

The facts....how “charities” spend some of their income

(Figures are taken from their 2000/2001 accounts, sorry haven't updated).

Charity	Highest paid director (& staff details)
Age Concern	Upto £90,000, for EACH of 3 Directors
Barnardo's	Upto £89,999 each, also 4 staff £60,000 +
British Heart Foundation	Upto £120,000 also 2 others @ £100,000 +
Cancer Research Campaign	Upto £100,000 also 22 people @ £40,000 +
Help the Aged	Upto £89,999 also 8 @ £50,000 plus
NSPCC	Upto £100,000 each, for 2 Directors
OXFAM	£40,000 10 staff, (only 6 @ £40,000 in '99)
People's Dispensary for Sick Animals	Upto £70,000 2 staff, and 5 @ £50,000+
RNIB	Upto £90,000 also 6 above £50,000
Royal National Lifeboat Institution	Upto £79,999 also 1 above £60,000
Royal Soc' for the Protection of Birds	Upto £80,000 also 12 above £40,000
Save the Children	Upto £80,000 also 13 above £40,000
Scope	At least £80,001, exact figure not given
WWF - UK	Upto £80,000 also 5 staff above £50,000

Charities rarely announce the above salaries when they are running their fund raising campaigns. Playing on emotional appeal, they “sell” an image of charity but pay as a fat cat “business”. The accounts show low admin figures, but salaries are shown elsewhere, often masking the real costs of their “business”. All legal, though carefully “presented”.

For example, Barnardo's staff have done very well since 2001. The Chief Executive now earns upto £109,999, one person earns upto £89,999, 3 are paid upto £79,999, 11 are paid upto £69,999, and 13 paid upto £59,999, (figures from 2003 Annual Report & Accounts).

Many Chief Executives have final salary pension scheme, so will receive over £1million during retirement from their former “charity” employer. That needs to be paid BEFORE the needy get anything. Huge, built in liabilities before the GIVING begins. Then add in the computers, heating, the £1 million TV begging campaigns and fancy London offices. Why don't they mention that in their adverts?

Charity shops often rely on volunteers goodwill, gaining well intentioned help locally. This though, is subsidised by local tax and rate payers and so distorts local commerce.

What should I do with this information?

- 1) Ignore it, as we all need to make a living ! Gimme that gravy train baby!
- 2) Accept it as the price of cleansing my conscience when I give to charity
- 3) Think before I give in future. Should I give to those without FANCY head offices?
- 4) Cut out the fat cats and give directly to small, local, low cost, front line charities

Want to comment, telephone: 01892 664 XXX (Number removed as I have since moved from Crowborough)