

Give OUT Day

GUIDE TO CAMPAIGNS



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IDENTIFY YOUR AUDIENCE

Let's start by thinking about who you're talking to during your campaign. Knowing your audience will help you build a unique story that captures peoples' attention and speak to their values. When we center authentic stories, we can move people to action!

While you're filling out the prompts below, think back to previous campaigns your organization has done. What worked well? What did people respond to best? Use any previous campaign information you have to help inform your current campaign!

Who is your audience? Who exactly are you talking to?

Examples: your entire donor list, recent event attendees, newsletter subscribers, monthly donors, etc.

What do they love about your mission? Why do they care?

Example: our donors care about children, education and health.

What do they respond to? Which communication channels have you had the most success?

Example: during previous campaigns, donors mostly gave through our GiveOUTDay.org organization page.

How do you want to make people feel?

Examples: warm, empowered, connected, generous, inspired.



BUILD A STORY WITH AN ANSWER

A compelling story is the cornerstone of a strong fundraising campaign. Now that you've identified who you're talking to, the following questions will help walk through the components of building a story that your audience can get involved in.

What is the specific challenge or obstacle your organization is addressing?

Example: Many LGBTQ+ adults struggle to find spaces where they can build meaningful connections, especially after coming out, relocating, or aging out of youth-centered programs. For people like Alex, who picked up their instrument again after decades away, the hardest part wasn't playing - it was finding a community!

Why is it urgently important that this challenge is addressed?

Example: LGBTQ+ adults experience higher rates of loneliness and disconnection, which can affect mental health and overall well-being. Having access to affirming, creative community spaces is essential to addressing these issues.

Why is your organization the one to address this issue?

Example: That's where our LGBTQ+ Freedom Band comes in! We create a space where adults of all skill levels can come together to make music, build friendships, and celebrate who they are. Whether someone is a seasoned musician or hasn't played in years, we welcome them to come play with us.



BUILD A STORY WITH AN ANSWER

What does your organization need to solve the problem?

Example: To keep this program accessible and growing, we need support to cover rehearsal space, sheet music, instrument repair, and leadership from local band directors. Rising costs mean we need to raise \$10,000 this year.

Make your ask!

Example: Will you give \$100 today to help an LGBTQ+ adult find connection, creativity, and community through music?

Close your story by centering the community you work with.

Example: For Alex and so many others, this band is a place to belong. It's laughter between rehearsals, chosen family, and the courage to take up space. Together, we're not just making songs, we're building a community where everyone can be heard.



SET A GOAL

Think of setting your campaign goal like buying a car.

This is the car you know you can afford:



But this is the car your board of directors wants you to get:



So how can you compromise and get an achievable car like this?



Getting to Your Achievable Goal

Let's say you need \$3,000 to fund your program for the year. Last year, you raised \$1,500 during Give Out Day. A goal of \$5,000 for this year's giving day might not be reasonable. Based on your past success, perhaps \$1,750 or \$2,000 is a good place to start.

No matter what amount you choose, we encourage you to keep the following in mind:

- Make it achievable and aspirational!
 - Try to find the balance between ambitious and unachievable. Setting a goal too low and hitting it early in your campaign might send the signal to donors that you don't need their help. Setting a goal too high and not hitting it might be disheartening to your supporters. Striking the right balance is important!
- Keep it relevant to your story
 - How does your goal tie in to your story? What will the money be used for?

Use the workspace below to brainstorm some ideas for your campaign goal.

Think about the following:

- How much money do you need to meet your budget?
- How have previous campaigns performed? How much did you raise?
- What do you consider a realistic aspiration for this campaign?"



CONSIDER A MATCHING GIFT

Check all that apply for your organization:

- We have previously used a matching gift successfully during a campaign.
- We have a relationship with an individual, foundation, or company that is willing to provide matching gift funds.
- Our board is willing to provide matching funds.
- We might have a relationship with an individual, foundation, or company that would be willing to provide matching gift funds.
- Our fundraising team has the capacity to maintain a relationship with a donor(s) if they were to make a large donation to provide a matching gift fund.
- Our fundraising team has the capacity to communicate the matching gift opportunity with our donor audience during the fundraising campaign with urgency, consistency, and a compelling story.

If you checked two or more boxes, then a matching gift might be a great tool for you!

If you did not check at least two boxes, that doesn't mean that a matching gift isn't the right strategy for you. Be sure to evaluate how much time you have before your campaign and how much capacity you have to secure the matching funds ahead of time!

Two big questions to answer for a matching gift strategy:

Whom will you ask to fund your matching gift pool?

How much will be offered as part of the matching gift pool?

If don't have one donor that can singlehandedly provide your matching gift fund, think about asking multiple people to pool their gifts and create a fund together!

IDENTIFY YOUR CORE SUPPORTERS

You might have donors you know really well, new donors you're still getting to know, and donors who fall somewhere in between. Identifying which supporters are going to be the most engaged with your campaign is a major key to your fundraising success!

Consider the following categories, hot, medium, and cold, to help identify your strongest supporters.

HOT: Hot prospects know and understand your work. They already give in one or more ways and feel connected to your mission. Focus on maintaining and deepening your relationships with this category as they're likely to support you time-and-time again!

Examples of hot prospects: board members, monthly donors, longtime donors

MEDIUM: Medium prospects have some understanding of your work, but need to be engaged more before they donate.

Examples of medium prospects: newsletter subscribers that haven't donated yet, event attendees that haven't donated yet

COLD: Cold prospects may not understand your work and may or may not care about what you do. We recommend not spending time here until you've activated all your hot and medium options!

Examples of cold prospects: cold calling, bulk postal mail, community members that have never engaged with your organization before





Build your team

Fundraising is most successful when we all come together to activate our networks. Helping others feel empowered to advocate for your mission can significantly increase your reach into the community and your fundraising results!

Who can you ask to help raise support for your organization?

- Board members
- Organization staff (other than fundraising staff)
- Volunteers
- Donors

Board members are the most important advocates for your organization!

Here are the top things they can do to support your campaign:

1. Donate! Ask them to make a personal donation
2. Share! Ask them to spread the word to their friends & family
3. Thank! Ask them to make thank you calls or write thank you notes to other donors

What actions will you ask you board members to take?

What will board members need to be successful?

BUILD YOUR COMMS PLAN

You've identified your audience, your story, and your goal...now it's time to figure out how you'll spread the word. You know your audience best, so select communication channels that will resonate with them the most.

Which channels do your donors respond to the best? Check all that apply.

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Email | <input type="checkbox"/> Phone or video calls | <input type="checkbox"/> Text messages |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Facebook | <input type="checkbox"/> Postal mail letter | <input type="checkbox"/> Recorded video messages |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Twitter | <input type="checkbox"/> Handwritten notes | <input type="checkbox"/> Your website |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Instagram | <input type="checkbox"/> Virtual or in-person gatherings | <input type="checkbox"/> Your Give OUT Day page |

Of the options checked above, what are the top three most impactful channels for your campaign?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What do you need to effectively engage donors through your top three channels?

- | | |
|--|---|
| Photos (with consent) | Organization logo or graphics |
| Quotes and testimonials (with consent) | Images sized for email and social media |
| Story and/or appeal copy | Audience addresses, phone numbers, and emails |
| Video content (with consent) | Other: |

If you're working with a communications professional to manage your organization's social media, emails, etc., be sure to include them in your planning process! They'll have great content and connection ideas and can help you plan realistic timelines. And don't stop posting your organization's regular content! During a campaign it's good to vary your fundraising asks with other mission related content.

MAKE AN APPRECIATE PLAN

Which methods will you use to celebrate and thank your supporters?

Choose every feasible strategy! You can never have enough gratitude.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Email | <input type="checkbox"/> Thank you call |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Facebook | <input type="checkbox"/> Thank you card or postcard |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Twitter | <input type="checkbox"/> Thank you letter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Instagram | <input type="checkbox"/> Celebration video |

Will every donor be thanked and engaged in the same way?

If not, use the space below to plan out how various groups of donors will be appreciated and invited to stay involved.

Board Members

Example: Executive Director will call board members to thank them

Major Donors

Example: Director of Development will make thank you calls to donors of \$500 and up

First-Time Supporters

Example: New donors will receive a welcome email thanking them for their gift"

All other donors

Example: All donors will receive a thank you postcard via postal mail

What might qualify as a major gift at one organization might not work for you. Define your own parameters and make it custom to your mission and values!

SKETCH OUT YOUR PLAN

Your campaign has a lot of moving pieces! Plan out the work of launching, maintaining, and following up on your campaign below.

One Month Ahead

Week Before Launch

During the Campaign

Immediate Follow Up

Ongoing Engagement



TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF & YOUR TEAM

You've told amazing stories and engaged lots of donors, hopefully raising much-needed support for your organization. Congratulations! However, as nonprofit leaders, we're usually taking care of others. It's just as important to take care of ourselves and our colleagues, too! Make a plan for how you will celebrate your success and recharge for your next campaign.

What will you do to recharge and celebrate your hard work after you complete this campaign?

What will you do to check in with your colleagues and help them celebrate their success?

What will you do to thank board members and volunteers while sharing the news about your successes?

Self-care doesn't always mean going on vacation or taking a bubble bath (though those things can definitely be included!). Here are some ideas for taking care of yourself and your team:

- Find a quiet place to take deep breaths and reset your mind and body
- Take a walk alone or with a friend, or find space outside to soak up some sunshine
- Make a list of things you're proud of from your campaign and save them to refer to later when you need a boost
- Treat yourself to your favorite drink, snack, or activity

Remember that advocating for yourself is also self-care! It's okay to ask for help as you plan your campaign...fundraising is a team activity!

- Communicate honestly and openly with your leaders & board members about your needs
- Ask the Give OUT Day Help Team for support at support@mightycause.com
- Connect with other fundraising peers to get fresh perspective or creative ideas for your campaign
- Reach out to one of our seasoned fundraising coaches to get in-depth assistance and support in your fundraising planning



What's next?

This fundraising guide can help anytime you're planning a fundraising campaign!

Consider some of these ideas:

- Preparing your calendar year-end or fiscal year-end fundraising appeal
- Launching a spring donation campaign
- Running an acquisition (new donor) campaign
- Sprucing up your annual fundraising campaign
- Creating an additional gift appeal (asking current donors to give an additional gift)

Want additional help developing your campaign? We'd love to help!

Reach out to our team of technology experts at support@mightycause.com anytime or visit GiveOUTDay.org for more free-to-access resources and workbooks.

