

# 1Minute with 1Vision

## A Donor Bill of Rights

During and since the election, people have discussed our rights as citizens and what the U.S. Constitution says. Excellent! You already know it begins with the Bill of Rights, the first 10 amendments that articulate our freedoms.

The Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) ratified its own Bill of Rights for Donors. As an AFP member, I review and sign this document annually – yet you may not know it exists, so here it is. Many of our clients are nonprofits... acting for the common good. The strength of their support comes from the respect and trust of their individual donors, who, in turn, express that confidence by giving of their time, talent, and treasure. Those donors have rights:

- I. To be informed of the organization's mission, of the way the organization intends to use donated resources, and of its capacity to use donations effectively for their intended purposes.*
- II. To be informed of the identity of those serving on the organization's governing board, and to expect the board to exercise prudent judgment in its stewardship responsibilities.*
- III. To have access to the organization's most recent financial statements.*
- IV. To be assured their gifts will be used for the purposes for which they were given.*
- V. To receive appropriate acknowledgement and recognition.*
- VI. To be assured that information about their donation is handled with respect and with confidentiality to the extent provided by law.*
- VII. To expect that all relationships with individuals representing organizations of interest to the donor will be professional in nature.*
- VIII. To be informed whether those seeking donations are volunteers, employees of the organization or hired solicitors.*
- IX. To have the opportunity for their names to be deleted from mailing lists that an organization may intend to share.*
- X. To feel free to ask questions when making a donation and to receive prompt, truthful and forthright answers.*

Serving donors with transparency, accountability, and integrity is a great recipe for long-term success.

Sincerely,



Blake Conover, President