

**OFFICE OF THE MISSISSIPPI SECRETARY OF STATE  
BUSINESS REGULATION AND ENFORCEMENT DIVISION**

<b>IN THE MATTER OF:</b>	)	
	)	<b>Administrative Proceeding</b>
<b>GREENWOOD HELPING HANDS CENTER</b>	)	<b>Number: <u>C-06-0495</u></b>
<b>303 Carrollton Avenue</b>	)	
<b>Greenwood, Mississippi 38930</b>	)	
	)	
<b>Respondent</b>	)	

**FINAL CEASE AND DESIST ORDER AND  
ORDER IMPOSING ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY**

The SECRETARY OF STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, Division of Business Regulation and Enforcement (hereinafter, "Division"), by and through the undersigned designated representative, after having served a Summary Cease and Desist Order and Notice of Intent to Impose Administrative Penalty against GREENWOOD HELPING HANDS CENTER (hereinafter "Greenwood Helping Hands"), and in support hereof, states the following:

**I. JURISDICTION**

The Secretary of State is vested with the regulation of charitable organizations in the State of Mississippi pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. Sections 79-11-501, *et seq.* (2001) ("Act"). Greenwood Helping Hands is a charitable organization as defined by Miss. Code Ann Section 79-11-501(a) (i) (2001), to-wit:

- (B) Any person actually or purporting to be established for any voluntary health and welfare, benevolent, philanthropic, patriotic, educational, humane, scientific, public health, environmental conservation, civic, or other eleemosynary purpose or for the benefit of law enforcement personnel, fire fighters, or other public safety organizations, or any person employing in any manner a charitable appeal as the basis of any solicitation or an appeal that suggests that there is a charitable purpose to any solicitation and includes each local, county or area division within this state of such charitable organization, provided such local, county or

area division has authority and discretion to disburse funds or property otherwise than by transfer to any parent organization.

Greenwood Helping Hands is a charitable organization as defined by the Act, and therefore subject to the Secretary of State's regulatory authority. The Secretary of State, therefore, finds that he has jurisdiction over the subject matter and the party herein.

## **II. FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. On November 9, 2006, an employee of the Secretary of State's Office traveled to Greenwood, Mississippi to investigate an unrelated matter. During this unrelated investigation, the investigator discovered that Greenwood Helping Hands was soliciting charitable donations from Mississippi residents.
2. A diligent search of the records of the Division revealed that Greenwood Helping Hands was not registered to solicit charitable donations in the State of Mississippi.
3. On November 10, 2006, a member of the Division mailed a registration package to Greenwood Helping Hands to complete.
4. Greenwood Helping Hands failed to complete and submit the registration package. As a result, a Notice of Intent to Issue a Cease and Desist Order and Impose Administrative Penalty was issued against Greenwood Helping Hands on January 9, 2007.
5. Greenwood Helping Hands failed to respond to the Notice of Intent, so on April 10, 2007, an employee with the Division personally delivered to Greenwood Helping Hands a Summary Cease and Desist Order and Notice of Intent to Impose Administrative Penalty.
6. Currently, the Division has not received a registration package from Greenwood Helping Hands or a response to the Summary Cease and Desist Order. Therefore,

issuance of this Final Cease and Desist Order and Order Imposing Administrative Penalty is appropriate.

### III. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

7. Pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. 79-11-503, every charitable organization which solicits or intends to solicit contributions shall file a registration statement with and pay a filing fee of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) to the Secretary of State. Greenwood Helping Hands has not filed a registration statement with the Division. It is therefore in violation of this provision.
8. Since Greenwood Helping Hands is soliciting contributions without being registered, it is, therefore, subject to the provision of §79-11-509 to include the issuance of a cease and desist order with or without a prior hearing.

### IV. PUBLIC INTEREST

The actions taken and proposed to be taken herein by the Secretary of State are in the public interest and are consistent with the purposes set out in Miss. Code. Ann. §79-11-501, *et seq.*

### V. FINAL ORDER

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED**, pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. §79-11-509 (4) (Rev. 2001) that Greenwood Helping Hands shall immediately and permanently CEASE AND DESIST soliciting charitable contributions in and from the State of Mississippi as defined by Miss. Code Ann. §79-11-501.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED**, that Greenwood Helping Hands shall pay an administrative penalty in the amount of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00), made payable to the Mississippi Secretary of State upon execution of this Order.

BE ADVISED THAT, a willful violation of this Final Cease and Desist Order and Order Imposing Administrative Penalty may be punishable upon conviction by a fine of not more than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) or five (5) years imprisonment, or both, in addition to civil and administrative remedies to the Division.

SO ISSUED, this the 15 day of JUNE 2007.

ERIC CLARK  
Secretary Of State

BY:

  
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JAMES O. NELSON, II  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Business Regulation & Enforcement

Prepared and Submitted by:  
TANYA G. WEBBER  
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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Tanya G. Webber, do hereby certify, that I have this day, mailed via United States Mail, postage pre-paid, a true and correct copy of the Final Cease and Desist Order and Order Imposing Administrative Penalty to the following:

GREENWOOD HELPING HANDS CENTER  
303 Carrollton Avenue  
Greenwood, Mississippi 38930

This the 19<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2007.



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TANYA G. WEBBER  
Senior Attorney  
Business Regulation and Enforcement