

Fundraisers pocket nearly half of charity donations

By Teri Sforza, Orange County Register

Commercial fundraisers – the middlemen who hit you up for charitable donations by phone, mail and outside the supermarket – often pocket a big chunk of the dough. And it's only growing: They extracted a stunning 90 percent more money from do-gooders in 2014 as they did in 2013, according to the California Attorney General's latest numbers.

These often for-profit firms raked in \$687.7 million from well-meaning Californians last year. They gave a bit more than half of it to charities – \$371.9 million – and kept \$315.8 million for themselves.

Most kind-hearted donors have no idea that so much of their donation gets waylaid, and some in the fundraising business have harsh words for the charities that employ them.

Read the whole story