

FEBRUARY 2017

FASTLANE

HIWAY
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) gives Money back to 350,000 HERBALIFE DISTRIBUTORS



Last July, The Federal Trade Commission's (FTC) settlement with Herbalife, made the multilevel marketing company not only restructure how it does business, but also pay \$200 million to people who lost money trying to run an Herbalife business. On January 10, they mailed checks to about 350,000 of them.

Are you thinking about a multilevel marketing (MLM) business opportunity? Every year, many people join MLM plans – and many also leave. Before joining any MLM company, do some research. Your time and money are too valuable not to. Here are a few things to consider:

- Can you realistically see yourself selling to your network of friends and family? Selling is work, and not everyone is good at it.
- What about the product? Would people you know buy it repeatedly and consistently? Or would they only buy it once as a favor? Can people buy comparable products for less?
- What will it cost you to run this business? You might get pressure to buy a lot of product – in fact, people have lost a lot of money buying more product than they can sell. Also consider things like gas, shipping and packaging costs, sales aids, trainings, and your time. Does that math add up for you? Lots of people leave multilevel marketing programs without making any money, and many lose money.
- If the person who recruited you into the business tells you not to worry about selling because you can make money by recruiting others – walk away. In a legitimate MLM program, you need to be able to make money by selling the product, not by recruiting others to join and buy the product.

So, what about the money back from the Herbalife settlement? Well, the settlement covered people who worked with Herbalife between 2009 and 2015. If you were an Herbalife distributor who paid at least \$1,000 to Herbalife during those years, but got little or nothing back from the company – and the FTC was able to locate a valid address for you – you should be seeing a check. The check is a partial refund of the money the FTC estimated you lost while trying to run an Herbalife business.

If you get a check refunding some of the money you lost in Herbalife, cash it. If you have questions about why you didn't get a check, learn more on the refunds page at:

www.ftc.gov/enforcement/cases-proceedings/refunds

Thinking about whether a business opportunity is right for you? The FTC has resources for evaluating business opportunities, including MLMs.

by Lois Greisman Associate Director, Division of Marketing Practices, consumer.ftc.gov

AMERICA SAVES WEEK

February 27 - March 4, 2017

Take the America Saves Pledge. Set a goal and make a plan to save. Join over 390,000 people who have pledged to save and take the America Saves Pledge today. Already taken the pledge? America Saves encourages you to recommit to your savings goal and re-pledge today. Military? Take the Military Saves Pledge.

Take part in the 2017 #ImSavingFor contest. Share a selfie or video that shows what you're saving for on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram. Then check AmericaSavesWeek.org to learn more about contest entry details and prizes. Savings never looked so good.



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For complete terms, conditions and official rules, please contact us.

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WEB
CHAT!

Whether you call, email or prefer chatting, we have a Hiway Associate here to answer your questions.

Currently, we can answer general inquiries through web chat and will soon be expanding this service to specialized departments in the future.

In order to use this feature and other convenient services, please ensure that the information we have on file for you is always accurate and up-to-date.



HIWAY TIPS:

Avoiding Fake Check Scams

The following story is an example of a known type of Fake Check Scam:

Sue responds to an ad for a new job online. She is excited to find that the owner is interested in her resumé and would like to hire her right away. The owner tells Sue that he is currently out of town, and has a check that he had forgotten to cash before he went on vacation. He asks Sue to cash the check as her first task on the job. Sue agrees and receives a check for \$3,700. She texts the owner: He responds, telling her to cash the check under her own account. "Keep the \$700," the owner says, "Then wire the remaining funds to my vendor." The owner gives vendor information and Sue sends the money out. The owner thanks Sue, and tells her he'll be in contact when he gets back from vacation.

Days later, Sue gets a call from her financial institution. A check she had cashed from her account was confirmed to be fraudulent. The owner's check! The money is being reversed and she is now out the \$3,000 she had wired. Sue attempts to contact this owner, only to find that his number was now disconnected. The whole thing was a scam.

When starting a new business, searching for a new job, purchasing or selling things online, always be on alert for potential scams. Unfortunately, a lot of things are just too good to be true.

The Federal Trade Commission offers a scam alert service so you can be informed of scams like this one and remain educated of new trending scams. Sign up at: consumer.ftc.gov

OUT&ABOUT

Stuff the Sleigh

Partnering with members, 5 Eyewitness News, 45tv and the Minneapolis and Saint Paul Police Federations we were able to provide over \$1,000 worth of unwrapped new toys that were given to deserving children at various police and community events within the Twin Cities communities.

Adopt a Family

Our tellers came up with the amazing idea to adopt a family and give them the best Christmas ever. We were astonished by the feedback from associates, members and students of Johnson Senior High School (who helped sell candy grams). We were able to raise \$541 to give to not just one family, but two!

To all who helped us this holiday season, thank you.

We were completely moved by all of our members' and associates' generosity. We couldn't do the things we do in our community without you.

