STORYTELLING STRATEGIES oh, the Places You'll COLTON C. STRAWSER, MS, CFRE



Accelerating Nonprofit Success and Sustainability



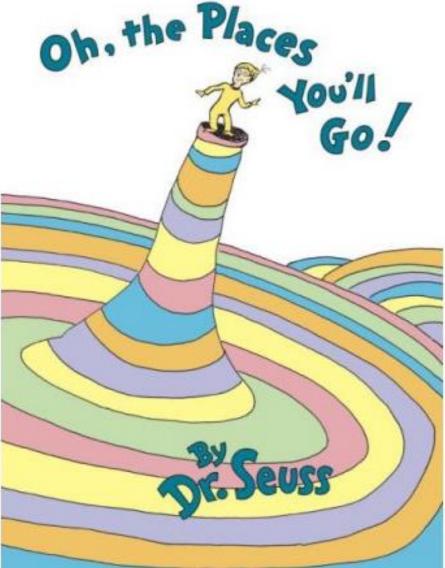
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MY INSPIRATIC On the Pla

"When you're in a Slump, you're not in for much fun. Un-slumping yourself is not easily done."

#ExperientialLearning #AppliedLearning



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RESEARCHER & PROFESSOR



TODAY'S ADVENTURE!

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- Storytelling Strategies
 - What makes a good story?
 - How can we create stories?
 - How do we track stories?



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MARKETING PET PEEVES

- Having a Facebook page isn't marketing, using it is
- Millennials aren't marketing geniuses
- You can NEVER, EVER! Market to the "general public"
- Organizations don't want to spend money on marketing
- People that do not want to track their marketing results





Nonprofit Marketing

- Marketing helps answer a variety of questions
 - How is your program impactful?
 - What do you want to be known for?
 - Why are you relevant?
 - Why do you exists?
 - Why should individuals support you?
 - Etc.
- Unlike for-profit marketing, nonprofit marketing seeks to have you buy into an idea or cause, rather than a product or service





"Well, we just need to COMMUNICATIONS MATRANC our name out there..."

- Who needs to know about you?
- What do you want them to know about you?
- Why do they need to know about you?
- What do you want them to do once they know about you?







STORYTELLING FUN FACTS

- Bacon and eggs were not considered breakfast foods until the 1920s, when Sigmund Freud's nephew was hired by a packing company to create a marketing campaign to increase bacon sales
- Orville Redenbacher paid an advertising consultant \$13,000 to name his popcorn, who then suggested that he should name it "Orville Redenbacher."
- "Casual Friday" is the product of a guerrilla marketing campaign by Levis' new khaki brand, Dockers during the early 90s recession.
- The "2-3 months' salary" a guy should spend on an engagement ring was a marketing campaign by diamond mining company DeBeers.





MARKETING & FUNDRAISING ROLES

- Marketing and fundraising roles are often intertwined when it comes to marketing and storytelling.
- As with fundraising, marketing the organization is the responsibility of all staff and board members.







WHAT IS A STORY?

A story is a vehicle in which to transfer emotion from you over to your donors



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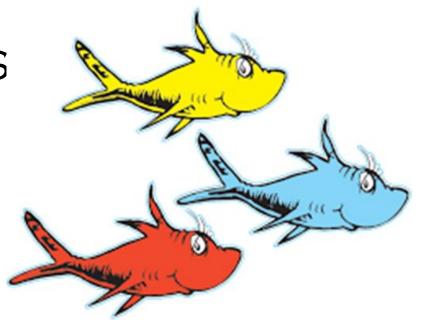
WHY COLLECT STORIES?

- Stories are currency in marketing and fundraising
- Donors are motivated to give by stories, volunteers are motivated to serve by stories, and clients are motivated to take advantage of services through stories
- Every good annual report and final grant report should have a story!



TYPES OF STORIES

- Donor Stories
- Impact Stories
- Thank You Stories



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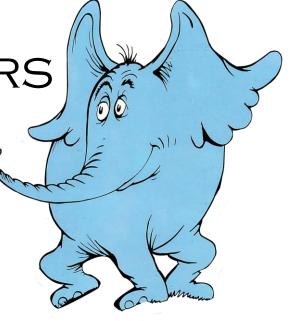
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*Sometimes these can be combined



STORIES ABOUT DONORS

- Collect stories from your donors
 - Why do they give?
 - Why would they tell others to give?
 - What has giving meant to them?
- These stories are helpful as a stewardship opportunity for donors, but also used to gain other donors
- These types of stories are especially helpful during campaigns



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STORIES OF IMPACT

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- Collect stories on your programs (beyond DATA!)
 - What effect are you having on those that you are serving?
 - What effect are you having on the community?
- These stories are often used in fundraising speak with donors
- In addition, these stories are usually the ones that are highlighted at special events and in organization publications



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THANK YOU STORIES

- These stories are a blend of Donor Stories and Impact Stories – A combination of what a gift actually accomplished
- What is a story related to the area that they supported?







Types of Story Listeners?



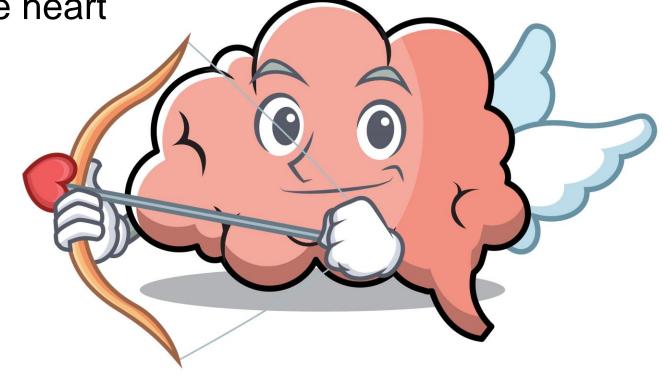






Your Goal

 Utilize "Metric-Based Storytelling" to reach both the brain and the heart





Making a Motivating Story

- Know Your Audience
 - Why are they involved?
 - What motivates the masses?
- Create different stories for different listeners



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Elements of a Good Story

- A Nonprofit Storytelling Formula
 - Introduction of the main character
 - A problem arises
 - Your organization/donors help with the problem
 - You invite others to join in solving the problem



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Story Collection Strategies

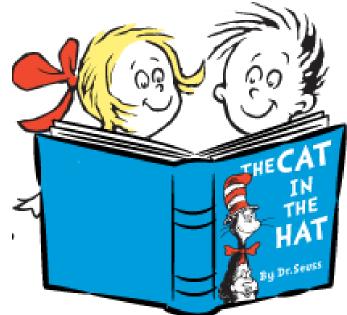
- Encourage individuals to capture stories within your organization OR periodically interview individuals.
- Questions to get started might include:
 - What problem does this program solve?
 - Tell me about a client who's been helped by this program
 - What was it like meeting the client for the first time?
 - What were they like when they first inquired about this program?
 - How did the client feel when they took the fist steps to access the program?
 - What's the client's life like now?





Storytelling Journal

- Keep track of stories can be challenging
- Have worksheets or a notebook full of stories can help when it is time for various communication activities:
 - Social media
 - Press releases
 - Annual report
 - Fundraising appeals

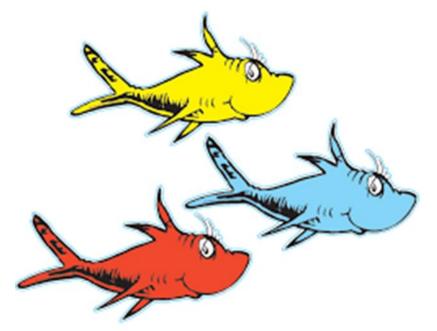






A FISH PROMISE

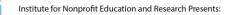
 Write one thing you are going to COMMIT to do when you get back to your organization in relations to your marketing and storytelling strategies.





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YOU HAVE BRAINS IN YOUR HEAD. YOU HAVE FEET IN YOUR SHOES. YOU CAN STEER YOURSELF ANY DIRECTION YOU CHOOSE. YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN. AND YOU KNOW WHAT YOU KNOW. AND YOU ARE THE ONE WHO'LL DECIDE WHERE TO GO...



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CONTACT ME

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WHO NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT YOU?

WHAT DO YOU WANT THEM TO KNOW ABOUT YOU?

WHY DO THEY NEED TO KNOW ABOUT YOU?

WHAT DO YOU WANT THEM TO DO ONCE THEY KNOW ABOUT YOU?

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	STORYTELLING JOURNAL
Date:	
Who told you the story?	
Are there any pictures	or videos available to help tell the story? (Circle One)
YES	NO
Write a quick summary of the story:	
Who is the main character in your story?	
What problem(s) were they facing?	
How did your organization/donors help solve the problem?	
Additional details and notes:	

Adapted from The Nonprofit Storytelling Field Guide & Journal The Nonprofit Institute – University of San Diego

