

MS 99-248
P.O. Box 98000
Des Moines, WA 98198-9800

September 21, 2020

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Highline College Foundation was notified this summer by Blackbaud, a third-party engagement and fundraising software service provider about a data security incident involving many of their clients nationwide. Blackbaud is a cloud computing provider used by many institutions including Highline College Foundation. We use E-Tapestry, a Blackbaud product, for our donor and constituent database to organize and store information about our constituents. We take the protection and use of your personal information very seriously. We are sharing this information as a precautionary measure to share what we know about this situation.

Blackbaud was the subject of a ransomware attack and the cyber-criminal may have had access to specific personal information between February and May 20, 2020. The cyber-criminal was able to access information belonging to numerous Blackbaud clients, including Highline College Foundation and other institutionally related foundations and charitable organizations across the country. This data may have included your name, phone number, address and information related to your connection to Highline College.

Blackbaud has assured all its clients that financial information such as Social Security Numbers, Bank Account, Credit and Debit Card and similar information was not included in this data breach. For Highline College Foundation, we do not have this information on file for the constituents in our database. Our primary records only include name, address, phone and email (when available). So in addition to Blackbaud's assurances that personal identifiable information was not accessed, in the case of our donors and supporters we do not have that info in our E-tapestry files.

Forensics investigators hired by Blackbaud, law enforcement and third party cybersecurity experts conclude there is no reason to believe data was or can be misused, disseminated or otherwise made available publicly.

Based on Blackbaud's representations and our review the info in our database, we do not believe there is need for you to take any additional action at this time. To be consistent with our peers across the country, we recommend you remain vigilant, monitor your accounts and personal credit and report any suspicious activity to law enforcement.

You may be receiving letters see information like this from similar organizations. We all regret any inconvenience this incident has caused you. Data protection is of utmost importance and we deeply value our relationship with our alumni, supporters and donors.

If you have questions about Highline College Foundation and our donor relations practices you are welcome to contact me directly at 206-592-3705. During this pandemic period, we are working remotely so if you are asked to leave a message, I will return your call as quickly as I can.

Sincerely,

Josh Gerstman
Executive Director,
Highline College Foundation