**Scams Affect Nonprofits and Taxpayers**

The Chronicle of Philanthropy recently reported that Atlantic Philanthropies had its website hacked and emails were sent out to individuals stating that the foundation was planning to give away $1 million randomly. Of course the hackers wanted personal and bank account information. The foundation announced that they were made aware of 7 such attacks during the past 18 months.

The Chronicle announced that there had been over 6,000 attacks on charitable organization websites during the first half of 2014. Some of the other high profile foundations included The Walton Family Foundation (Sam and Helen Walton) telling recipients to claim their $5 million, and the Nelson Mandela Foundation, which reported dozens of scams over the past four years.

Make sure you carefully monitor your website and promptly follow up on any reports of possible scams. Report attempts to law enforcement including the US Computer Emergency Readiness Team and the Internet Crime Complaint Center. The Chronicle article tells you not to expect prompt follow-up on your report. The Internet Crime Complaint Center stated they received 3 million complaints since their inception in 2000.

Scam phone calls and emails purporting to be IRS have stolen enormous amounts of money from taxpayers. These appear credible because they can change caller ID to show that the IRS or another agency is calling and they will have quite a bit of information about you (readily available online). They will provide names and badge numbers. They threaten account seizure, criminal charges, and loss of your driver's license.

IRS recently put out a news release to help us identify scammers. IRS said they will never do any of the following:

* call demanding immediate payment, or call you before they have mailed you a bill
* demand that you pay without giving you the opportunity to question or appeal what you owe
* require a specific method of payment such as a prepaid debit card
* ask for your credit card number by phone
* threaten to bring in police or have you arrested or lose your driver's license

Call us if you're not sure or tell the caller to contact us. I returned the questionable call for a client that was an obvious scam. The caller didn't want to talk to me.

Tell your friends and relatives about these threats.