

America's Top Charities

How to Read Consumers Digest's Chart: For our chart, Consumers Digest focused on more than 2,400 top charities as defined by size and reputation among independent analysts. We whittled the list to charities that were recognized most frequently by those analysts. We asked each of the charities that are listed below to provide an Internal Revenue Service Form 990 for the latest tax year or, in the case of national organizations that have local affiliates that file their own tax documents, independently audited financial reports. Thus, the numbers that we used to evaluate the charities are those that were submitted by the charities to IRS or Consumers Digest. The chart is divided by general goals (health, human services, religious, etc.) and then sorted by *Spending Efficiency*, which is the percentage of how much that a charity spends on its mission compared with its total expenses. (On Part IX of the Form 990, divide Line 25B by Line 25A and multiply by 100.) We excluded charities that didn't distribute at least 65 percent of their total funds to their programs.

* *Cost to Raise \$100.* We compared a charity's spending on fundraising with the amount that its fundraising efforts brought in. (Divide Line 25D on Part IX of the 990 by the sum of Part VII, Line 1b, 1c and 1f, and multiply by 100.) We excluded charities that spent more than 35 percent, or \$35 per \$100 raised, of their contributions on fundraising.

* *Direct Public Support.* This column is the amount that was received directly from individu-

als or private foundations. It is the sum of Lines 1b, 1c and 1f of Part VIII of Form 990.

We also noted whether an organization reports *Joint Costs*, which typically are fundraising solicitations that also provide an educational component. Organizations can include some of these costs as program services. It's legitimate, but potential donors might want to consider this when they assess a charity's value.

A number of organizations, most prominently Salvation Army, were dropped from consideration, because they aren't required to file 990s, rendering apples-to-apples comparisons impossible. Non-501(c)(3) organizations also were scratched. Donor-advised funds, which distribute money to charities, weren't considered.

Other charities, most prominently Goodwill Industries International and United Way of America, weren't included, because they have local affiliates that file separate tax documents, and the national group couldn't produce complete information—again eliminating the possibility of accurate comparisons. Others who didn't provide that information include Boys and Girls Clubs of America, Boy Scouts of America and Girl Scouts of the USA. Also excluded were well-known charities that either didn't meet our criteria or failed to provide information, such as American Bible Society, Camp Fire USA, Children's Health Fund, Children's Miracle Network, Ducks Unlimited, Mental Health America and YWCA USA.

Organization	Phone Number	Spending Efficiency	Cost to Raise \$100	Direct Public Support	Joint Costs	Recent Accomplishments/Organizational Goals
Development/ Distribution						
Brother's Brother Foundation	412/321-3160	99.63%	\$0.08	\$241,309,381	N	Contributed \$238,684,657 to needy countries in 2011.
International Aid	616/846-7490	99.48%	\$0.14	\$131,685,499	N	Shipped \$71.3 million in relief in 2010.
Good360 (Gifts In Kind)	703/836-2121	99.07%	\$0.13	\$286,417,191	N	Provides product resources to help nonprofits in their missions.
Direct Relief International	800/676-1638	98.81%	\$0.33	\$404,303,854	N	Runs more than 8,000 health-care sites in all 50 states.
American Nicaraguan Foundation	305/374-3391	98.66%	\$0.24	\$169,452,068	N	Delivered containers of aid valued at approximately \$162.5 million in 2010.
Project CURE	303/792-0729	98.66%	\$1.03	\$49,543,710	N	Delivered nearly \$42 million in medical support in 2011.
AmerCares Foundation	800/486-4357	98.46%	\$1.09	\$662,622,062	N	Delivered \$1.4 million in medical assistance to India in 2011.
Natl Assn. for Exchange of Ind. Resources	800/562-0955	98.07%	\$1.53	\$86,546,410	N	Offers nonprofits access to thousands of high-quality products at low cost.
American Near East Refugee Aid	202/266-9700	95.66%	\$1.02	\$49,861,883	N	Connected more than 400 families in Gaza to water networks in 2011.
Children's Hunger Fund	800/708-7589	95.42%	\$1.53	\$38,964,554	N	Provided 500,000 meals to drought victims in Djibouti in 2011.
World Emergency Relief	888/484-4543	93.92%	\$3.78	\$22,057,436	Y	Delivered 600 tons of cargo valued at over \$23 million dollars in 2010.
Institute of International Education	212/984-5357	93.44%	\$0.85	\$100,841,564	N	Serves 25,000 grantees annually in advancing dissemination of education.
William J. Clinton Presidential Foundation	646/775-9179	92.90%	\$1.98	\$137,941,024	N	Launched CGI America in 2011 to improve U.S. economic recovery.
Common Cause Education Fund	202/832-1200	92.14%	\$1.45	\$5,157,590	N	Defends and strengthens public financing programs.
Pew Charitable Trusts	202/552-2000	91.88%	\$8.03	\$36,506,456	N	Helped to implement data-driven corrections policies in the United States.
Robin Hood Foundation	212/227-6601	91.12%	\$5.81	\$147,526,786	N	Donated 15:1 return on every dollar toward fighting New York City poverty.
Mazon: A Jewish Response to Hunger	800/813-0557	90.93%	\$2.47	\$5,850,942	N	Launched "Healthy Options, Healthy Meals" initiative for food banks in 2011.
Lutheran World Relief	800/597-5972	89.78%	\$5.82	\$39,569,775	Y	Supported 4,975,948 people in 2011.
Bread for the World Institute	800/822-7323	89.28%	\$8.10	\$6,916,270	Y	Received the World Food Prize in October 2010.
Program for Appropriate Tech. in Health	206/285-3500	87.48%	\$4.29	\$43,277,712	N	Reached nearly 75 million people with programs and interventions in 2011.
Feed the Children	800/627-4556	86.63%	\$8.88	\$430,060,955	Y	Delivered nearly 600 truckloads of essentials to needy Americans in 2011.
Action Against Hunger	877/777-1420	85.77%	\$15.86	\$7,070,986	N	Assisted 6.4 million people in 2010.
Helen Keller International/Childsight	877/535-5374	84.02%	\$1.00	\$15,000,286	N	Published more than 500 books about blindness and visual impairment.
Habitat for Humanity International	800/422-4828	83.75%	\$9.99	\$186,305,146	N	Celebrated 2.5 million people served in 2011.
TechnoServe	202/785-4515	83.12%	\$3.30	\$42,841,285	N	Assisted 4,750 businesses in more than a dozen industries in 2011.
Global Fund for Children	202/331-9003	83.00%	\$8.73	\$9,464,045	N	Gives grants to organizations that work with world's most vulnerable youth.
US Fund for UNICEF	800/367-5437	82.79%	\$12.01	\$243,396,091	N	Vaccinated 11.7 million children against polio in Pakistan.
Local Initiatives Support	212/455-9800	79.80%	\$15.68	\$40,599,056	N	Financed 14 schools to serve 6,500 students in 2011.
Global Fund for Women	415/248-4800	77.23%	\$15.98	\$13,879,252	N	Provided \$8,865,609 in grants to women and women-led organizations.
Tides Center	415/561-6400	76.85%	\$8.14	\$69,965,307	N	Fiscally sponsored more than 800 nonprofit projects to date.
American Enterprise Inst. for PPR	202/862-5800	73.46%	\$6.86	\$31,138,309	N	Has more than 60 national-council leaders in commerce and philanthropy.
Women for Women International	202/737-7705	72.21%	\$17.03	\$29,107,215	N	Provided support to 80,104 underprivileged women in 2010.
Educational/ Cultural						
Scholarship America	800/279-2083	97.08%	\$0.98	\$140,478,327	N	Granted 40,860 students \$43.3 million in scholarships in 2011.
Public Broadcasting Service	703/739-5000	95.02%	\$0.09	\$170,664,149	N	Won 12 daytime Emmy awards for programs for 2011-2012 season.
National Public Radio	202/513-3232	94.19%	\$0.18	\$17,758,333	N	Expanded audience by more than 38 percent over the past decade.
Art Institute of Chicago	312/443-3626	91.45%	\$8.09	\$71,940,396	N	Has approximately 300,000 works of art in its permanent collection.
Metropolitan Opera Association	212/662-6000	90.53%	\$6.80	\$181,711,821	N	Broadcast The Met: Live in HD in more than 50 countries in 2011-12 season.
John F. Kennedy Ctr. for Performing Arts	800/444-1324	90.00%	\$12.46	\$61,553,611	N	Arts in Crisis program provides planning help to nonprofit arts organizations.
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York	212/535-7710	86.93%	\$5.73	\$164,282,227	N	Record attendance of more than 5.6 million in 2011.
United Negro College Fund	800/331-2244	85.99%	\$6.22	\$155,241,757	Y	Awards 10,000 students each year through 400 scholarship and internships.
New York Public Library	212/930-8000	82.89%	\$19.21	\$48,643,147	N	Research and circulating collections total more than 50 million items.
American Museum of Natural History	212/769-5100	82.55%	\$7.17	\$71,791,029	N	Home to more than 200 scientists working in a variety of fields.
Teach for America	212/279-2080	82.30%	\$10.92	\$147,138,431	N	Reached more than 600,000 students in the 2011-2012 school year.
Robert W. Woodruff Arts Center	404/733-4200	82.26%	\$14.87	\$42,542,100	N	Home to the largest eco-friendly greenroof system in Atlanta.
National Trust Historic Preservation	800/944-6847	81.52%	\$17.90	\$30,344,928	N	Pledged to mitigate effects of natural-gas wells on prehistoric rock in 2010.
San Francisco Opera Association	415/861-4008	76.74%	\$13.35	\$31,722,108	N	War memorial welcomes 500,000 patrons annually.
Smithsonian Institution	202/357-4300	73.78%	\$17.08	\$170,336,270	Y	Provides 2,151 free educational resources on smithsonianeducation.org.
Museum of Modern Art	212/708-9400	72.21%	\$18.49	\$67,915,312	N	Collection includes more than 150,000 works of visual art.
WGBH Educational Foundation	617/300-5400	69.83%	\$11.36	\$153,915,509	N	Launched PBS LearningMedia, providing free online resources for educators.
Environment/Wildlife						
Conservation Fund	703/525-6300	97.42%	\$3.16	\$60,547,309	N	Balances economic and environmental goals to promote conservation.
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution	508/457-2000	94.94%	\$3.77	\$50,659,831	N	Assembled team to assess radiation in ocean after Fukushima crisis.
Animal Welfare Institute	202/337-2332	94.45%	\$0.84	\$4,915,780	N	Dedicated to alleviating suffering inflicted on animals by humans.
Environmental Defense Fund	800/684-3322	93.65%	\$13.93	\$1,255,111	Y	Involved in launching America's first economy wide cap on carbon pollution.
Rainforest Alliance	212/677-1900	93.42%	\$15.74	\$13,165,016	N	Benefitted 30,000 people through Community Forestry program in 2011.
Sierra Club Foundation	415/995-1780	90.05%	\$8.72	\$48,487,878	N	Works to preserve the natural and human environment.
Trout Unlimited	800/834-2419	87.58%	\$15.01	\$15,176,981	N	Donates 500,000 hours annually to clean up local waterways.
National Arbor Day Foundation	888/448-7337	87.21%	\$15.25	\$24,893,205	Y	Planted 4,822,649 trees in U.S. forests.
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation	800/225-5355	86.27%	\$5.19	\$23,540,134	Y	Marked 6 million acres conserved in 2011.
Student Conservation Association	603/543-1700	86.24%	\$20.83	\$8,865,288	N	Volunteers render more than 2 million hours of conservation service annually.
Natural Resources Defense Council	212/727-2700	86.22%	\$7.93	\$89,751,028	Y	Created project in 2012 to fight effects of natural-gas extraction.
Trust for Public Land	800/714-5263	84.34%	\$9.99	\$80,944,831	Y	Protected 131,385 acres in 2011.
African Wildlife Foundation	202/939-3333	83.99%	\$15.09	\$13,104,772	Y	Generates more than \$2.5 million yearly for Heartland sites.
Union of Concerned Scientists	202/331-6943	83.84%	\$19.78	\$15,157,651	Y	Helped secure the signing of a treaty with Russia, lessening nuclear threat.
Wildlife Conservation Society	718/220-5100	83.59%	\$15.18	\$49,647,480	N	Currently manages about 500 conservation projects in 60 countries.
Chesapeake Bay Foundation	443/482-2045	81.85%	\$19.41	\$15,579,453	Y	Guided 23,509 students on outdoor education experiences in 2011.
Conservation International Foundation	703/341-2400	80.62%	\$9.32	\$105,675,144	N	Worked to restore a natural spring near South African village of Leliefontein.
World Wildlife Fund	202/293-4800	79.98%	\$20.39	\$126,119,458	Y	Has more than 1,000 on-the-ground conservation projects.
National Wildlife Federation	800/822-9919	79.57%	\$16.22	\$71,693,485	Y	Working to reduce the number of animals killed on U.S. highways.
Nature Conservancy	703/841-5300	78.90%	\$14.65	\$501,935,806	N	Works in all 50 states and more than 30 countries to protect animals, plants.
Humane Society of the United States	202/452-1100	77.07%	\$18.48	\$131,213,883	Y	Looked after 16,000 animals at five care centers.
American Forests	202/737-1744	73.81%	\$7.94	\$6,141,818	N	Planted more than 5 million trees through Global Releaf.
Amer. Soc. for Prev. of Cruelty to Animals	212/876-7700	73.71%	\$23.74	\$108,547,614	Y	Finds homes for hundreds of animals that were abused.
Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee	931/796-6500	70.81%	\$5.31	\$4,170,034	N	Shelters old, sick or needy elephants.
Health						
Help the Children	323/980-9870	99.63%	\$0.09	\$75,680,217	N	Has served more than 13,000 families in the Santa Clarita Valley.
Christian Blind Mission International	800/937-2264	98.87%	\$0.57	\$94,948,336	Y	Served 36.1 million people living with disabilities or in poverty in 2011.
American Kidney Fund	800/638-8299	97.45%	\$1.74	\$221,378,663	Y	Helped 70,000 dialysis patients maintain health insurance coverage in 2010.
National Cancer Coalition	919/821-2182	97.22%	\$1.69	\$180,027,870	Y	Provides access to medical care & drugs to fight chronic disease and cancer.
Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center	212/639-2000	96.67%	\$17.64	\$244,625,000	Y	Opened Center for Image-Guided Interventions in 2010.
Scrrips Research Institute, The	858/784-8134	94.92%	\$2.57	\$100,351,404	N	Discovered potential molecular trigger for wound repair in 2012.
CureSearch/National Childhood Cancer	800/458-6223	94.64%	\$28.28	\$9,647,471	N	Supports children's cancer research and provides resources to all affected.
Population Services (International)	202/785-0072	94.38%	\$0.25	\$130,650,772	N	Distributed 1.2 billion condoms in 2010.
National Organization for Rare Disorders	800/999-6673	93.30%	\$2.45	\$11,404,350	Y	Administered more than \$20 million in patient support in 2009.
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation	800/344-4823	91.74%	\$12.78	\$126,294,688	N	Validated that small molecules can repair the faulty CFTR protein.
Breast Cancer Research Foundation	646/497-2600	91.49%	\$5.99	\$40,551,907	N	Supports 197 dedicated researchers globally.
Michael J. Fox Found. Parkinson's Res.	212/509-0995	91.03%	\$6.87	\$62,693,018	N	Launched study to validate biomarkers of Parkinson's disease in 2010.
JOHN	503/232-2031	90.64%	\$21.59	\$573,358	N	Provided housing to more than 600 individuals in 2011.
Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation	203/229-0464	89.76%	\$6.08	\$25,257,494	N	Directed \$14 million toward research in 2010.
Mout Sinai Medical Ctr. Foundation	305/674-2777	89.66%	\$4.64	\$42,949,858	N	New Center for Science and Medicine scheduled for completion in 2012.
Shriners Hospitals (for Children)	813/281-0300	88.71%	\$0.03	\$66,826,000	N	Cares for children with orthopedic conditions and burn injuries.
Cleveland Clinic Foundation	800/223-2773	88.44%	\$12.56	\$102,202,236	N	Discovered adult brain neurons can regenerate in 2011.
Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory	516/367-8397	88.36%	\$0.40	\$52,552,476	N	Developed methods allowing superior understanding of tumor development.
Project ORBIS (International)	646/674-5500	86.42%	\$6.27	\$78,443,310	N	Flying Eye Hospital conducted eight programs in 2010.
American Lung Association	800/586-4872	85.94%	\$19.07	\$10,873,322	Y	Launched Healthy Air campaign in 2011 to protect the Clean Air Act.
Action on Smoking and Health	202/659-4310	85.83%	\$7.00	\$2,662,280	Y	Fights issues of smoking and for the rights of nonsmokers.
Population Council, The	212/339-0500	85.43%	\$3.30	\$16,198,435	N	Developed a new model for training community midwives in Kenya.
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute	617/632-3000	85.25%	\$6.41	\$221,852,766	N	Conducted 694 clinical trials in 2011.
Salk Institute for Biological Studies	858/453-4100	84.75%	\$6.72	\$51,923,117	N	Dedicated to fundamental research in biology to advance human health.
Cancer Research Institute	800/992-2623	84.63%	\$9.76	\$14,038,843	Y	Performed extensive research in immunology-based cancer treatment.
Mayo Clinic	507/284-5005	83.83%	\$11.19	\$253,099,996	N	Built facilities to house a proton beam therapy program in 2011.
City of Hope	800/826-4673	83.52%	\$26.47	\$88,405,564	Y	Has performed more than 10,000 bone-marrow and stem-cell transplants.
National Breast Cancer Foundation	972/248-9200	83.12%	\$8.85	\$11,632,463	N	Provides free breast-care services through national mammography program.
Fistula Foundation	866/756-3700	82.31%	\$10.76	\$3,392,903	N	Expanded reach into 14 countries in Africa and Asia in 2010.
Juvenile Diabetes Research Found. Intl	800/533-2873	82.28%	\$11.22	\$194,629,941	Y	Funded \$107 million in diabetes research.
Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Found.	877/465-6636	81.17%	\$12.80	\$174,110,386	Y	Funded \$40 million for programs targeting African-American women in 2010.
Parkinson's Disease Foundation	212/923-4700	81.03%	\$14.50	\$8,468,452	N	Provided \$5.5 million in Parkinson's research in 2010.
Lance Armstrong Foundation (Livestrong)	877/236-8820	80.45%	\$19.20	\$21,990,267	Y	Raised more than \$100 million with Nike for the fight against cancer.
National Breast Cancer Coalition Fund	800/622-2838	79.56%	\$22.08	\$3,233,305	Y	Secured funding for Department of Defense Breast cancer research in 2010.
American Brain Tumor Association	800/886-2282	79.21%	\$34.18	\$3,974,151	N	Works to advance the diagnosis and treatment of brain tumors.
American Heart Association	800/242-8721	79.18%	\$16.30	\$499,191,000	Y	Initiatives and programs promote healthier lifestyles and heart health.
Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America	800/932-2423	79.17%	\$9.97	\$41,618,651	N	Research for improving treatment of inflammatory bowel diseases.
Heritage Foundation, The	800/546-2843	78.63%	\$20.49	\$73,957,186	Y	Involved in 47 congressional testimonies throughout 2011.
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society	800/955-4572	78.13%	\$9.04	\$46		