



## Charitable Gifts-in-kind FAQ

When you think about donating to a charity, you may think about donating money. But there's another type of donation you may not be aware of — gifts-in-kind.

### **What are gifts-in-kind?**

They are any non-cash donation from individuals and businesses to a charity. Common examples are food, clothing, prescription drugs, equipment and medical supplies.

### **How are gifts-in-kind used?**

Charities give the products directly to those in need or to other charities for redistribution.

### **Are charities required to report gifts-in-kind like they report cash donations?**

Charities are required to report their donations and program expenses on filings with the IRS (Form 990) and state agencies. Schedule M of the Form 990 contains information about gifts-in-kind. The Form 990 and/or financial reports should be available from the charity, online with your state, or at [guidestar.org](http://guidestar.org).



But not all charities accurately report the value of gifts-in-kind.

### **How could false reporting of gifts-in-kind affect potential donors like me?**

A charity might mark-up the value of goods to make their organization appear more financially successful than it really is. This helps the organization hide high fundraising and administrative costs, since they then appear to be a smaller percent of overall expenses than they actually are. This may falsely increase an organization's ranking by charity

watchdogs.

### **Is there any way to effectively measure the legitimacy of a charity?**

When used and reported as intended, gifts-in-kind can be an important part of a charity's programs. Worthy causes get much needed supplies, donors may get a tax deduction, and items that might otherwise be destroyed or discarded are put to good use. Charity watchdog groups, like the [Better Business Bureau's \(BBB\) Wise Giving Alliance](http://www.bbb.org), [Charity Navigator](http://www.charitynavigator.org), [Charity Watch](http://www.charitywatch.org), and [GuideStar](http://www.guidestar.org), say you can measure an organization by the way it spends its cash.

Cash typically comes directly from individual donors. If a charity is using gifts-in-kind to inflate its operations and then spends most of its cash to pay executives or cover operating expenses, this should raise red flags, and you may want to consider donating to a different organization.

## Join the Citizen's Police Academy

The Citizen Police Academy is a ten-week program held once a year and is designed to give the participants a working knowledge of the Niles Police Department. The program consists of a series of classes and discussions once a week, on a designated evening from 6:30 pm until 9:30 pm. Enrolment is limited. The class will provide an in depth view of the various aspects of law enforcement. This is a very educational and informative program that allows the citizens an opportunity to learn more about the issues that affect law enforcement in the Village of Niles. Classes start every fall.

### **Who can Attend and Why?**

When residents take a personal interest in their community and the protection of their neighborhoods,



they will enjoy a safer and closer relationship with their neighbors. Community Oriented Policing plays an important and vital role in overall reduction of crime in any community. The Niles Police Department has instituted the Citizens Police Academy in order to improve our community. It is our hope that all the graduates will become partners with us in identifying problems and solutions to those crime issues in our village. The Citizens Police Academy is open

to all Niles residents, business owners or those who are employed within the geographical borders of the Village of Niles. That are 21 years of age or older. Class size is limited. There is NO COST to anyone who enrolls in the academy.

Curriculum covered includes

- Department Overview & Tour
- Patrol Procedures & Traffic Stops
- Traffic & DUI Enforcement
- Firearms & Range Master
- Crime Scene Processing
- Volunteers In Policing
- School Resource Program
- Criminal Investigations
- Crime Free Housing and
- Patrol Ride-A-Long Program

Simply submit the application or go online to <http://goo.gl/d7ZCEJ>