



For Release

# FTC, 10 States Take Action Against Operator of Sham Cancer Charity for Deceiving Donors

Complaint charges Women's Cancer Fund and Gregory Anderson with raising more than \$18 million from donors, with only 1% going to financial support for cancer patients.

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The Federal Trade Commission and 10 states are suing sham charity Cancer Recovery Foundation International, also known as Women's Cancer Fund, and its operator, Gregory B. Anderson, for deceiving generous donors who sought to offer financial support to women battling cancer and their families.

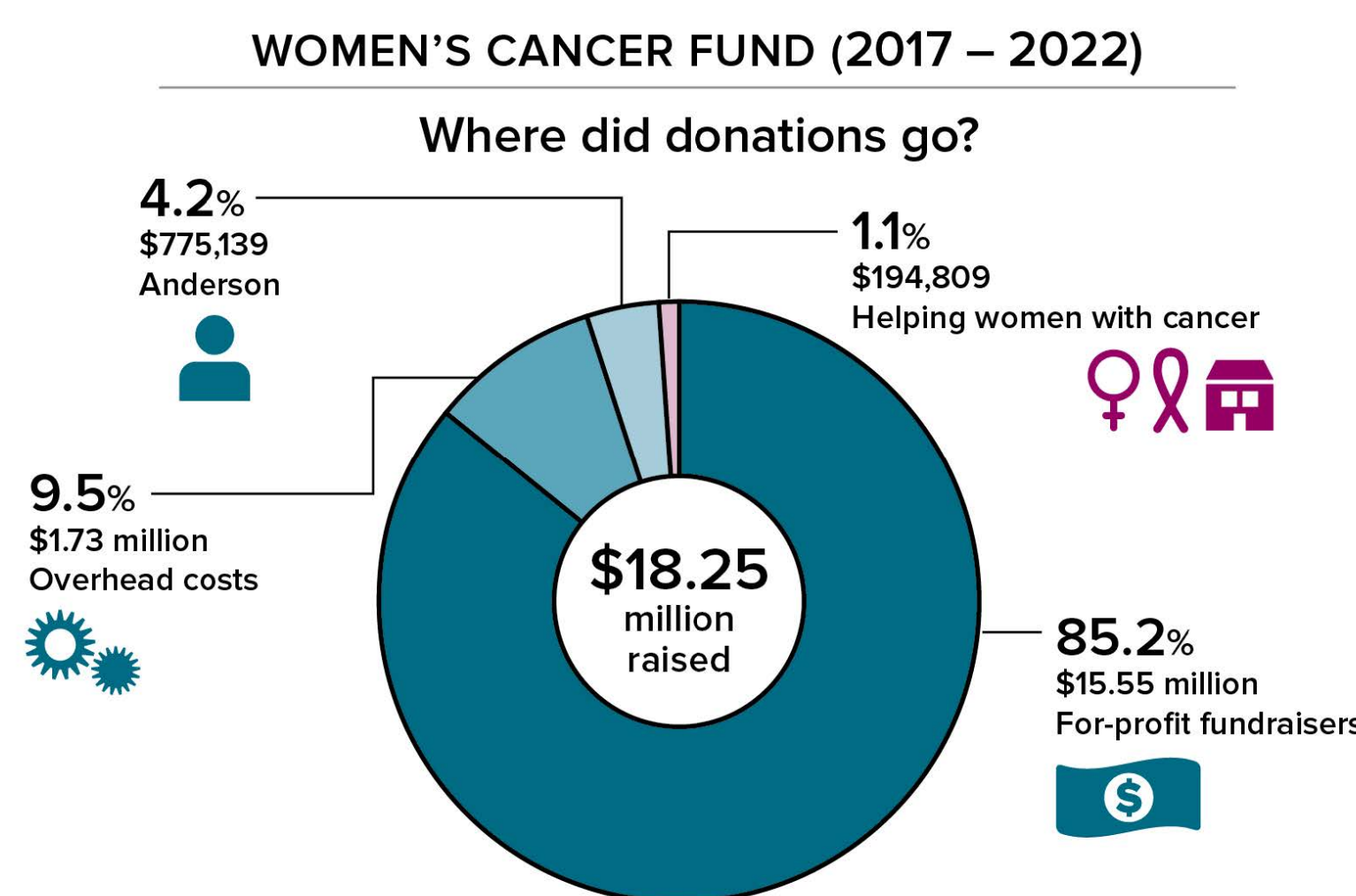
In a [complaint filed in federal court](#), the FTC and states allege that, from 2017 to 2022, Women's Cancer Fund collected more than \$18 million from donors. The sham charity claimed that it would use the donated funds to help women who were undergoing treatment for cancer and their families pay for basic needs. Instead, the complaint charges, only about a penny of every dollar donated went to provide such support, while the overwhelming majority went to pay for-profit fundraisers and Anderson.

"Cancer Recovery Foundation International and Anderson abused the generosity of American donors in the most egregious way" said Samuel Levine, Director of the FTC's Bureau of Consumer Protection. "The FTC is committed to aggressively pursuing such illegal conduct, which hurts donors and deprives legitimate charities of needed funding. We are grateful to our state partners for joining in this effort to protect the public.

"Virginians are generous people. Unfortunately, there are bad actors who take advantage of hardworking Virginians' generosity. In the case of Cancer Recovery Foundation International, solicitors told Virginians and many other Americans that their donations would help cancer survivors and their families, but that money was instead used for their own personal gain. We join the FTC along with the other states in this lawsuit to right the wrongs of this sham charity," said Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares.

According to the complaint, fundraisers for Women's Cancer Fund told prospective donors that their gifts would "help save lives" and "directly help patients with basic living expenses." But the sham charity's tax filings and records tell a different story, the complaint alleges.

While Women's Cancer Fund collected \$18 million from tens of thousands of donors between 2017 and 2022, it only spent \$194,809 on financial support to cancer patients. At the same time, it paid Anderson \$775,139 – nearly four times as much as Women's Cancer Fund collectively gave to all the cancer patients it supported. In addition to his salary, Anderson also used donated funds for various costly expenses, such as hotels and travel. Meanwhile Women's Cancer Fund gave the vast majority of the funds it collected from donors, about 85%, to for-profit fundraisers that Anderson hired to make deceptive pitches on behalf of the sham charity.



According to the complaint, in addition to using deceptive phone solicitation pitches, Women's Cancer Fund also used deceptive solicitation letters, often signed by Anderson. One such letter stated: "While other organizations rightfully invest millions of dollars in cancer research to find a cure for patients in the future, we help patients keep a roof over their head and the lights on so they can survive cancer today."

The FTC in 2021 sued two of the fundraising companies, [Associated Community Services and Directele](#), hired by Women's Cancer Fund for deceptive fundraising. The complaint in the latest action alleges that those enforcement actions did not deter Anderson, who went on to hire other fundraisers to make similar deceptive claims on behalf of Women's Cancer Fund.

The complaint, which was filed by the FTC along with the attorneys general and/or secretaries of state of California, Florida, Maryland, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas, Virginia, and Wisconsin, alleges that Women's Cancer Fund and Anderson violated the FTC Act, the Telemarketing Sales Rule, and state consumer protection laws.

Consumers looking for [more information about how to donate safely](#) and avoid charity scams can find it on the FTC's website.

The Commission vote authorizing the staff to file the complaint was 3-0. The complaint was filed in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas.

**NOTE:** The Commission files a complaint when it has "reason to believe" that the named defendants are violating or are about to violate the law and it appears to the Commission that a proceeding is in the public interest. The case will be decided by the court.

The staff attorneys on this matter are J. Ronald Brooke, Jr. and Miry Kim of the FTC's Bureau of Consumer Protection.

The Federal Trade Commission works to promote competition and [protect and educate consumers](#). The FTC will never demand money, make threats, tell you to transfer money, or promise you a prize. Learn more about consumer topics at [consumer.ftc.gov](#), or report fraud, scams, and bad business practices at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](#). Follow the [FTC on social media](#), read [consumer alerts](#) and the [business blog](#), and [sign up to get the latest FTC news and alerts](#).

### Press Release Reference

[FTC, 38 States, and D.C. Act to Shut Down Massive Charity Fraud Telefunding Operation](#)

## Contact Information

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877-382-4357  
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