

Value Proposition Study:

What We Learned From An Analysis of 127 of the Largest Nonprofit Organizations



Why Should I Give TO YOU?

THE NONPROFIT VALUE PROPOSITION INDEX STUDY



How do nonprofits COMMUNICATE their VALUE PROPOSITION?

Why Should I Give TO YOU?

THE NONPROFIT VALUE PROPOSITION INDEX STUDY

Nonprofit Value Proposition Index Study

- Study of 127 nonprofit organizations across 8 different verticals
- Assessed the value proposition as communicated via four channels:
 - Telephone
 - Email
 - Web site
 - Social Media
- Value propositions scored in four areas based on research and methodology developed by MECLABS:
 - Appeal
 - Exclusivity
 - Credibility
 - Clarity
- Data collected from 11/4/15 through 2/6/16

Download Full Study: nextafter.com/vp



General Observations

No One's Home on Email



Of the organizations that had a "Contact Us" form, more than one third did **NOT** respond to our submission...ever!



First Name	
Last Name	
Email	
L Comments Let us know what you think	
hank you for contacting us.	Submit

3% of Orgs did NOT have a "Contact Us" Form



Contact Us Form First Name Last Name Email Comments Let us know what you think	3% of Orgs did NOT have a "Contact Us" Form
Thank you for contacting us. Submit	
J J DAY 2	



Contact Us Form First Name Last Name Email	3% of Orgs did NOT have a "Contact Us" Form	
Comments Let us know what you think Thank you for contacting us. Submit	CALENDAR	
DAY 2		After <u>1 Week,</u> 43% of Orgs still had <u>NOT</u> responded to our inquiry







Social Media is Not Much Better



When we contacted organizations through direct message on Facebook, 33% <u>never got back to us</u>.



New Message	
To:	
Write a message	
🖉 Add Files 🛛 Add Photos	Send Cancel

27% of Orgs had disabled direct messaging in Facebook and were uncontactable



To:	
Vrite a message	
Add Files 🔺 Add Photos	Send Cancel

27% of Orgs had disabled direct messaging in Facebook and were uncontactable





New Message To: Write a message	27% of Orgs had disabled dire in Facebook and were uncontac	
Add Files Add Photos Send Cancel	CALENDAR	
DAY 2		After <u>1 Week,</u> 36% of Orgs still had <u>NOT</u> responded to our inquiry



New Message To: Write a message	27% of Orgs had disabled dire in Facebook and were uncontac		CALENDAR	After 1-month,
Add Files Add Photos Send Cancel	CALENDAR		***** ******** ******	33% of Orgs Completely ignored
DAY 2		After <u>1 Week,</u> 36% of Orgs still had <u>NOT</u> responded to our inquiry	XXXX	our request.



Scoring the Value Proposition

MECLABS

Value Proposition Formulation I must understand (clarity) so I can believe (credibility) that only you (exclusivity) have what I want (appeal).



MECLABS Value Proposition Evaluation Criteria





Scoring Matrix

Website	Email	Phone	Social Media
Appeal	Appeal	Appeal	Appeal
Exclusivity	Exclusivity	Exclusivity	Exclusivity
Credibility	Credibility	Credibility	Credibility
Clarity	Clarity	Clarity	Clarity

Graded on a Scale of 1 to 5



Was the scoring too rigorous?







AGGREGATE VALUE PROPOSITION SCORING



Initial observation was that <u>Website</u> and <u>Phone</u> were highest performing channels...



Nobody is Listening Online



...however, the lower scores are due to nonresponse. <u>Only 37%</u> of orgs responded on <u>social media</u>, and <u>61% on email</u>.



Removing Non-responders Paints a Different Picture





AGGREGATE VALUE PROPOSITION SCORING



After filtering out nonresponders, the results flipped– Social Media was the highest scoring channel followed by Email. Website was the poorest performing channel.



AGGREGATE VALUE PROPOSITION SCORING



After filtering out nonresponders, the results flipped– Social Media was the highest scoring channel followed by Email. Website was the poorest performing channel.



AGGREGATE VALUE PROPOSITION SCORING



After filtering out nonresponders, the results flipped– Social Media was the highest scoring channel followed by Email. Website was the poorest performing channel.



Website Scoring

WEBSITE VALUE PROPOSITION





Website Example #1





Website Example #2



How much would you like to give?

GENERAL







Website Example #3

GIVE NOW

3 easy steps to your secure donation

DONATION INFORMATION Provide God's Word to 7 \$35.00 waiting people Help 15 people receive a Bible of their own \$75.00 Give 30 people a Bible they \$150.00 can read and share Other \$ Type of gift: One-time gift Recurring gift BILLING INFORMATION Title: . * First name: Last name:

Address:

.

.

.

PAYMENT INFORMATION	

Email:



Send God's Word around the world

Every \$5 you donate will place a Bible into the eager, waiting hands of:

- Someone who has never had God's Word in their language before
- An orphan or at-risk child
- Patient Chinese Christians
- People suffering for their faith
- A U.S. military member who is defending our freedom.

Since 1816 donors to / have had the assurance that their contributions are faithfully providing God's Word to others.



Learn how your gifts will be used 💌

Funds raised beyond this need will be used to help provide even more copies of God's Word where the need is greatest.

 Your gift will help provide a Bible for a man, woman or child who is waiting with open hands and an open heart.

 Your gift is used to make the Bible available to every person in a language and format each can understand and afford, so that they may experience the life-changing message of the Gospel.

 partners with local Bible societies, churches and pastors to ensure that the Bibles you provide go directly to those who need them most.



Things that blew our mind!





Things that blew our mind!





East Central European Center	
Committee on Global Thought	
Harriman Institute	
Institute for Comparative Literature and Society	ы.
Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies	
Wallach Art Gallery	
Arts, School of the	
Athletics	
Business School	
Center for New Media Teaching and Learning (CCNMTL)	
Columbia College (CC)	
Columbia College Student Affairs	
Columbia College Student Emergency Fund	
Columbia College Today	
Double Discovery Center	
Senior Fund	
Columbia Entrepreneurship	
Columbia Global Centers	
Columbia Magazine	
Columbia University Medical Center	
Adolescent Health Uganda Fund	
Department of Anesthesiology	
Bone Marrow and Blood Diseases	
Breast Cancer Program	
CARING at Columbia	
Celiac Disease Center	
Center for Bioethics	
Center for Family and Community Medicine	
Center for LAM & Rare Lung Diseases	
Center for Radiological Research	
Center for Translational Immunology	
Columbia Center for Children's Environmental Health (CCCEH)	
Columbia Heart Valve Center	
CUMC P&S/Clinical Genetics	
Department of Dermatology	
Department of Dermatology	
Department of Medicine	
Department of Neurology	•
Department of Neuroscience	
Department of Ophthalmology	
Department of Pediatrics	
Division of Hematology/Oncology	



IFAP Dominican Family Health Program	
Infectious Diseases	
Institute of Cancer Genetics	
Institute of Human Nutrition	
IFAP Global Health Program	
Lung Transplant Program	
Lyme and Tick-Borne Diseases Research Center	
Medical and Graduate Education Building - Campus Revitalization	
Medical School Administration	
Naomi Berrie Diabetes Center	
Division of Nephrology	
Genomics of IgA-related Disorders in Kids	
Department of Obstetrics-Gynecology	
Department of Orthopedic Surgery	
Department of Otolaryngology	
P&S Deptartment of Pediatrics	
P&S Deptartment of Pediatrics	
P&S Genetics	
Pancreas Center	
Pediatric Allergy and Immunology	
Pediatric Blood and Marrow Transplantation	
Pediatric Brain Tumor Research	
Pediatric Cardiology	
Pediatric Child and Adolescent Health	
Pediatric Clinical Genetics	
Pediatric Critical Care Medicine	
Pediatric Neonatology/ Perinatology	-
Pediatric Nephrology	
Pediatric Oncology	
Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgery	
Pediatric Pulmonology	
Pediatric Rheumatology	
Pediatric Surgery Research	
Pediatrics	
Wung Respiratory	
Program in Narrative Medicine	
Department of Psychiatry	
Department of Radiology	
Spinal Muscular Atrophy Clinical Research Center	
Stem Cell Initiative	
Surgery Colorectal	



Taub Institute	
The Center for Lymphoid Malignancies	
Transplant Initiative	
Department of Urology	
Weinberg Family Cerebral Palsy Center	
CU Arts	
CUMC Transplant Initiative	
Dental Medicine, College of	
Department of Radiation Oncology	
Earth Institute	
Engineering and Applied Science (SEAS), The Fu Foundation Sch	ool of
General Studies, School of	
Hispanic Institute	
Injury Free Coalition	
Institute for the Study of Human Rights	
Institute of Latin American Studies	
International Research Institute for Climate and Society	
Iranian Studies, Center for	
Journalism, Graduate School of	-
Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory	
Law (CLS), School of	
Libraries	
Maison Francaise	
Miller Theatre	
Morningside - Health Services	
Nursing, School of	
Occupational Therapy	
Physical Therapy	
Physicians and Surgeons, College of	
Department of Cardiology	
Department of Orthopedic Surgery	
Pathology	
Physiology and Cellular Biophysics	
Prenatal Pediatrics Fund	
Rehabilitation Medicine	
Physicians and Surgeons, College of	
Public Health (MSPH), Mailman School of	
Center for Infection and Immunity	
Climate and Health Program	•
Public Health (MSPH), Mailman School of	
Center for Infection and Immunity	
Climate and Health Program	


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So...which one??

w.



Email Scoring

EMAIL VALUE PROPOSITION





Email Example #1

Dear Friend,

Thank you for contacting us here at [ORGANIZATION].

We do not ask for donations, so this decision is entirely up to you. If you would like to make a donation, you may do so online, or by calling our customer service department at 800.XXX.XXXX. Our normal customer service hours are Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m.— 3:50 p.m. (Pacific time). We would be happy to assist you in any way we can.

Thank you again for writing. If you have any further questions, please let us know.

Have a blessed day.

Sincerely,



Email Example #2

Richard-

Good afternoon. Thank you for your email and your interest in supporting the [ORGANIZATION]. There are so many charities out there right now supporting children and it can be very difficult to work your way through the masses to find the best fit for your personal contributions. What I can tell you about the [ORGANIZATION] is that unlike any of the other organizations within this same space we combine three very important attributes that other organizations cannot match. Those three attributes are:

• Our more than 100 year history of support America's youth. We have more than 16 million living Alumni throughout the world, many of which would tell you that their Club saved their life.

• Our reach of service with more than 4,000 Clubs located in cities, towns, U.S. military installations worldwide and Native American lands throughout the US; that serve 4 million children

• Our combination and scope of services that include not only a safe place to go after school, but also provide fundamental programs that emphasize academic success, health lifestyles and the skills and attributes needed to grow into a person of character who believes in supporting their community.

The last (and to many the most important) piece of the puzzle is return on investment. The [ORGANIZATION]'s National structure creates efficiency by consolidating resources. Clubs receive support in key areas such as: administrative services, technology support, government relations, financial services, human resources, professional development, training and marketing. This combination fosters shared best practices and cost efficiencies that ultimately results in increased impact across movement and on the lives of America's youth.... and Our Future!

I hope this has given you a broad overview of what makes the [ORGANIZATION] different than other youth serving organizations. I am happy to share additional information if you have any further questions. Please do not hesitate to reach out directly.

Have a wonderful week!

~Kelly



Phone Scoring

PHONE VALUE PROPOSITION







"we're working for a great cause"

"This is a disease that really doesn't have a cure"

"When you are able to fund something that people want to see curable one day, I think that's just makes it better."

"we're working for a great cause"

"This is a disease that really doesn't have a cure"

"When you are able to fund something that people want to see curable one day, I think that's just makes it better."





"celebrating it's 200 year anniversary this year"

"make the bible available in a language and format that all can understand and afford so that people can experience its life-changing message."

"We have an outreach that is global. We partner with 147 bible societies around the world."

"We have goals to really translate 100% of languages. Also, to actively engage people here in the US with God's word."

"We were one of the originators of the charitable gift annuity, as a way that people can give money."

"We actually have never missed a gift annuity payment in our years of doing the charitable gift annuity."



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Social Media Scoring

SOCIAL MEDIA VALUE PROPOSITION





Social Media Example #1

Hi, Mary.

Thank you for your message. You can learn more about our mission at www.[organizationwebsite].org.



Social Media Example #2

Hi Jeff,

There are certainly a lot of fantastic organizations out there to give to. What I think sets [ORGANIZATION] apart is our strategic global plan.

We not only provide Bibles to the under-resourced Church, but we are hands on in the field around the world. We are providing training to equip the people in those areas to reach others. We go into a local church, equip them with Bibles, biblical resources, and training to ensure that they understand God's Word, and are in turn, able to reach others in their families and communities with God's Word.

That is what I love [ORGANIZATION], and what I think sets us apart.

Please let me know if I can provide any other information to you. Thank you.



Final Observations

- 1. We speak with forked tongue.
- 2. A strong value proposition in one channel, doesn't mean it is strong in others.
- 3. The relationship between clarity and appeal.
- 4. Creative ways to communicate exclusivity.
- 5. Too much Nonprofit 'Gobbledygook."
- 6. Lazy responses
- 7. No one killed it- every organization has room to improve.



Questions?

