SCENARIO 1

Your charity receives a cash donation by cheque from Albert Smith. The name on the cheque is Albert Smith.

WHO IS THE TRUE DONOR?

Albert Smith is the true donor, and you can issue an official donation receipt in his name.

SCENARIO 2

Miguel and Hanna own Clean It Yourself, a laundromat. Hanna donates a used washing machine from the laundromat to your charity. The fair market value of the used machine is $100. Hanna asks you to put her name on the donation receipt.

WHO IS THE TRUE DONOR?

a. Hanna
b. The business Clean It Yourself

c. Neither

Since the used washing machine is the property of Clean It Yourself, the business is the true donor. Unless the business can give you written evidence that Hanna bought the washing machine from Clean It Yourself using her funds, you cannot issue a tax receipt to Hanna.

SCENARIO 3

A grocery store asks customers to donate to a charity as they go through the check-out. The store then donates the amount collected to your charity.

CAN THE STORE GET A RECEIPT FOR THE AMOUNT DONATED TO THE CHARITY?

No. When a store collects donations from customers for a registered charity, it is the customers who are making the donations, not the store. The customers are the true donors.

SCENARIO 4

Chun has a party at her house. She tells her friends that she is collecting funds for your registered charity and asks them to donate. Chun raises $45. The next day she takes this cash to your charity and asks for a donation receipt.

CAN YOU ISSUE A DONATION RECEIPT TO CHUN FOR $45?

No. Chun’s friends knew that they were donating to your charity. The friends are the true donors. Since Chun doesn’t know who put money in the box, you cannot name the true donors, and hence cannot issue a receipt.

SCENARIO 5

Two brothers co-own property and decide to donate the property to your charity. The fair market value of the land is $200,000.

WHO IS THE TRUE DONOR?

According to the property title, each brother owns 50% of the land. Both brothers are true donors.

DO YOU ISSUE ONE OR TWO DONATION RECEIPTS?

You issue two donation receipts, one to each brother. Each receipt will reference the full value of the property and identify the donation as being 50% of the full value, or $100,000.

NOTE:

You need to have evidence of the true donor for every receipt you issue. The Canada Revenue Agency may ask you for this.