

Needs of the Non-Profits

a free public service sponsored by



"My Father's House" of Gresham
Gresham Optimist Club
StateofOregon.com

Now online at:
www.stateoforegon.com

Overview

Communities nationwide are served by a wide-range of non-profit groups. One of the common threads among these non-profit entities is a lack of funding in order to buy goods and services needed to perform their commitment to the community. Therefore we see an almost incessant drive by these groups to raise money. While cash is certainly a necessity for all companies, much of the cash raised goes to purchase hard goods that could be obtained by donations. Although donations of articles are made to some with high visibility (Goodwill, Salvation Army, etc.), many of the lesser known organizations (which are the majority) lack the visibility and funds to advertise their needs. There seems to be a gap between the needs of these groups and those who might have articles to donate.

The usual means of disposal of surplus items have been to donate to highly visible groups, sell the articles or throw them in the garbage. Often these discarded items might be needed by a group and thus an opportunity is wasted.

Purpose

The purpose of the Needs of the Non-Profits website is to bridge the gap between the groups that need specific items (other than cash) and those individuals and groups that might have extra items to donate. At the same time, information about the mission of the group and other information can be identified as well as their requests. These groups can also list extra (surplus) items that they may have and broadcast to the community their availability.

Cost

The service is free to any legitimate not-for-profit group.

Scope

The geographical limitations are virtually non-existent. We presently focus on groups within the Gresham area but as familiarity with the site increases, we would expect and welcome groups throughout the Portland area, state and indeed, nation.

Goal

Our goal is to develop a website open to any not-for-profit group (it is not necessary to be a 501-3C group to join) to display their information on-line for the community to inspect. This would include but not be limited to the group's mission, needs, contact information, location, links to group sites, and availability of surplus items.

Logistics

To accomplish this goal it will be necessary for us to develop several objectives:

1. Webpage development- with sponsorship from www.stateoforegon.com, we have mounted a pages within their website for this purpose. Access to this page is made through with a link going to this site.
2. Publicity- In order to begin getting feedback and participation from not-for-profit groups it will be necessary for us to reach out to these groups. We have developed a short list of potential organizations and will be getting more. Several groups have already been contacted and are anxiously awaiting our launching the site.

Initially we could also use the cooperation of local businesses and organizations to help spread the word to local groups. Some of these include:

- Gresham Outlook
- Oregonian
- Chambers of Commerce's
- Churches
- Schools
- Service organizations
- The non-profit groups themselves

Flyers and publicity can be given to these groups along with word of mouth about the site.

3. Forms- we have developed simple registration/need forms for any qualifying group. The form is available on-line as a pdf file or by fax or email. These forms include spaces for completing their needs and or surplus.
4. Maintenance- the website was developed by the Optimist Club of Gresham and is maintained/coordinated through My Father's House.
5. Longevity- the site will operate for a minimum of one year beginning Oct 1, 2004. Every three months we will evaluate the effectiveness of the site and discuss changes. At the end of one year we will evaluate the position and decide whether or not to continue the site.

Support

This project is supported by the Gresham Outlook, Stateof Oregon.com, the Optimists of Gresham, and My Father's House..

Contacts:

For more information you are urged to contact

Ken Manske (Gresham Optimist) at 503-666-4220 or fax 503-666-8974
Aryn Fix (My Father's House) at 503-267-1975