities in the Commonwealth following the March 5, 2012 Cease and Desist Order. (3-16-2017)

#### **Philadelphia County**

West Philadelphia Cultural Alliance, of Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, paid an administrative fine in the amount of \$2,500.00, agreed not to solicit charitable contributions in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania without first being properly registered with the Bureau, and shall not enter into any contract or agreement or employ any professional fundraising counsel or professional solicitor unless the professional fundraising counsel or professional solicitor is registered with the Bureau because it had solicited charitable contributions after its registration with the Department of State had expired, with each solicitation following the expiration of each registration constituting a separate violation; and operated in violation of an Order issued by the Secretary. (3/1/17)

### **Out of State**

Action Donation Services of San Diego, CA was assessed an administrative fine in the amount of \$10,000 and ordered to cease and desist from all manner of fundraising and solicitation activities until all penalties are paid in full and until Respondent becomes properly registered as a professional solicitor. Action Donation Services rendered professional fundraising counsel services for three Pennsylvania charities in violation of a prior Order of the Secretary and without being properly registered with the Bureau of Corporation and Charitable Organizations. Action Donation Services also failed to file its contracts with the Bureau prior to rendering professional fundraising counsel services. (3-23-2017)

Camp Fire National Headquarters, Registration No. 13179, of Kansas City, MO, agreed to pay an administrative fine in the amount of \$2,000, because it violated the law by soliciting charitable contributions in the absence of an approved registration as required, from May 11, 2012 through December 27, 2016. (03/31/2017)

United Ostomy Association of America, Registration No. 103859 of Kennebunk, ME, agreed to pay an administrative fine in the amount of \$5,000, because it violated the law, by and through actions that were not in accordance with Section 5(a), 10 P.S. § 162.5(a), by soliciting contributions in the absence of an approved registration from 2006 through May 18, 2015. (03/31/2017)

***A complete list of sanctions is available online at  
[www.dos.pa.gov](http://www.dos.pa.gov).***

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