### **Donor Relations Architecture**

#### Debbie Meyers Lynne M. Wester





#### You keep using that word

# I do not think it means what you think it means.





# History

From Old English *stíweard*, or household

Servant who supervised the Lord's estate and household, earning 3 to 4 pounds a year

Took care of the lord's castles when he was away and checked on his serfs' taxes



# History

#### **Contemporary stewards take care of:**

- People on planes and ships
- Churches
- Trees, the earth, the ocean
- Investments
- Wine





# Definition

#### In broad usage:

One who manages property or other affairs for someone else

#### In advancement:

One who ensures that donors gifts are used as donors intended



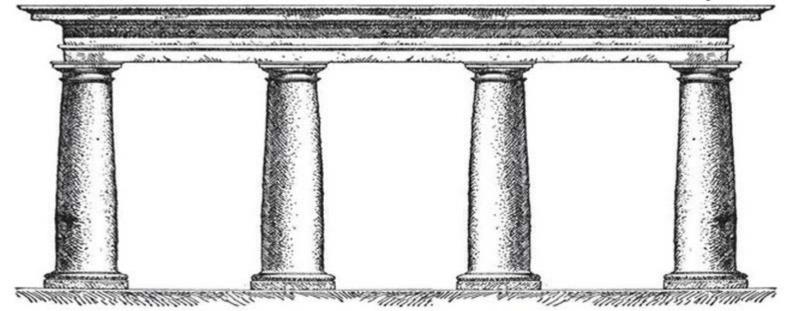
# **Definition and theory**

- One does not steward a prospect. One *cultivates* a prospect. But one can use stewardship as a cultivation tool.
- To be a good steward, you don't actually have to do the stewardship. But you do need to make sure it gets done.
- Stewardship is most effective when delivered by the person or program most directly benefitting from the gift.



# Four pillars

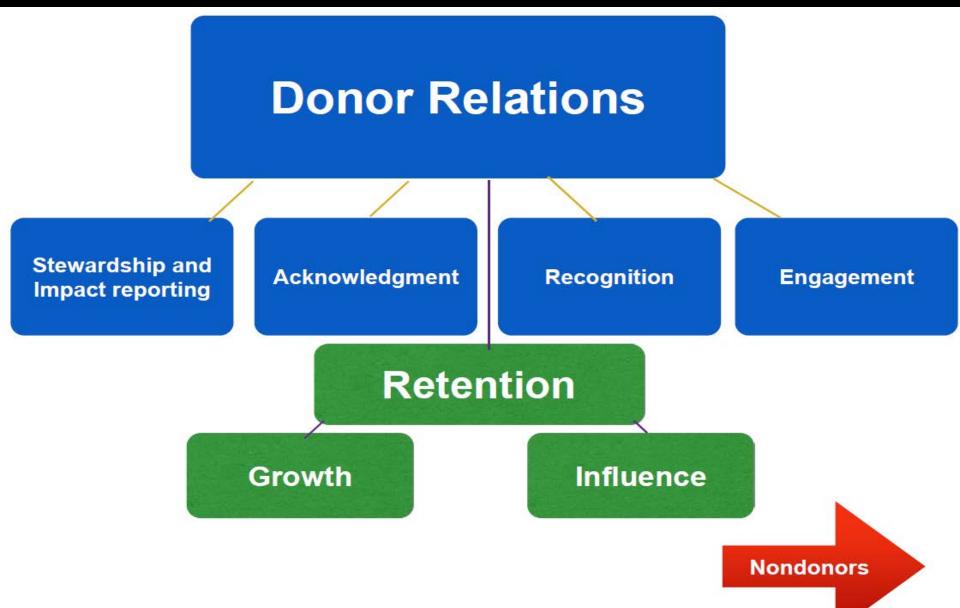
#### Acknowledgment Reporting Recognition Engagement





#### **Donor Relations**





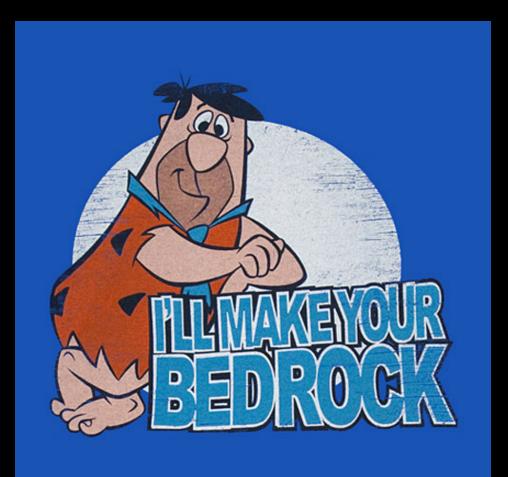
### The Foundation is so Important



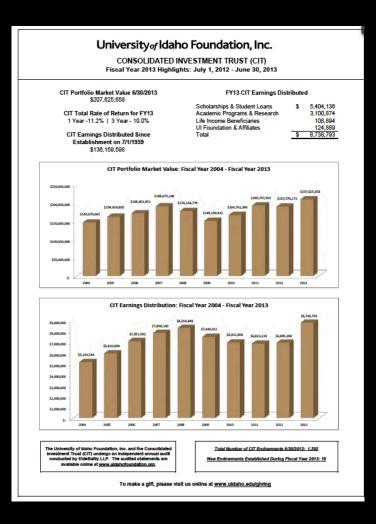




## Gift Acceptance, Acknowledgment



### Stewardship and Impact Report



#### **Donor Engagement and Recognition**

- Donors Want Three Things:
  - Access
  - Information
  - Experience





# Acknowledgments

#### • MUST

- Gift Agreements
- Timely Receipts
- Leadership
  Acknowledgments
- Online GivingConfirmation

#### • LUST

- Impact Videos
- Hand Written
  Notes from
  Leadership
- Online Thank Yous that Change with Designation



# Stewardship and Reporting

- MUST
  - Fiscal Reporting
  - Narrative Reporting
  - Accountability
  - Transparency
  - All funds spent and spent according to donor intent

- LUST
  - Impact Videos
  - Unrestricted
    Reporting
  - Storytelling

### LUST

# meet jean bosco.

Shy and sturdy, he carried a 20 gallon Jerry Can on his head with a banana as the cork. Only 15 years old, his days were filled fetching water. Four to five times a day, he walked back and forth to a brown, murky, stagnant pond.

READ THE STORY>

RWANDA

# LUST

UGANDA

will the beautiful women of the world please stand up.

This is when I met Helen Apio. Placing both hands on my shoulders and smiling, she said, "Now, I am beautiful." That really hit me. My job is to focus on sustainable development, health, hygiene and sanitation; to make sure charity: water's projects are working in 20 years. But nowhere on any of my surveys or evaluations was a place to write, "Today we made someone feel beautiful."

READ THE STORY>



# **Donor Recognition**

#### • MUST

- Giving Societies?
- Telling Donor Stories
  - All kinds all levels
- Recognition Events
- Gift announcement

#### • LUST

- Nomination for Awards
- Donor Recognition
  Web presence
- Digital Donor Wall
- Thank a Donor
  Week



# Donor Engagement

#### • MUST

- Meeting Recipients/Beneficiari es
- Stewardship visits or bringing them to your organization
- Volunteer
  Opportunities

• LUST

- Engagement Tours
- Insider Updates
- Leadership Phone Calls
- Guest speaker initiations
- Represent organization at ceremonies

# Thank You! Questions?

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