

# Make a Difference

Dave Castleberry

The French have a proverb: “No one is so generous as he who has nothing to give.” As a university student, I assumed that the more money or resources I had, the easier it would be to give of those resources to charity. I’d tell myself, I’ll give to this or that charity when I have some extra money. I’m beginning to realize, however, that I will probably never have the luxury of “extra cash.” But, given the recent tragic events in the United States, I realize how little material things matter. Rather, I know that whatever I can give will make a difference to someone. As a result, I—like many others throughout the world—am looking for ways to give both my time and money.

## WEB SITES

The Internet is a great resource for finding good charities. Unfortunately, the Internet is also a place where scam artists are having a field day. Criminals have been using false charities to line their pockets for years, but with the Internet, the danger is even greater. Fortunately, you can use **Give.org** ([www.give.org](http://www.give.org)) to determine if a charity is legitimate or not. You can also find out who really benefits from the money you donate to a charity.

Give.org is the new site of the BBB Wise Giving Alliance, which was formed by the merger of the National Charities Information Bureau, the Council of Better Business Bureaus’ Foundation, and the Council’s Philanthropic Advisory Service. The Alliance reports on charities and other organizations that solicit donations. Reports are generated based on the volume of inquiries received about a particular charity or organization.

Each report includes an evaluation of the charity in relation to the 23 provisions of the voluntary CBBB Standards for Charitable Solicitations. These standards include proper public accountability, ethical use of funds, proper solicitations and informational materials, honest fund-raising practices, and competent governance.

At Give.org you can access reports about numerous charities and organizations. However, this web site is not necessarily comprehensive. Hundreds of thousands of charities and nonprofit organizations exist in the United States alone. If you want to know more about a charity but can’t find any information at Give.org, try visiting **GuideStar** ([www.guidestar.com](http://www.guidestar.com)).

At GuideStar, you can search through a database of more than 700,000 U.S. nonprofit organizations to find contact and financial information about specific organizations. You can also subscribe to GuideStar and take advantage of its Charity Check, which provides even more information about a particular char-

ity’s practices. You can also order the *2001 GuideStar Nonprofit Compensation Report*, a study of compensation practices in nonprofit organizations.

As the relief effort in New York and Washington D.C. continues, many charities have set up special funds for those directly affected by the September 11 disaster. You can view a list of these charities by visiting the **American Liberty Partnership** web site ([www.libertyunites.com](http://www.libertyunites.com)). This web site also reports the amount of donations that have been made by the online community.

After contributing to the September 11 disaster relief, you may also want to reach out to help people in other countries. For example, **Deseret International** ([www.deseret-international.org](http://www.deseret-international.org)) is a nonprofit humanitarian healthcare foundation. Working with physicians in partner countries, Deseret International establishes ongoing programs for the surgical repair of medical problems. Deseret International particularly seeks to help children and focuses on procedures such as cleft lip/palate repairs, club foot corrections, cataract surgeries, corneal transplants, and post-polio procedures. You can visit the foundation’s web site to see some amazing before-and-after photographs.

To provide these services, Deseret International relies on doctors and healthcare providers to volunteer their time and skills. The foundation also relies on donations to secure medical supplies and equipment. According to the foundation’s web site, Deseret International keeps its overhead under 5 percent.

You may also want to check out the **Tabitha Foundation** ([www.tabitha.ca](http://www.tabitha.ca)), which was founded to teach people in Cambodia skills and then take their wares to market for them. As you know, Cambodia was devastated by the Khmer Rouge and is still trying to recover. The Tabitha Foundation not only tries to help Cambodians financially, but also seeks to teach the people skills and to provide an industry that will help them long term.

At the foundation’s web site, you can purchase products that Cambodians have created. For example, you can purchase children’s toys, baskets, silk scarves, silver pendants, ornaments, hand-embroidered silk cards, or table cloths.

Of course, we at *Novell Connection* have a vested interest in the Cambodian people since one of our staff adopted a child from that country several years ago. We think you will find the products available at the Tabitha Foundation wonderful gifts.

According to the Foundation’s web site, all members of the Tabitha Foundation are volunteers and receive no remuneration, ensuring that all donations and a high percentage of the sales from products go directly to Cambodia.

Charities that fund medical research are particularly important to me. For example, I have a vested interest in cancer research be-

## Product Snapshots

With technology advancing all around us, new products hit the market every day. Product Snapshots gives you a first look at some of the new gadgets on the market that we find interesting. (Please note that these are first looks; we have not conducted exhaustive testing of the products.)

### GARMIN STREETPILOT III

StreetPilot III is the newest portable GPS navigation system available from Garmin. Garmin has improved StreetPilot III by adding turn-by-turn navigation and voice prompting on a 16-color, higher-resolution display.

With Street Pilot III, you can download street-level mapsets onto a removable memory cartridge, insert the card into the StreetPilot III, and place your system on the dash of your vehicle. Unlike other in-car navigation systems that boast portability, the StreetPilot III does not require monthly service fees, installation, or an external processor.

The Garmin StreetPilot is listed for as low as U.S. \$999.99.

For more information, you can visit Garmin's web site at [www.garmin.com](http://www.garmin.com).

### GARMIN EMAP

Garmin eMap features an internal basemap that contains information about North and South America, including state and country boundaries; lakes; rivers; streams; airports; cities; towns; coastlines; and U.S., state, and interstate highways. With eMap, you can also find exit information for the U.S. federal interstate highways, and you can easily find services such as food, lodging, and service stations. eMap operates on two AA batteries for up to 12 hours.

When the eMap is paired with the MetroGuide USA CD-ROM, you have the ability to look up address and telephone number information for nearby services and points of interest. MetroGuide USA is easily transferable from a PC to the eMap unit: You simply insert the included 8 MB data cartridge, select a location, and download the data.

Garmin eMap with Metroguide USA retails for U.S. \$349.99. For more information about the eMap or the Metroguide USA, you can visit Garmin's web site at [www.garmin.com](http://www.garmin.com). ●

cause this disease has attacked members of my family. **The National Foundation for Cancer Research** ([www.nfcr.org](http://www.nfcr.org)) conducts cancer research and provides information about cancer to the public.

At the National Foundation for Cancer Research's web site, you can learn more about current cancer research and the prevention and treatment of cancer, and you can donate to the cause of fighting cancer. The National Foundation for Cancer Research also provides a comprehensive list of cancer-related links.

One of the most popular charities is the **Make a Wish Foundation** ([www.wish.org](http://www.wish.org)), which grants wishes to children who are terminally ill. For example, children can go to places such as Disney World or meet their sports heroes. You can visit the Make a Wish Foundation web site to read the results of the efforts of those involved in this organization. At [www.wish.org](http://www.wish.org), you can also find out how to donate your resources to help these children.

If you would like to contribute to a charity but can't spare much money, check out **SERVEnet** ([www.servenet.org](http://www.servenet.org)), a web site sponsored by the Young Service of America. Here you can find opportunities to donate your time. At SERVENet, you can enter your zip code, city, state, skills, interests, and availability, and be matched with organizations that need help.

### GAME OF THE MONTH

B-17: Flying Fortress, November's game-of-the-month, possesses graphics

so realistic and beautiful that those of you with weaker stomachs may actually experience vertigo. In fact, the only way you could experience greater realism flying missions on a B-17 is to go back in time to World War II and volunteer for the United States Air Force.

As you fly over England, Germany, and France, you will be amazed at the beautiful scenery stretching out in front of your squadron. Also, the planes are rendered in exquisite detail.

In addition to traditional flight simulation, B-17: Flying Fortress adds strategy to the mix. On each mission, you command and control 10 different crew members—or you can command a specific airman. For example, you can be the pilot doing his best to steady the plane in heavy flak, or you can jump into the shoes of the bombardier as you release bombs over a target.

Rather than choosing to command a single crew, you can choose to plan, coordinate, and command a mission of up to 12 B-17s. From reconnaissance to mid-air decisions to returning safely home, you control the mission. Being in charge of the details of the missions can get tedious—but what some call tedious, others call control.

Along with flying the big bombers, you can also jump in the cockpit of one of the escort fighters. You can even choose to pilot a Luftwaffe plane and try to shoot down the American fighters and bombers. You have many options

for each bombing run.

The biggest problem with the game is that it is too accurate to World War II bombing missions. For long stretches of flights, nothing happens. You can fast forward your flights until you reach your bombing target (the computer will stop your time leap if you encounter enemy planes or flak), but mindless fast forwarding can get old.

The planes also handle like older planes. If you have simulation experience flying more modern planes, flying B-17s and even the fighters can feel like flying a bathtub. Despite these drawbacks, if you are a propeller head with any penchant for history, you probably will be thrilled with this game.

B-17: Flying Fortress requires, as a minimum, a Pentium II 300 MHz or faster, 128 MB of RAM, 700 MB free space, 8 MB VRAM, Windows 95/98/ME-compatible sound card, and DirectX-compatible joystick. ●



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