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Warren Buffet Says 'Yes'

ation go public by selling shares of its

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Investment dollars?

mb, Contributor

n A Mission Consulting

13, 11:18 AM EDT

d Dec 6, 2017

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ation go public by selling shares of

Public Offering (IPO), just like

Investment dollars?

Investment and tax law say no but an innovative nonprofit group serving the homeless has another take. [Homeward Bound of Marin](#) in California recently launched an "IPO" in an attempt to raise \$1 Million for a new housing complex for families moving out of homelessness. In fact Warren Buffet has lent his name to the effort, purchasing the first \$50 share himself.

Why isn't the Securities and Exchange Commission and the IRS going after Mr. Buffet and his charitable co-conspirators? Well, because Homeward Bound's IPO is an "Immediate Public Opportunity" and not an Initial Public Offering.

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HOW MUCH SHOULD I WALK TO LOSE 45 LBS ACCORDING TO MY AGE?

The calculator consists of four horizontal sliders and a 'CALCULATE' button. Each slider has an icon on the left and a list of values. The first slider is for Height (5'0" to 5'4"), the second for Weight (190 lbs to 210 lbs), the third for Goal Weight (108 lbs to 144 lbs), and the fourth for Age (45 to 75). The selected values are 5'1", 210 lbs, 144 lbs, and 65 respectively. A walking icon is on the left of the 'CALCULATE' button.

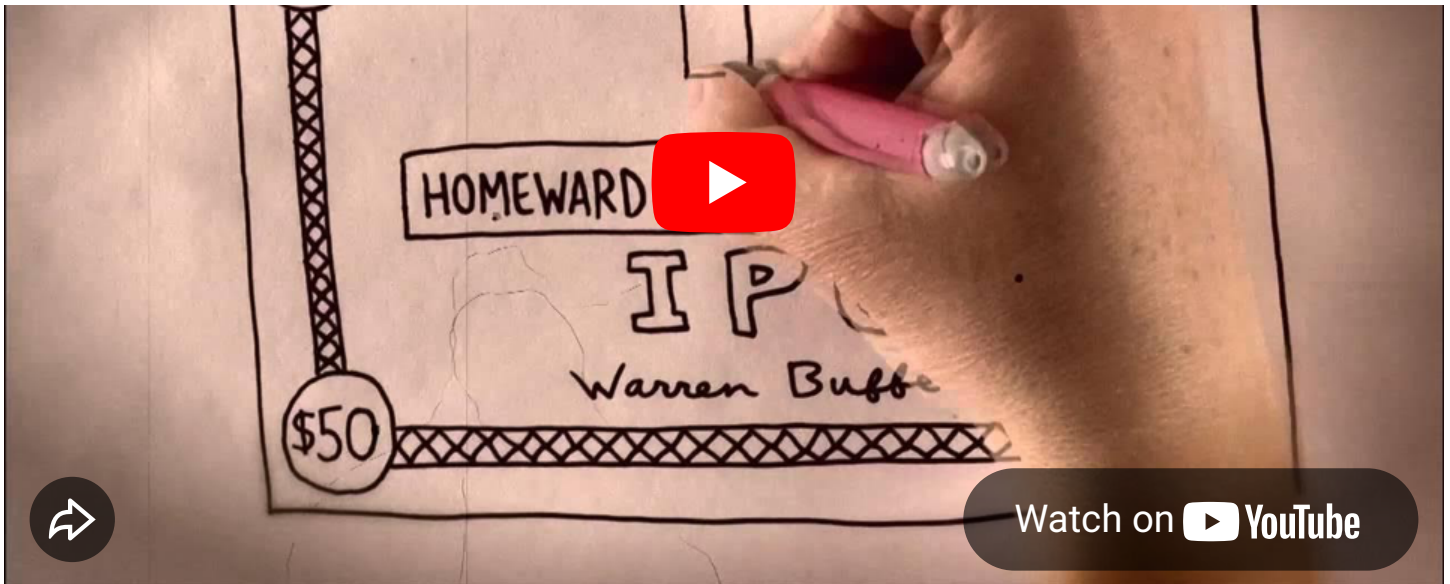
Height	Weight	Goal Weight	Age
5'0"	190 lbs	108 lbs	45
5'1"	200 lbs	136 lbs	50
5'2"	210 lbs	144 lbs	55
5'3"			60
5'4"			65
			70
			75

CALCULATE

The organization's Immediate Public Opportunity is a clever re-branding of an IPO where charitable donations are recast as "shares." By purchasing shares stockholders do not actually own stock or shares in Homeward Bound or any of its assets. The fundraising shares simply offer shareholders an opportunity to "take stock in their community." All money raised goes toward the housing complex capital campaign.

HomewardBound Marin





Says Homeward Bound's Executive Director, Mary Kay Sweeney, "This IPO offers the chance for people, groups, or businesses to invest at the same level as Mr. Buffett."

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Homeward Bound has taken it one step further in mimicking the traditional IPO. For purchasing at least one \$50 share each shareholder receives a shares certificate and an annual report which

details how the money is used and the impact of dollars spent on the community. Homeward Bound shareholders are even invited to attend an Annual Shareholder Meeting with other investors.

EXPAND >

Through the current campaign the group has already raised over \$163,000 toward their \$1 Million goal. During a similar non-profit IPO in 2008 Homeward Bound successfully raised over \$1 Million for a housing and job training center for the homeless.

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Hats off to Homeward Bound of Marin and their non-profit IPO. Not only have they pioneered a new fundraising strategy, but more importantly they offer an important reminder to focus on human

investments and not just the financial kind. Warren Buffet or not, it's an investment worth making.

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