

April 2, 2014

### **Charges Against Man Who Kept Charitable Donations Meant for Wounded Warrior Project**

*St. Charles County*- Prosecuting Attorney Tim Lohmar announces criminal charges against William Harshbarger for stealing donations meant for the Wounded Warrior Project. Tim Lohmar, along with Missouri Attorney General Chris Koster, filed seven felony counts against Harshbarger including forgery, stealing, misrepresentation in soliciting charity funds, and financial exploitation of the elderly.

Charges in St. Charles County stem from multiple incidents. Harshbarger often collected funds outside of Wal-Mart in O'Fallon, Missouri that he alleged would go to the Wounded Warrior Project. When an elderly woman gave him a check for \$30, he altered it to read \$300. During a tribute to Veterans Day, Living Word Christian School collected money that Harshbarger stated would go to the local Wounded Warrior Project when in fact there is no local chapter.

"Law enforcement won't stand by and allow genuine and caring citizens in our community to be illegally deceived," Lohmar said.

"Many good-hearted people give money to organizations they believe in," Koster said. "My office will not stand by when an individual collects donations, falsely, in the name of an organization and then keeps the money for himself."

Harshbarger was also indicted in St. Louis County with four criminal counts. St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney Robert P. McCulloch and Koster issued charges for stealing by deceit and misrepresentation in soliciting charity funds.

Harshbarger is currently in custody at the St. Charles County Jail. His bond is set at \$35,000. His next court appearance on this case will be at the St. Charles Circuit Courts on May 13, 2014.



STATE OF MISSOURI ) Case No.  
 ) SS.  
COUNTY OF ST. CHARLES ) Felony

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ST. CHARLES COUNTY, MISSOURI  
ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT DIVISION

STATE OF MISSOURI, )  
 )  
 )  
 Plaintiff, )  
 )  
 v. )  
 )  
 WILLIAM RONALD HARSHBARGER )  
 DOB: )  
 SSN: )  
 W/M )  
 Ht: 5'7" Wt: 135 )  
 Address: 11 - Clydesdale Dr. )  
 St. Charles, MO 63304 )  
 )  
 Defendant )

PROBABLE CAUSE STATEMENT

I, Shelly Land, an Investigator with the Missouri Attorney General's Office, knowing that false statements on this form are punishable by law, state that the facts contained herein are true.

We have probable cause to believe that William Ronald Harshbarger, SSN \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_, on or about May 16, 2012, through November 27, 2012, in St. Charles County, Missouri, committed one or more criminal offense(s) in the State of Missouri.

The facts supporting this belief are as follows:

1. On June 13, 2013, I spoke to a Wounded Warrior Project (hereinafter WWP) representative from the national organization, who advised two men were fraudulently soliciting funds on behalf of WWP at various retail stores in and around St. Charles County, Missouri. One of the men was identified as William Harshbarger.
2. The WWP representative advised Harshbarger had a Facebook page which displayed the WWP name and logo.
3. The representative confirmed the WWP volunteer database does not have a record Harshbarger volunteering for WWP and the WWP donations database does not have a record of receiving donations from Harshbarger.
4. Harshbarger is not authorized to conduct WWP activities.
5. Harshbarger used fabricated documents to open a bank account at First Community Credit Union in the name of "Wounded Warrior Project" and to gain access to solicit at various stores.

### WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT

1. On or about November 14, 2012, Harshbarger opened a bank account under the WWP name at First Community Credit Union inside Walmart located in St. Peters, St. Charles County, Missouri. The total amount deposited into that account is \$5,180.

P            S

6. On or about May 16, 2012, P            S            age 64, went to the Walmart located in O'Fallon, St. Charles County, Missouri and saw a Wounded Warrior Project (WWP) tent and logo in front of the store. P.S. wanted to give a donation and told the WWP representative (Later identified as Harshbarger) she didn't have cash and asked if she could write a check. P.S. wrote a check made payable to "Wounded Warrior Project" in the amount of \$30.00. While filling out the check, P.S. forgot to fill in the line where you write out the amount of the check.
7. The next day, P.S. checked her bank account and there was a \$300 charge on her statement. P.S. immediately called the national WWP organization who advised her they did not process

that check. The WWP national organization told P.S. all donations have their office. P.S. said she was told to ask Walmart how the people soliciting on behalf of WWP were registered. P.S. stated she contacted Walmart who confirmed WWP was registered to solicit at the Highway K location in O'Fallon, Missouri.

8. P.S. assisted O'Fallon, Missouri police department in identifying the individual who altered the check as William Harshbarger. Harshbarger wrote the dollar amount on the check himself where P.S. accidentally left it blank.

K      J

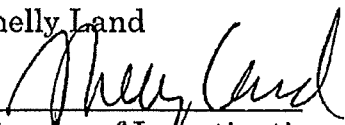
9. K J was leading the fundraising event, scheduled to take place November 5-7, 2012, for Veteran's Day at the Living Word Christian School located in St. Charles County, Missouri. K.J. met the WWP representative who introduced himself as Billy (William) Harshbarger at the Hwy K Walmart in O'Fallon, St. Charles County, Missouri. K.J. saw Harshbarger soliciting donations at Walmart on several occasions so she asked Harshbarger to assist with the school conducting a 3 day collection for WWP during Veteran's Day week on behalf of the school. Harshbarger agreed to be the WWP recipient for the local WWP chapter.
10. Harshbarger provided K.J. a Federal tax ID number and gave his home address because he said the WWP local office was not fully functional.
11. On November 27, 2012, Living Word Christian School provided Harshbarger a check in the amount of \$749.05. K.J. mailed donations to Harshbarger's home. K.J. provided a copy of the school's purchase order which lists Harshbarger's name and address of 11 - Clydesdale Dr. St. Charles, Missouri 63304 and the amount \$749.05.
12. Harshbarger represented to K.J. that all donations would be going to WWP.

K      K

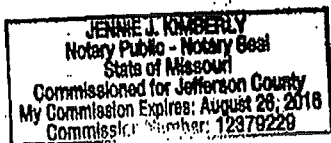
13. On or about November 6, 2012, K      K made a donation to Wounded Warrior Project (WWP) in response to an email she received on November 2, 2012, from her child's school, Living Word Christian School, located in St. Charles County, Missouri. K.K. stated the school was hosting a fundraiser for the local WWP.
14. K.K. gave a donation of \$100.00 via check made payable to "Wounded Warrior Project" which was deposited into the First Community Credit Union account belonging to Harshbarger. K.K. stated the email was sent by the school fundraising coordinator, K.J. , and advised parents to put "WWP-SSG Harshbarger" on the memo line of the check if they wished to contribute.

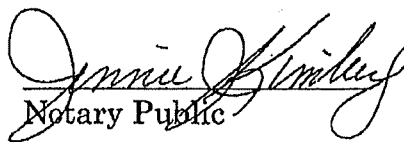
William Harshbarger is currently on probation and has previous felony convictions, to include Theft/stealing, class C felony, to which he plead guilty in St. Louis County on May 26, 2011.

Shelly Land

  
Director of Investigations  
Consumer Protection Division  
Attorney General's Office

Subscribed and sworn before me this 26 day of February, 2014.



  
Notary Public

My commission expires: Aug. 26, 2016