



## **OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**SEPTEMBER 1, 2015**

### **Woman Charged with Charity Fraud**



Montgomery County District Attorney Risa Vetri Ferman and East Norriton Township Police Chief Karyl J. Kates announce that charges have been filed against Traci Small Kratzer for the theft of more than \$8,000.00 using an online charity fundraiser.

Police have charged Kratzer with felony Theft, Theft by Deception, Theft by Failure to Make Required Disposition of Funds and related charges.

In June of 2015, East Norriton Police received information regarding a possible scam. The investigation revealed that Traci Small Kratzer had started an online fundraiser through [www.youcaring.com](http://www.youcaring.com) for John Henson who had been diagnosed with cancer. Kratzer used her own bank account information to start the account. The [www.youcaring.com](http://www.youcaring.com) fundraiser was entitled "Help Jay Henson (Deven Eberz husband) beat Cancer!!!!" and was advertised on Facebook. Kratzer utilized Wepay, an online payment service provider to process payments/donations from the [www.youcaring.com](http://www.youcaring.com) fundraiser to her Wells Fargo bank account.

Police obtained search warrants for the [www.youcaring.com](http://www.youcaring.com) account created by Kratzer and her Wepay and Wells Fargo accounts. The documents showed that from May 17, 2015 through July 15, 2015 there were 90 deposits/donations totalling \$10,221.68 into Kratzer's Wells Fargo bank account from the [www.youcaring.com](http://www.youcaring.com) fundraiser. The bank statements also showed numerous withdrawals/debits from the account in cash and purchases being made at various retail establishments such as Target, Toys R Us, McDonald's, Rite Aid and Sunoco. The statements for that time period ended in a negative balance.

According to Henson's wife Deven, Kratzer did not ask her to set up the fundraiser. She told police that she had repeatedly asked Kratzer for the campaign account information but was given excuses why Kratzer could not provide it. She further stated that other than two checks for \$970.00 each, she did not receive any other money from the fundraiser.

Police contacted more than twenty people who donated to the [www.youcaring.com](http://www.youcaring.com) charity and they all told police that they believed that the money that they donated was going to help the Henson family. They also confirmed that they did not give permission for anyone to use their donations for any other purpose.

This theft has had a great impact on the Henson family. The District Attorney's Office will seek restitution in the case, but anyone willing to help out financially can do so by making donations to the Henson family at [www.myjaybird.com](http://www.myjaybird.com).

On September 1, 2015, Magisterial District Judge Ester Casillo arraigned Kratzer and set bail at \$5,000.00 unsecured. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for September 10, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. before Magisterial District Judge Ester Casillo at 160 W. Germantown Pk, Suite D-5, East Norriton, PA 19401.

This case will be prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Mark Antonacio, Captain of the Economic Crimes Unit.

Approved for release:

Risa Vetri Ferman

CRIMINAL CHARGES AND ANY DISCUSSION THEREOF, ARE MERELY ALLEGATIONS AND ALL DEFENDANTS ARE PRESUMED INNOCENT UNTIL AND UNLESS PROVEN GUILTY.