What nonprofits can learn from for-profit marketing

Presented by: Paige Havens, Change Agent



Nonprofit is a tax status, not a way of doing business!

Paige W. Havens

"Scarcity mentality measures out life by the ounce; it always concludes that the needs outweigh the resources." Erin M. Straza

"Poverty is a mindset: It creates that sense of scarcity. You then become accustomed to it such that your life is hinged on protecting the scarce resources that you have. However, you can only create a mindset of abundance by investing what you have..."

Oscar Bimpong



Few Business Disadvantages for Nonprofits

Limited Purpose – can only perform certain functions by law
 Lobbying Limitations – more vulnerable to the "system"
 Public Scrutiny – finances are open to public inspection









Intentional Strategic Planning and Execution is your key to success.



Timelines & Accountability



Success Measures



Fundraising Strategy



Strategic Marketing Plan



Communications Plan



Marketing 101: The 4 P's

PRODUCT – what do you offer and why?
PRICE – cost to deliver and perceived value?
PLACE – where do you need to provide it?
PROMOTION - how will they know about you?



Brand Experience

It builds awareness, trust, and loyalty.

IDENTITY: name, logo, colors, mission IMAGE: perception, reputation CULTURE: core values PERSONALITY: engagement, voice, tone

Check yourself, often. Quality matters!

The Competitive Landscape

Strengths - Weaknesses Opportunities - Threats

What's your competitive advantage? Is it better to incubate or collaborate?

The Holy Grail: Quality Data

- External Industry/Community
- Internal Clients/Donors/Productivity/Impact
- Analysis & Interpretation*
- Prioritize data hygiene

*Heed analysis paralysis.

Evaluate ROI

- Quantity vs. quality
- Effort vs. results
- Volunteer vs. staff
- Events vs. face time
- Activity vs. impact
- Investment vs. reach

The 5th P: People

Who are your customers/stakeholders? What do they want/need? Why do they buy? What is their decision-making process? When/where are they most likely to buy? What customer experience do they seek? What is their purchasing life cycle? What motivates them to come back for more?

Invest in Your People



Hire experts. But don't be afraid to purge. "You never get a second chance to make a first impression!" ~Will Rogers ~

1st impression face-to-face: 7 seconds 1st impression online: 50 milliseconds (0.05 sec)

87% of buying decisions begin with research online.

Your online presence matters!

Donor Acquisition vs. Donor Retention

The cost to acquire a new customer is at least 5 times more than retaining an existing one.

Customer Service

- Personalized and genuine
- Competent
- Convenient
- Proactive
- Strong communication
- Grateful

Your Marketing Voice

- It's not about you!
- It's not what you say you are, it's what they say you are.
- It's far more impactful when you let others tell your story.



Research Shows

- 92% of customers read online reviews/testimonials before they make a purchase.
- 2/3 of consumers say they're more likely to make a purchase after watching a testimonial video demonstrating how a business, product or service helped someone like them.
- 72% of people say testimonials will increase their trust in a product and make them want to buy/give more.
- 72% of consumers will take action only after reading a positive review.
- 88% of consumers trust online testimonials as much as personal recommendations from friends and family.



Storytelling Matters

Don't give them 4 Give them 2 + 2



Closing thoughts ...

- Money matters. Fundraising has to be a priority.
- But think beyond money. Leverage all of your assets: expertise, resources, opportunities, relationships, success stories, etc.
- Marketing must be a priority, not an afterthought. Hire the support you need.
- If you can't do it well, resist the urge to do it.
- You can't be all things to all people. Stay in your sweet spot.
- Plan your work and work your plan. "If you build it they will come" is not a sound business strategy!
- Give yourself permission to try, change course, and even fail.

Tell Your Story!

Paige Havens, Change Agent paigehavens@bellsouth.net 678-938-4279 Progress does not happen without change.