

You Won't Believe the Overhead Costs at These 10 Nonprofits

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NEW YORK ([TheStreet](#)) -- When donating to a nonprofit, you like to think that most of your money is going towards its stated goal, and that the nonprofit spends most of its money towards making the world a better place. Sometimes, however, the nonprofit spends more money on its overhead costs, such as fundraising and paying management, than on other efforts.

Thanks to some data from Charity Navigator, we have the top 10 charities with high overhead costs. These are largely smaller charities, probably ones you've never heard of, that look to spend almost all of their funds on overhead costs.

However, we should note that except in extreme cases, Charity Navigator believes that focusing on overhead without considering other critical dimensions of a charity's financial and organizational performance can do more damage than good. They further believe that the most critical dimension in evaluating a nonprofit has to do with it achieving meaningful results. To read more on this topic, see Charity Navigator's President & CEO's related articles:

Also note that there are about 1.4 million nonprofits in the US. Of those, about 1 million are public charities. Charity Navigator rates over 7,700 of them (which account for 50% of annual donations when excluding houses of worship). As such, the "top nonprofits with the highest overhead costs" are not of the universe of U.S. charities, but of those that Charity Navigator tracks.

10. Police Protective Fund

Total Overhead: 93.1%

Tenth on this list, with 93.1% of all funds in 2012 going to overhead costs, is the Police Protective Fund. In 2012, the nonprofit spent 70.6% of its money on fundraising and 22.6% on management and general costs. The nonprofit gave 2.1% of its funds to CEO Phil LeConte.

The Police Protective Fund was founded in 1998 by the leaders of the American Association of Police Officers. The goal of the nonprofit is to enhance public safety and the public's understanding of "law enforcement safety issues."

9. United States Deputy Sheriff's Association

Total Overhead: 93.4%

Ninth on the list is the United States Deputy Sheriff's Association, which spent 93.4% of its funds on overhead costs in 2012. The nonprofit spent 88.4% of its funds on fundraising, and 5% on management and general costs in the year. CEO Thomas Palms received 1.2% of the charity's funds in 2012.

The United States Deputy Sheriff's Association was founded in 1995 in Houston, Texas. The nonprofit's goal is to provide needed equipment to underfunded county law enforcement agencies, mostly in rural areas, for free.

8. Shiloh International Ministries

Total Overhead: 93.9%

Shiloh International Ministries spent a total of 93.9% of its funds on overhead costs in 2012, making it eighth on the list. The nonprofit spent 80% of its funds on fundraising, and 13.8% on management and general costs. The nonprofit gave 3.8% of its funds to CEO Wallace E. Christensen in 2012.

The California-based charity's goal is to help improve the quality of life of disabled and "needy" children as well as the homeless, the hungry, veterans and children's hospitals.

7. Children's Charity Fund, Inc.

Total Overhead: 93.9%

Seventh on the list is the Children's Charity Fund, Inc., which spent 93.9% of its funds on overhead costs. In 2012 the nonprofit spent 84.1% of its funds on fundraising and 9.8% on management and general costs. The nonprofit did not report any information about its CEO during 2012.

Children's Charity Fund, Inc. was founded in 1991 with the goal of education and informing people about the needs of handicapped and disabled children. The nonprofit provides referral services and runs a national hotline for handicapped children, according to Charity Navigator.

6. Heart Support of America

Total Overhead: 94.4%

Heart Support of America is sixth on the list, with 94.4% of its funds going to overhead costs in 2012. A total of 74.7% of the nonprofit's funds went to fundraising and 19.8% on management and general costs. CEO Laura M. Perry received a total of 2.4% of the charity's funds in 2012.

The Knoxville-based charity raises funds to provide "education, program services and primarily direct aid to heart patients," according to Charity Navigator. The nonprofit has numerous goals that include promoting and providing "education, financial assistance, aid and support to heart patients with limited or depleted financial resources" as well as "grants, commodities and gifts-in-kind to hospices and other health care providers."

5. Faith's Hope Foundation

Total Overhead: 95.5%

With 95.5% of its funds spent on overhead costs in 2011, Faith's Hope Foundation is fifth on the list. A total of 94.3% of the nonprofit's funds went to fundraising in the year, while 1.3% went to management and general costs. The nonprofit gave 1.3% of its funds to CEO Marcus Greene in 2011.

Faith's Hope Foundation was founded in order to "provide a solution for medically and financially disadvantaged families," according to the charity. The name of the charity is actually an acronym for "Family Assistance In The Hospital Specializing in Helping Others Pay Expenses."

4. Walker Cancer Research Institute

Total Overhead: 96.4%

Fourth on the list is Walker Cancer Research Institute, which spent 96.4% of its total funds on overhead in 2012. The nonprofit spent 91.1% of its money to raise more funds and 5.3% for management and general costs. CEO Helen Marie Walker received 1.3% of the nonprofit's funds in 2012.

The Maryland-based nonprofit was founded in 1981 with the goal of finding more effective cancer treatments. The nonprofit operates research labs in both Maryland and Florida to work on those treatments. Walker Cancer Research Institute also provides information about early cancer symptom detection and treatment options.

3. Texas Stampede

Total Overhead: 97%

In 2012, Texas Stampede spent 97% of its total funds on overhead. The nonprofit spent a relatively low (for this list) 29.8% of its funds on fundraising in the year, but a very high 67.2% on management and general costs. The nonprofit also gave 25.8% of its funds -- \$75,000 -- to CEO Zandy Carnes that year.

The Dallas-based nonprofit was formed in 2001 with the goal of improving the quality of life for the children and families served by charitable programs at the Children's Medical Center of Dallas. The nonprofit tries to accomplish its goal with entertainment and educational activities that feature "Western culture," according to Charity Navigator.

2. Efrat-C.R.I.B.

Total Overhead: 98.2%

Second on the list is Efrat-C.R.I.B., which spent 98.2% of its total funds on overhead in 2012. The nonprofit spent 93.3% of its total funds on fundraising in the year, and 4.9% on management and general costs. Unlike others on this list, CEO Eliyahu Schusseim didn't receive any compensation that year.

Efrat-C.R.I.B. is based in New York City. The nonprofit's goal is "to inform women faced with an unwanted pregnancy that there are choices." Efrat first began with the goal to increase the Jewish birth rate in Israel.

1. Scottsdale League for the Arts

Total Overhead: 98.5%

Top of this list is the Scottsdale League for the Arts, which spent 98.5% of its fund on overhead in 2011. Of its total funds, 82% went to fundraising while 16.5% went to management and general costs. The nonprofit spent 6.8% of its funds for 2012 to pay CEO Joe Zanolich.

The Scottsdale League for the Arts was founded in 1978 as the Men's League of the Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts. The nonprofit's goal is to support arts and arts education in Arizona.