



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
NEWS RELEASE

ATTORNEY GENERAL RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER
PROTECTION COMMISSIONER EDWIN R.
RODRIGUEZ

TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2005

***ATTORNEY GENERAL, DCP DISTRIBUTE HOLY TRINITY
SETTLEMENT TO CANCER CHARITIES***

Attorney General Richard Blumenthal and Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) Commissioner Edwin R. Rodriguez today announced they are donating the remaining \$110,000 in settlement money from a case of illegal charity solicitation to four cancer charities.

Blumenthal's office negotiated a \$120,000 settlement in 2003 with Holy Trinity Community Centers LLC for allegedly violating Connecticut's charitable solicitation law and CMRK Inc. for allegedly violating the state's unfair trade practices law.

The two companies had an arrangement where Holy Trinity solicited clothing donations through drop boxes throughout the state, claiming the proceeds would benefit breast cancer charities and underage drinking prevention. CMRK paid Holy Trinity for the clothing and sold it for profit to third world countries. Little to none of the proceeds went to breast cancer charities.

The state – which recently received the final settlement payment – will donate \$10,000 to Y-Me of Connecticut; \$33,000 to Susan G. Komen Foundation; \$33,000 to Connecticut Breast Health Initiative, Inc.; and \$34,000 to the American Cancer Society, Connecticut Chapter, to benefit breast cancer research, support and prevention.

“This contribution will finally fulfill its worthy intended cause – funding breast cancer support and research,” Blumenthal said. “Holy Trinity and CMRK perversely profited from donations meant for breast cancer charities. Holy Trinity failed to honor its charitable purpose, so we did it for them.”

MEDIA CONTACTS

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE
TARA YORK OR CHRISTOPHER HOFFMAN 860-808-5324
713-6020

DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION
CLAUDETTE CARVETH 860-

Rodriguez said, “I’m sure the generous consumers who made their donations in good faith will be gratified to know these charities will benefit directly from this settlement. I’m pleased that we were able to right this wrong.”

Last year the state donated \$10,000 of the settlement money to MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving). Holy Trinity had also represented that MADD was one of its charitable beneficiaries.

Holy Trinity, based in South Windsor, has ceased operating. CMRK, a Massachusetts company, continues to operate.

*****END*****

MEDIA CONTACTS

**ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE
TARA YORK OR CHRISTOPHER HOFFMAN 860-808-5324
713-6020**

**DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION
CLAUDETTE CARVETH 860-**