# Collaborating

... with our donors



# Lingo Bingo

- Donor centric
- Donor driven
- Donors as 'partners'
- Segmentation
- Personalization
- More relevant communications



# Who has struggled with

- Technical speak versus donor speak
- Designated giving versus undesignated giving
- Organizational silos
- Growing a mass file and specifically monthly givers
- Reporting back to donors on the impact of their gifts
- Finding money to invest in acquisition and retention
- Donor loyalty



### I'm confused

- We act like we don't know how to get our file to grow or perform better
- Where's the fricken mystery?
- Huh?
- What?



- Costs are skyrocketing
- Media is impossible to dominate
- Competition is stronger
- Budgets are flat



#### Acquisition and Retention

	Then	Now
Single donor acquisition cost	1990: \$25	\$75 - \$150
Monthly donor acquisition cost	1990: \$50	\$300 - \$750
Average lifetime of child sponsor	6 – 7 years	3 – 4 years*

\*Heavily affected by door-to-door rates



#### Media Environment

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north**^** 

Overhead percentage

- Then: below 20%
- Now: below 20%



#### Think about best practices

Thanks Welcome Ask again Educate Cultivate Elevate



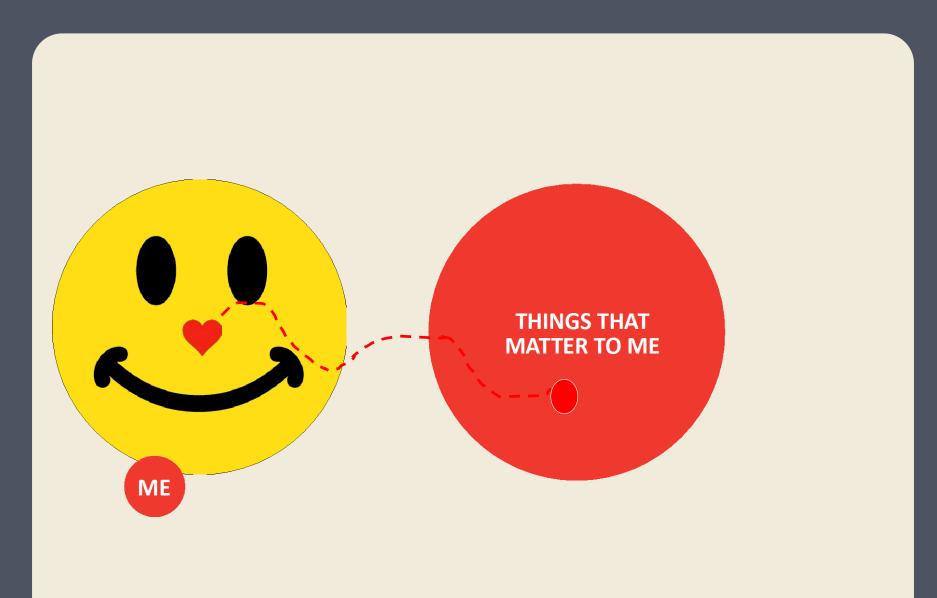




#### bluenorth\*











#### bluenorth\*

#### Organizations don't listen











### Or ...

- Bait-and-switch asks
- Inside out? or Outside in?



### What a mess!

#### Too many ingredients in the mix





### Friction

#### Donors are digging in their heels





# What does donor collaboration mean?

- Invite them to be part of the solution
- Show empathy
- Join your donors where they are at
- View the world from their perspective



### Mass? Middle? Major? Meh!

- Form a clear understanding of where each individual donor is at, and what motivates their decision making
- That's what drives success!



Wycliffe Gift Catalogue

- A saturated product space
- Seeing declines across the board
- First and foremost a retail experience, not a giving experience



#### Gift Catalogue Trend Line



2010 Gift Catalog \$346,823 Avg Gift: \$154.49 RR 3.01% I:C 4.37 Mailing Count: 43,705 2011 Gift Catalog\$247,226 Avg Gift: \$148.13 RR 2.46% I:C 3.68 Mailing Count: 41,559

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2012 Gift Satalog\$154,074 Avg 3: \$156.26 RR 1.3. I:C 1.04 Mailing Count: 51, ...

bluenorth^

#### Better retail experience

Moving closer to the audience:

- 1. Doubled response rate
- 2. Increased average gift past \$160
- 3. Exceeded RR goal by 117%
- 4. Improved I:C by 395% over prior year



**Toronto Humane Society Holiday Appeal** 

- Performance of critical Holiday Appeal mailing going to the dogs
- Revenue declined by more than 34% since 2010, despite increases in the mail quantity



#### Focusing on impact

**Basic Insight** 

• Pet people are crazy.

Solution

- Specific offers that focused on impact
- Segment cat and dog people
- Package comes from a pet type (cat, dog or other) to drive the creative elements of the package.



#### **Empathy pays**

- Revenue increased 47% versus 2012
- Highest result in 5 years
- Average gift amount up over 25%
- 5% of monthly donors increased their monthly gift amount







minder of all the animal benefit from your gift

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	table home for one month	-				
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	g care for an animal in need	\$500				
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You



World Vision US – Middle Donor program 2007

• 18,000 middle donors, poorest performing file in entire organization



#### Solution

- A program to create a bridge between Mass and Major
- Focused on donors, their habits, their passions and their preferences





World Vision US – Middle Donor program 2013

- 2013 20,000 middle donors
- Middle-Major portfolio revenue has increased by 249% since 2007
- Newsletter revenue has increased from average \$65,000 per issue (high of \$105,000) to \$540,000



### Keys to success

- 1. Organizational orientation
- 2. Obsessive results and metrics tracking
- 3. Willingness to be results-based
- 4. Invest in areas that earn it; starve those that don't

