

Gmail - Your GiveForward Fundraising Page has been Suspended

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Vanessa Valenzuela <vdvalenzuela@gmail.com>

Your GiveForward Fundraising Page has been Suspended

Vanessa Valenzuela <vdvalenzuela@gmail.com>
To: caitlin.calder@ct.gov

Mon, May 13, 2013 at 10:20 AM

Hello,

Please find the answers to the questionnaire sent to me on May 2nd, 2013 regarding the "Sandy Hook Elementary School Memorial Fund" donation page I set up on GiveForward.com.

Name of Organization: There is no organization; this was initiated by myself as an individual. I titled the donation page as the "Sandy Hook Elementary School Memorial Fund" on GiveForward.com.

1. The approximate dollar amount of donations and pledges raised in response to the Sandy Hook tragedy is: \$1,176.96
2. These funds are to be used solely for the victims of the Sandy Hook tragedy.
3. No funds have been spent by me to date on the Sandy Hook tragedy.
4. Not applicable; I am not an organization, but an individual who was reaching out to friends and family who were interested in donating to help pay for the funeral costs of the Sandy Hook victims. There are currently no additional services or fund raisers intended to be organized by me in the future related to the Sandy Hook tragedy.
5. Not applicable.
6. All funds raised from the GiveForward web page I personally created were intended to provide direct financial assistance and alleviate some of the financial burden to the families that suffered the loss of a loved one in the Sandy Hook tragedy. The full amount of roughly \$1177 dollars was sent directly to the official Sandy Hook School Support Fund c/o Newtown Savings Bank, 39 Main Street, Newtown, CT 06470.
7. There were no surplus funds, as the entire amount raised went directly to the relief fund.

Please also see the FWD'd email I have from the GiveForward representative clarifying where the check was directly sent to and which account those funds were distributed.

Thank you,

Vanessa Valenzuela

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Caiti Stout** <cstout@giveforward.com>

Date: Wed, Jan 23, 2013 at 12:11 PM

Subject: Re: Your GiveForward Fundraising Page has been Suspended

To: Vanessa Valenzuela <vdvalenzuela@gmail.com>

Hey Vanessa,

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Thank you for getting back to me so quickly. I went ahead and changed the beneficiary to the Sandy Hook School Support Fund. When the fundraiser ends on January 31st, we will be issuing funds directly to the Newton Savings Bank.

I also reactivated your page so that you can continue to promote and receive donations.

Let me know if there is anything else I can do for you.

Caiti

On Wed, Jan 23, 2013 at 11:59 AM, Vanessa Valenzuela <vdvalenzuela@gmail.com> wrote:
Hi Caiti,

Thanks for the information. I would rather not put myself as the beneficiary for the reasons you've stated below, as I'd also hate to deter people from donating, especially with some of the negative media attention that was given a few weeks ago from a fraudulent donation account.

Do I have the ability to modify the beneficiary on the web page? Or is that something you can do? I'd like to change the beneficiary to the official Sandy Hook School Support Fund so they directly receive the funds.

Please let me know if you can facilitate this change or if this is something I need to manually do.

Thanks again for your help and information,

Vanessa

On Wed, Jan 23, 2013 at 11:04 AM, Caiti Stout <cstout@giveforward.com> wrote:
Hey Vanessa,

You may have noticed that we manually ended your GiveForward page today. I apologize for the misunderstanding, but GiveForward cannot legally issue funds to non-profit organizations, 501(c)3s and/or any tax-exempt groups.

GiveForward's policy is to always issue funds directly to individuals. If you'd like for us to list you as the beneficiary of your page to collect funds from your friends and family, we can make an exception so you can continue your fundraising. However, please keep in mind that listing yourself as both the organizer and beneficiary of your page may cause some confusion and deter donations.

We have been suggesting that all Sandy Hook Fundraisers on GiveForward.com change the beneficiary to the official Sandy Hook School Support Fund c/o Newtown Savings Bank 39 Main Street, Newtown CT 06470. If you'd like more information on that, you can read into it here: <https://newtown.uwwesternct.org/>

Feel free to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns. Again, I'm sorry for the misunderstanding.

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Caiti Stout
Fundraising Coach
caiti@giveforward.com
(772) 261-GIVE(4483)

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