



LETTERS

kes a village

y dog, I heard a frightened or injured kitten
I enlisted the aid of a man walking in the
tle kitten, very scared, but not physically
ian.

re Department and Officer Bickman came
to get a hold on it, and when that failed,
who is an accomplished cat-rescuer. She
e cat took the bait and was taken off to
to hopefully find a home.

, in my 20-plus years of living in this city,
, pleasant, respectful and, above all, true

n, the "cat whisperer," VCA Central Park
Bickman.

sent obstacle to ing children



teacher, I read with interest the June 6
g scores for the VPK providers in Florida
2017. What has changed in the four years
at could account for that huge drop?
ected to take an exam on a computer in the
is developmentally inappropriate.
he Department of Education to believe the
before the exam will be sufficient leads me
ment of Education is sadly lacking in
en and how they learn best. Instead of
se computers so they know how to pass an
the teachers to test the children as they did
puter is the problem.

VIEWPOINT

Food for the Poor: We are totally transparent



By Angel
Aloma

Food For The Poor is troubled
by news coverage suggesting that
our nonprofit organization is not
transparent about how we op-
erate. Nothing could be further
from the truth.

The California Attorney Gen-
eral issued a limited cease-and-
desist order earlier this year,
suggesting that Food For The

Poor is misleading potential donors in our fund-
raising materials. That action has generated news
coverage and an editorial from the *South Florida
Sun Sentinel*.

Food For The Poor has done nothing wrong and
is committed to transparency. We are following
the rules that govern our work, and we are in
discussions with California's Attorney General to
resolve his office's concerns.

It's important to know that this regulatory
action does not suggest wrongdoing in the han-
dling of donations or our daily operations. It is an
accounting issue about how we value donated
goods.

While the sector at large uses the same or simi-
lar valuation methodologies, the California Attor-
ney General has chosen to audit four organiza-
tions, including ours. The Attorney General's
office claims that we have over-valued our phar-
maceuticals because we have used the United
States as our principal market and have valued
our pharmaceuticals at U.S. wholesale prices,
rather than international prices related to the 17
countries we serve.

Almost all international nonprofit organiza-
tions that receive significant donated goods use
industry-specific methodologies to value their
donated pharmaceuticals. In accordance with
Generally Accepted Accounting Principles
(GAAP) established by the Financial Accounting
Standards Board (FASB), we are required to value
them in a fair and consistent manner and to de-
clare that value as revenue in our financial state-
ments.

Our methodology is in compliance with Cali-
fornia law and best practices in the United States,
because we follow the requirements of GAAP. As
additional support of our position, the American
Institute of Certified Public Accountants has just
published its annual Audit Risk Alert, which con-

*"We routinely invite our
donors to travel with us to see
the work they do to alleviate
the suffering of the poor. And I
would like to issue that invita-
tion here."*

tains a section that supports our valuation meth-
odology and includes examples that affirm our
processes and guidelines.

Each year, in accordance with GAAP, our finan-
cial statements are audited by a reputable ac-
counting firm. Another trusted accounting firm
prepares our IRS 990 form from the audited
statements. Each year, our efficiency ratio is calcu-
lated from the information in these statements.

Notably, the ratio is not significantly altered
with any change in the value of the donated phar-
maceuticals. More importantly, the impact of our
mission is not in any way diminished.

We do not hide our information. We publicly
report exhaustive details about our donations, our
fundraising and our operations and make the
information available on our website for anyone
who is interested. We believe in transparency and
are not intending to mislead anyone.

We routinely invite our donors to travel with us
to see the work they do to alleviate the suffering of
the poor. And I would like to issue that invitation
here. Come and see, and you will better under-
stand our transparency and the scope of our work.

*Angel Aloma is executive director of Food for
the Poor, a Coconut Creek-based, Christian
relief nonprofit that provides food, medicine
and other support to 17 countries in the
Caribbean and Latin America. Visit
FoodForThePoor.org.*

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