

# **CERES COMMUNITY PROJECT**



March 4, 2022

Ceres Community Project ("CCP") writes to notify you of a recent incident that may affect the privacy of certain information provided to us. We take this incident very seriously and are providing you information about the incident, our response, and steps you can take to help protect your information.

On January 6, 2022, and January 18, 2022, we discovered that fraudulent email campaigns were directing recipients to make donations to our organization via payment methods that were not affiliated with CCP. We immediately began an investigation, which included working with third-party specialists to determine the nature and scope of the fraudulent activity. We also reported the incidents to law enforcement.

The investigation determined that a CCP employee email account and a shared network location had been accessed by an unauthorized party. Therefore, we began a thorough review of the contents of the email account and the shared network location to determine the types of information present and to whom the information related. The review, which was conducted by a third-party specialist, was completed on February 21, 2022.

The review further determined that the information present in the email account and shared network location may have included your name, checking account number, and routing number.

In response to this incident, we changed passwords, enhanced security protocols, and are currently reviewing our policies and procedures related to data protection. Additionally, we are providing you access to 12 months of credit monitoring and identity protection services at no cost to you.

We encourage you to enroll in the credit monitoring and identity protection services we are making available to you. Instructions about how to enroll in these services and additional resources available to you are included in the enclosed "Steps You Can Take to Help Protect Your Information."

We understand you may have questions about this incident. If so, please do not hesitate to contact Deborah Ramelli at (707) 829-5833 x104, or write to us at PO Box 1562, Sebastopol, CA 95473.

Ceresproject.org PO Box 1562 | Sebastopol CA 95473 | 707.829.5833 | info@ceresproject.org Fed Tax ID 26-2250997 Program Sites • Novato • Santa Rosa • Sebastopol



We sincerely regret any concern this incident may cause you. The privacy and security of information is important to us, and we will continue to take steps to protect information in our care.

Sincerely,

(Mugh\_\_\_\_\_

Cathryn Couch Founder & Chief Executive Officer

# STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO HELP PROTECT YOUR INFORMATION

## **Enroll in Credit Monitoring / Identity Protection**

As a safeguard, we have arranged for you to enroll, at no cost to you, in an online credit monitoring service (myTrueIdentity) for one year provided by TransUnion Interactive, a subsidiary of TransUnion®.

To enroll in this service, go directly to the myTrueIdentity website at www.mytrueidentity.com and in the space referenced as "Enter Activation Code", enter the following 12-letter Activation Code **FGJXFZXHJGTM** and follow the three steps to receive your credit monitoring service online within minutes.

If you do not have access to the Internet and wish to enroll in a similar offline, paper based, credit monitoring service, via U.S. Mail delivery, please call the TransUnion Fraud Response Services toll-free hotline at 1-855-288-5422. When prompted, enter the following 6-digit telephone pass code **699302** and follow the steps to enroll in the offline credit monitoring service, add an initial fraud alert to your credit file, or to speak to a TransUnion representative if you believe you may be a victim of identity theft.

You can sign up for the online or offline credit monitoring service anytime between now and **June 30, 2022**. Due to privacy laws, we cannot register you directly. Please note that credit monitoring services might not be available for individuals who do not have a credit file with TransUnion, or an address in the United States (or its territories) and a valid Social Security number, or are under the age of 18. Enrolling in this service will not affect your credit score.

Once you are enrolled, you will be able to obtain one year of unlimited access to your TransUnion credit report and credit score. The daily credit monitoring service will notify you if there are any critical changes to your credit file at TransUnion, including fraud alerts, new inquiries, new accounts, new public records, late payments, change of address and more. The subscription also includes access to identity restoration services that provides assistance in the event your identity is compromised to help you restore your identity and up to \$1,000,000 in identity theft insurance with no deductible. (Policy limitations and exclusions may apply.)

If you have questions about your online credit monitoring benefits, need help with your enrollment, or need help accessing your credit report, or passing identity verification, please contact the myTrueIdentity Customer Service Team toll-free at: 1-844-787-4607, Monday-Friday: 8am-9pm, Saturday-Sunday: 8am-5pm Eastern time.

### **Monitor Your Accounts**

We encourage you to remain vigilant against incidents of identity theft and fraud by reviewing your credit reports/account statements for suspicious activity and to detect errors. Under U.S. law, you are entitled to one free credit report annually from each of the three major credit reporting bureaus, TransUnion, Experian, and Equifax. To order your free credit report, visit <u>www.annualcreditreport.com</u> or call 1-877-322-8228. Once you receive your credit report, review it for discrepancies and identify any accounts you did not open or inquiries from creditors that you did not authorize. If you have questions or notice incorrect information, contact the credit reporting bureau.

You have the right to place an initial or extended "fraud alert" on a credit file at no cost. An initial fraud alert is a one-year alert that is placed on a consumer's credit file. Upon seeing a fraud alert, a business is required to take steps to verify the consumer's identity before extending new credit. If you are a victim of identity theft, you are entitled to an extended fraud alert lasting seven years. Should you wish to place a fraud alert, please contact any of the three credit reporting bureaus listed below.

As an alternative to a fraud alert, you have the right to place a "credit freeze" on a credit report, which will prohibit a credit bureau from releasing information in the credit report without your express authorization. The credit freeze is designed to prevent credit, loans, and services from being approved in your name without your consent. However, you should be aware that using a credit freeze may delay, interfere with, or prohibit the timely approval of any subsequent request or application you make regarding a new loan, credit, mortgage, or any other account involving the extension of credit. Pursuant to federal law, you cannot be charged to place or lift a credit freeze on your credit report. To request a credit freeze, you will need to provide the following information:

- 1. Full name (including middle initial as well as Jr., Sr., III, etc.);
- 2. Social Security number;
- 3. Date of birth;
- 4. Address for the prior two to five years;
- 5. Proof of current address, such as a current utility or telephone bill;
- 6. A legible photocopy of a government-issued identification card (e.g., state driver's license or identification card); and
- 7. A copy of either the police report, investigative report, or complaint to a law enforcement agency concerning identity theft, if you are a victim of identity theft.

Should you wish to place a fraud alert or credit freeze, please contact the three major credit reporting bureaus listed below:

| TransUnion               | Experian               | Equifax                |
|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1-800-680-7289           | 1-888-397-3742         | 1-888-298-0045         |
| www.transunion.com       | www.experian.com       | www.equifax.com        |
|                          |                        |                        |
| TransUnion Fraud Alert   | Experian Fraud Alert   | Equifax Fraud Alert    |
| P.O. Box 2000            | P.O. Box 9554          | P.O. Box 105069        |
| Chester, PA 19016-2000   | Allen, TX 75013        | Atlanta, GA 30348-5069 |
| TransUnion Credit Freeze | Experian Credit Freeze | Equifax Credit Freeze  |
| P.O. Box 160             | P.O. Box 9554          | P.O. Box 105788        |
| Woodlyn, PA 19094        | Allen, TX 75013        | Atlanta, GA 30348-5788 |
|                          |                        |                        |

### **Additional Information**

You can further educate yourself regarding identity theft, fraud alerts, credit freezes, and the steps you can take to protect your personal information by contacting the credit reporting bureaus, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), or your state Attorney General. The FTC also encourages those who discover that their information has been misused to file a complaint with them. The FTC may be reached at 600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20580; <u>www.identitytheft.gov</u>; 1-877-ID-THEFT (1-877-438-4338); and TTY: 1-866-653-4261.

You have the right to file a police report if you ever experience identity theft or fraud. Please note that in order to file a report with law enforcement for identity theft, you will likely need to provide some proof that you have been a victim. Instances of known or suspected identity theft should also be reported to law enforcement, the Maine Attorney General, and the FTC. This notice has not been delayed by law enforcement.