

# About Phoenix Innovate

Phoenix Innovate is a marketing company that works with animal welfare organizations to develop custom fundraising solutions that create increased net revenue and sustainable return on investment by using methods we call *Authentic Marketing*.

This innovative approach harnesses the untapped power of the information contained in your audience, leading to tailored solutions based on their reason(s) for supporting you that are transformational to your acquisition and retention challenges.

These new insights allow for marketing strategies, creative vision and implementation that generate traction in connecting with your target audience without the ups and downs of trial and error. Strategies implemented with the benefit of these insights and creative vision eliminates the risk of unintended outcomes.

Simply said, *Authentic Marketing* harnesses a powerful combination of research, data, vision and creativity to build custom strategies for your organization that result in emotionally-engaged lasting relationships between you and your donors.

#### **Trish Dewald**

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## Brand building fundraising

# 21% Increase in Average Gift 34% Increase in Sustainer donors

#### CHALLENGE:

Columbus Humane is an animal welfare organization that investigates animal abuse cases, rescues animals, accepts animals surrendered by their owners and provides medical and adoption services for pets in Columbus, OH. They came to Phoenix Innovate in search of a fundraising approach that would allow them to significantly reduce the budget spent on acquisition and increase revenue from their current donors, but also allow them to build the Columbus Humane brand and identity.

#### **SOLUTION:**

We used our analytics and research capabilities to leverage Columbus Humane's donor data to inform better fundraising strategies. These new insights allow for marketing strategies, creative vision and implementation that generate traction in connecting with your target audience without the ups and downs of trial and error. We identified best performing donor segments and developed an annual fundraising plan with specific

We identified best performing donor segments and developed an annual fundraising plan with specific strategies and messaging to meet these objectives:

- Increase net revenue
- Increase average gift
- Increase the number of sustaining donors
- Obtain a second gift from more donors in the first year of support

Next, we developed donor-centric appeals with unique visuals aligned with Columbus Humane's brand identity and eye-catching envelopes to increase open rates. Individualized messages were crafted to each of the donor segments with emotionally-engaging stories of real animals rescued and cared for in the community, custom ask ladders that encouraged donors to increase their giving and an emphasis to give through sustained monthly giving.

We increased coordinated email appeals to reinforce the direct mail, reach donors through preferred channels and provide quick and easy ways to give.

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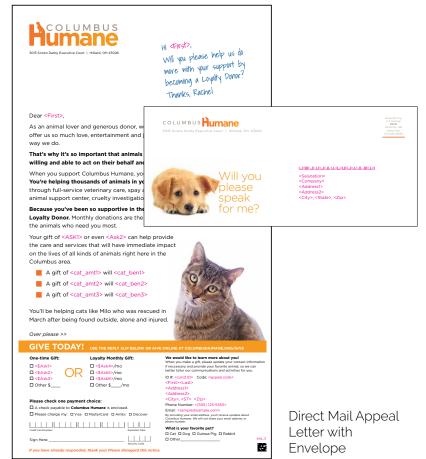
#### **RESULTS:**

After only six months, the results of our efforts are already significant:

- Increase new donor retention to 30.3% (20.2% is the national average)
- Increased average gift 21%
- Increased Major donor average gift by 20%
- Increased the number of sustaining donors 34%
- Drove giving online from email and direct mail efforts for 35% of the donations

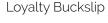
#### **CREATIVE:**

















# Match Appeal Campaign

## **Exceeded the match goal by 73%**

#### CHALLENGE:

Columbus Humane, a leading animal welfare organization in Ohio had a generous offer from a donor to match \$75,000 in donations. Phoenix Innovate was challenged with generating \$75,000 in individual gifts to maximize the generous donor's offer.

#### SOLUTION:

Prior match campaigns had performed well, but we wanted to take full advantage of the offer to exceed the match. Historic appeals average about half of the target goal so we knew we would have our work cut out for us.

We employed a multi-channel approach that included a coordinated effort of direct mail, email and social media. To extend our reach, we launched a peer-to-peer fundraising effort on social media and promoted it to an audience that looked like our current donors, a tactic the client hadn't previously used.

All communications reinforced Columbus Humane's brand identity with a playful design that visualized the benefit of the match campaign: "Double the Impact," versioning the messaging and visuals for known dog and cat lovers to create a stronger emotional response.

We employed a deadline to create urgency and then extended the deadline on the last day to tie-in to Giving Tuesday and push giving to higher levels.

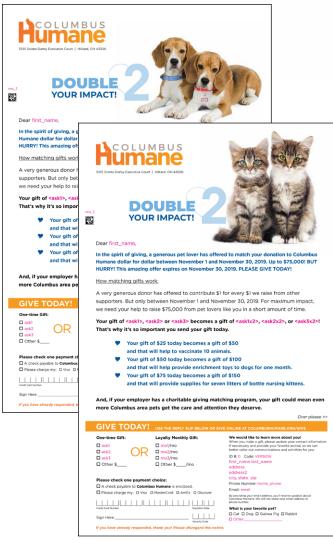
#### RESULTS:

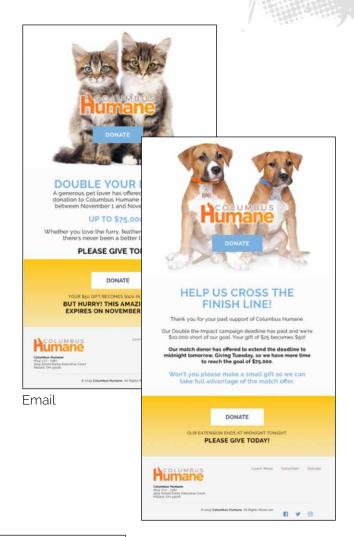
We exceeded the match goal by 73% with the promoted peer-to-peer fundraising effort generating a 400% return on investment.

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#### **CREATIVE:**





Direct Mail Appeal Letter









### Principles of Persuasion

# 20% Increase in Net Revenue 50% Increase in New Donor Retention

#### CHALLENGE:

Columbus Humane is an animal welfare organization that investigates animal abuse cases, rescues animals, accepts animals surrendered by their owners and provides medical and adoption services for pets in Columbus, OH. They came to Phoenix Innovate in search of a fundraising approach that would generate more revenue than the previous year and allow them to significantly reduce the budget spent on acquisition.

#### **SOLUTION:**

One of the methods we used to achieve this was to employ behavioral science to develop a program that influenced donors to give using the one of the six principles of persuasion in each appeal.

Because we would be making repeated appeals to many of the same donors, every appeal needed to be different and fresh, with a new reason for the donor to engage. With this in mind, we implemented a different approach to each appeal:

- A free gift in one appeal employed the "reciprocity" principle.
- An urgent deadline to give utilized the "scarcity" principle.
- In the membership appeal, we employ the "consensus" and "consistency" principles to encourage donors to become members of Columbus Humane.

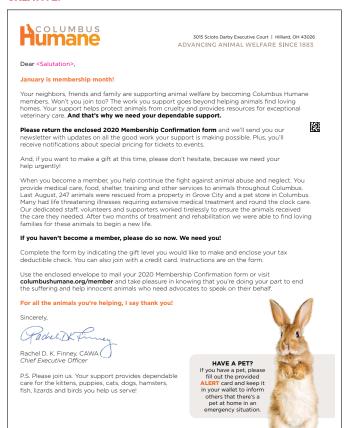
The combination of our individualized messaging for each audience segment, based on data insights, and this behavioral science tactic allowed us to speak personally to each donor with messaging designed to create a strong emotional connection.

#### **RESULTS:**

As we come to the end of our first year of work with Columbus Humane, the results of our efforts have been significant:

- Net Revenue increased 20% year-over-year with some campaigns generating increases as high as 35%.
- Increased the number of sustaining donors 34%
- Increased average gift 21%
- Increased Major donor average gift by 20%
- Increase new donor retention to 30.3% (20.2% is the national average)

#### **CREATIVE:**



BECOME A MEMBER AND
LETTHEM KNOW YOU

CARE

Name of Address2>

CITY2, «State», «Zip»



Direct Mail Appeal Letter







## Fundraising

## Increased contributions 20% in a down economy.

#### **CHALLENGE:**

Increase donations

- Without increasing spend
- In the midst of a down economy
- Following the passage of a widely publicized tri-county millage

#### **SOLUTION:**

With no additional budget, Phoenix Innovate knew we would have to refine the annual appeal strategy to target only the most-likely to give with messages that would be irresistible. We took a deep dive into the Zoo's donor database looking for patterns and relationships that would help us identify our best prospects and create an appeal package that would truly resonate. Our analysis not only found new audiences with high potential but directed us to recommend an approach that employed multiple individualized messages and new channels of outreach.

The analysis indicated there was potential among younger audiences to drive more participation and at a higher level. To reach that younger audience, we developed a multi-channel communications strategy with direct mail, email and social media, a channel previously untapped for fundraising at the Zoo. Our work increased the number of communication touchpoints and gave them more options to donate.

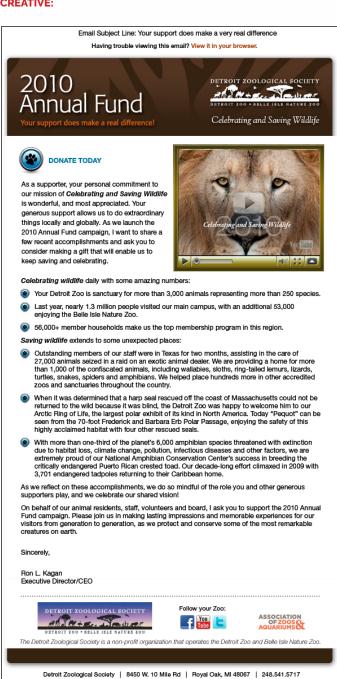
By better allocating economic resources, we were able to add specialized content, such as video, that developed a deeper connection and allowed for easy sharing through social media.

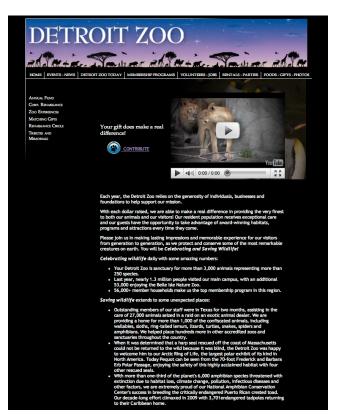
#### **RESULTS:**

- Contributions increased by 20%
- The integration of web-based contribution channels helped to significantly increase the number of \$50-and-below contributions over past campaigns

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#### **CREATIVE:**





Website

#### Two more ways we're "Celebrating and Saving Wildlife".

Lioness Katie was rescued from a suspected crack house in Detroit in 1992 and lion Percival was found in an abandoned house in Detroit the following year. Both found sanctuary at the Detroit



Email Social Media



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### Member Retention

# 10% increase in renewal rate 33% reduction of direct mail costs

#### **CHALLENGE:**

The Detroit Zoo relies on a membership base with diverse interests to provide a significant portion of its operating budget. Their members include families with young children who join because it's the most economical way to visit frequently. Other members join because they want to support the Zoo's education and conservation initiatives. Recognizing that it costs more to acquire a new member than to retain an existing one, membership renewals are an important focus of the Zoo's membership activity.

Historically about 50% of membership renewals happen at the gate with the other 50% submitted through a response to a direct mail renewal letter. The Zoo had invested in the technology for members to renew online and this channel was much more efficient for processing the membership renewal.

Phoenix Innovate was approached to develop a program for the Zoo that would increase membership renewal rate and drive more members to renew online without any additional spend.

#### SOLUTION:

We started with a review of all the membership communication touch points and messaging to identify opportunities for stronger engagement with members. To improve the retention rate, members would have to understand the full value of their membership. We knew from experience with other organizations that to make that happen, we would likely have to educate members about all the benefits their membership provided.

We also knew that we would have to make the communications more relevant to the members. And, we needed to deliver those messages through the channels that members preferred. It was a seismic shift from talking about what mattered to the Zoo to talking about what mattered to the member.

Our analysis indicated that there was opportunity to overhaul a poorly-performing monthly email program into a content-rich membership benefit that would not only serve to educate members but could also cost-efficiently add three touch points for driving renewal response.

We transformed the direct mail renewal letters with personalized content as well, based on audience segments that were organized around the stage in the member's lifecycle with the organization.

Through both channels, we emphasized the option to renew online, which dramatically impacted the cost to process membership renewals and reduced mail costs.



Last, but definitely not least, we tested different mail package formats, different headlines and imagery in mail and email and monitored performance of every element of the program. From the insights we gained and success we achieved in migrating responses to the web, we were able to modify the program, replacing mail packages with cost-efficient postcards for additional cost savings with no decrease in response rate.

#### **RESULTS:**

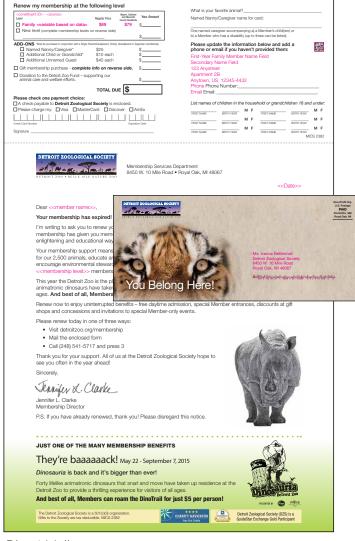
Dramatically increased awareness of membership benefits, creating stronger ties and sense of community among members.

- 10% increase in renewal rate
- 25% increase in online renewal response
- 25% reduction in cost of membership application processing
- 33% reduction of direct mail costs

#### **CREATIVE:**



Email





Direct Mail



Children's Hospital of Michigan Foundation

## Fundraising

### **Net revenue increased 300%**

#### **CHALLENGE:**

The Children's Hospital of Michigan Foundation had amassed a database containing almost 80,000 records over its long history. Like many organizations, it was seeking sustainable solutions to reduce fundraising costs, without risking donation revenue.

#### **SOLUTION:**

Our recommendation was to invest in research to better understand:

- Who their donors were and the level at which they support the organization
- Impact of the current communications
- How to message more compellingly
- Best channels to reach donors
- Appropriate frequency of communications

Armed with the insights gleaned from the research, Phoenix then outlined a strategic action plan focused on increased donor engagement that would lead to greater support.

In our study, we analyzed 40,000 donor records. We appended additional data points to create a more robust profile of each donor. And then conducted primary research to determine the motivations for giving and to uncover the emotional stimuli that could be used to encourage future giving. We segmented the database into personas using the demographic, motivational and emotional data points uncovered in the research. The personas allowed us to apply cost-saving techniques and gave our creative team powerful insights to create more personal and poignant messages.

#### RESULTS:

The first year we implemented the new messaging strategy:

- We slashed costs and increased net donation revenue over 300%
- The personal segments created from the research are used throughout the organization to establish a more personal and emotional approach to speaking with their audience in all their communications



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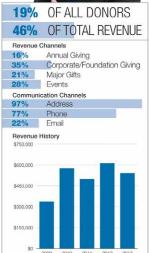


21%	OF ALL DONORS
18%	OF TOTAL REVENUE
Revenue	Channels
51%	Annual Giving
0%	Corporate/Foundation Giving
41%	Major Gifts
8%	Events
Communi	cation Channels
99%	Address
89%	Phone
78%	Email
Revenue	History
\$750,000 — \$600,000 —	History
\$750,000	History
\$750,000	History









#### **CREATIVE:**

\$600,000











Authentic Marketing. No Myth.



# Client Testimonials

"When I started my position years ago, I interviewed several vendors and Phoenix Innovate was the only one which listened to my needs and understood my vision. They provided specific, detailed ideas to help me achieve my goals, and educated me on resources and processes I didn't know were available. I trust my account manager and appreciate his partnership and knowledge. I don't need to work with any other vendor."

### Director of Individual Giving

"Phoenix Innovate has worked with us on solutions for production from data management to fulfillment. They have helped us identify efficiencies and drive change within our process. They do an excellent job of thinking as though they are working within the organization, understanding our sense of urgency and demonstrating a passion for our institution."

#### Membership Director

"Phoenix Innovate's approach to structuring our renewal and appeal mailings has freed me from the details of managing these programs and allowed me to focus on the big picture. Their combination of state-of-the-art technology and production capabilities produced campaigns that contain donor-centric messages that are highly personalized to each individual in our mailings. They understand our unique campaign challenges and react with creative solutions to maximized our results."

#### Vice President, Individual Giving

"The improvements they made to our mailing approach reduced mail cost while engaging a broader base of our audience. This highly efficient approach reduced our cost to raise a dollar by 33% which created an opportunity to increase the number of communications we send to our constituents, dramatically increasing donations overall."

Assistant Development Manager

