### How to Grow Your Program from Direct Appeal to Major Gifts

#### Karen Santilli – Crossroads Rhode Island Ben Borne – Newport Creative



## Crossroads Rhode Island

- Founded in 1894 as Travelers Aid
- Changed name to Crossroads Rhode Island 10 years ago
- Largest provider of services to the homeless in Rhode Island
- Raise \$2.8 million through direct mail, web, PSAs, Foundations/grants, events and personal solicitations



### **Newport Creative**

- Partner with non-profit clients exclusively
- Over 25 years of direct response and integrated fundraising
- Unique service model of senior level account management
- Offices in greater Boston and Washington, DC



### Crossroads at a Crossroads

- Recent re-naming/re-branding process
- Underperforming donor file
- Poorly performing acquisition
- Tired creative
- Sporadic integration
- No Major & Planned Gift Program
- No Endowment



## Donor File on the brink

- 6,500 donors
- 25% of donor file hadn't donated in over 24 months
- Un-segmented file
- Acquiring lower value donors
- Minimal integration across fundraising channels



## Acquisition a Sore Spot

- Mailing premium package
  - Higher cost
  - Lower value donors
- One campaign a year
  - Didn't maximize usage of control lists
  - 0-12 month file getting new influx of donors just once per year
- Wasn't providing a reasonable ROI

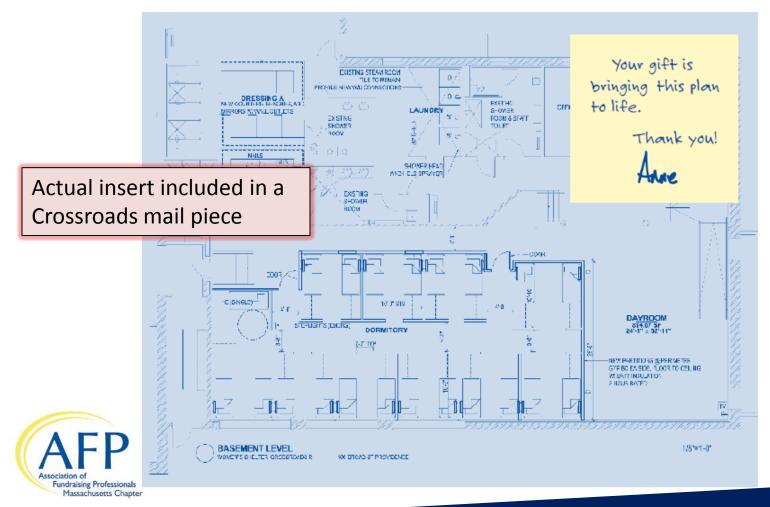


# **Old-School Creative**

- Newsletter packages
- Name label packages
- Annual fund packages
- Repetitive letter copy that did not communicate the need



### A Blueprint for Change



**30<sup>th</sup> Annual AFP MA Conference on Philanthropy** 

# A Blueprint for Change

- Streamline the schedule
- Improve the communication strategy
- Make acquisition more effective
- Integrate with other channels
- Grow base of donors to support future programs for M&PG



# Streamline the Schedule

- Removed poor performing packages
  - Newsletters (converted exclusively to E-news)
  - Label packages
  - Annual fund packages
- Moved more mail dates into "colder" months
- Split acquisition into two mailings
- Supporting emails identified in advance



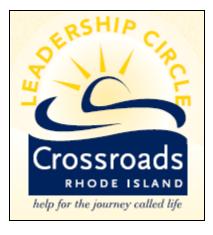
## **Communication Strategy**

• Identify programs, issues and offers that could be effectively and regularly featured in packages.



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# **Communication Strategy**

- Obtain compelling stories from Crossroads clients.
- Focus copy on core issues and singular subjects.
- Strong acknowledgment program
  - Customized thank you letters mailed ASAP
  - Phone calls for large donations



### **Communication Strategy**

Creative that reinforces who Crossroads helps and how.



"I knew women were homeless, But I never thought I'd be one of them."



#### CROSSROADS RHODE ISLAND

#### VOUCHER FOR NEW SHOES

#### Courtesy of:

John Sampleperson Newport Creative Communications 33 Railroad Ave. Duxbury, MA 02332

Breaking Homelessness. Repairing Lives.

R0933AYAMA 1223445

\$35 represents the cost of One Pair of Shoes for a Client of Crossroads Rhode Island

1	Quantity:	

Total Donation:

\$

Donations will support essential services at Crossroads.





**30th Annual AFP MA Conference on Philanthropy** 

## **Acquisition Strategy**

- Keep message simple
- Show range of programs to prospective donors
- Mail pieces included action/engagement devices, not low value premiums.
- Created a New Donor Welcome Kit to further solidify the new relationship and gather information.



#### Thanksgiving

P.P.S. Could you possibly send

recently joined us. I can't

heart. And with affordable

since last year.

advance!!!

your gift today? Another family

imagine the fear in that mother's

housing is so scarce, people already

with us are staying longer - the

number of bednights has doubled

We'll squeeze this new family in

with me to cover the other services

Anne

somehow. But I really need you

they'll require. Thank you in



Ms. Jane Sampleperson Newport Creative Communications 33 Railroad Avenue Duxbury, MA 02332-3807

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#### Additional insert created sense of urgency



Bounceback and Thank you cards



Hope... A Reason For Thanksgiving

Thank you fo all you do for y neighbors in no

Presidence, Reporting Elements (6) Recard Street, Previdence, RI (1390)



October 10, 2012

Wishing you and yo a happy holiday. Your friends at Cross



Ma, Jane Sampleperson Newport Construct Communications 30 Salitoad Avenue Dashury, MA 02033-3887 Kalida-dadi-dadi-dadi Mana Manikad

Dear Ma. Sampleperson,

Linda and Michael will be counting their biessings this Thankagiving: They both have joba, a root over their hands and a warm place to sleep, their children are healthy, they have each other - and on November 22, their family will sit down to a holiday meal.

And then, as the couple lingues in conversation with other parents at tables early, the two kids will encuae theraselves to play with some of their new tends...

... by racing tricycles around the conference room at Crossroads Rhode Island.

You see, Linda and Michael lost their home in July. Within two months, they'd add off one of their two cars, burned through their surings and exhausted every possible support system they had. A few vorket ago, the faulty come to join the 10 others already comped out on floor mate in our headquarters at 160 Toroad Street.

We've placed them in this makeshift setting because our Family Center. Shelter, built with the support of good triends like you, is bryond full – housing 16 families at a time in facilities meant for 15.

When I mat Linda in our Broad Street waiting room, she burst into team. "We don't belong been?" she said. Still, she knew sleeping on the floor was better – and safer – for her kide than sleeping in their car. <u>The trudy is grateful for what we can other</u>.

So today, I'm enclosing a Thankagiving card on behalf of Linda and all the adults and dilitions we serve in approximation for your companionate support. I also hope that you will choose the reserve your committener to Concernade with a special gift of SCV1, SCV2, SCV2 or more to help them move forward through the difficult months aband.

(over, please)

#### New Donor Welcome Kit

HOW YOU CAN HELP

you can make a difference for our homeless neighbors.

Sign up for monthly giving and Crossroads can arrange for you to make secure monthly gifts of any amount through

Look into options for workplace giving by asking your Human Resources department if your employer will match

There are Many Ways

Take advantage of giving through payroll deduction through the State Employees Charitable Appeal (our agency ID number is 98517), or ed Federal Campaign (our agency ID number is 5700)

Volunteer! There are countless ways that the giving of your time can help! Visit www.

Make a Gift of Stock by donating appreciated securities and reduce your capital gains

Leave a Lasting Legacy by Including Crossroads in your will or planned giving—and let

Attend Special Events that Benefit Crossroads. For example, Women Helping Women supports the Women's Shelter at Crossroads every March. And our Annual Special Event every September always includes a fun surprise!

your credit card.

effs to Crossmark

crossroadsri org to learn more

taxes - while advancing our m

your generosity live o

#### SAFETY · RESPECT · EFFECTIVENESS





help for the journey called life



#### CROSSROADS THEN AND NOW



HOW YOU CAN HELP

OUF FOOTS date back to 1894, when Fravelers Aid of Rhode Island was founded to reach out to young women from the countryside who arrived at the Providence bus station in search of work. Some would become lost, others homeless. Many were hungry, ad afraid Our ce

#### Every Gift You Make for Crossroads is a sound investment in the future of

Rhode Island. Out of every dollar you donate. 87 cents goes directly to services for our clients. You may give using the form included with this brochure packet, or by donating on line at www.crossroadsri.org OW SUPPORT WAS USED



#### Together, Let's Bring an End to Homelessness

-through help for the journey called life. Thank you again for becoming part of and for providing havens of safety, respect and effective care

Visit us on line. Go to www.crossroadsri.org to learn more about our mission and the essential life services you are helping to bring to your neighbors. While there, be sure to add your name to our email list to receive the latest news.



#### THE NEW FACE OF HOMELESSNESS



Seventy percent (70%) of the neighbors turning to us for help and hope these days are men, women and children who are new to homelessness. They've become temporarily homeless due to various circumstances, including:

- Staffing reductions and job elimination · Serious illness-which can cause lost income and high medical bills
- Domestic violence
- · Rising costs of rent and utilities
- · Foredosures on their own homes, or on apartment buildings where they lived as renters

With your care and assistance, Crossroads can help them rebound-never to be homeless again.



	I WANT TO BE MOI	RE INVOLVED W	ITH CROSSROADS!
Please sen	d me more information about:		
	<ul> <li>Monthly giving</li> <li>Opportunities to volunteer</li> </ul>	Special events Making gifts of stock	<ul> <li>Planned giving</li> <li>A tour of Crossroads</li> </ul>
NAME			
ADDRESS: _			
I I I've end I I've mad	WANT TO MAKE AN AD losed a gift of \$ de this gift in honor of:	DITIONAL GIFT TO	
1 I've encl I've mac	WANT TO MAKE AN AD	DITIONAL GIFT TO	CROSSROADS!
I I've end	WANT TO MAKE AN AD losed a gift of \$ de this gift in honor of: Please send a note of acknowledgement to him	DITIONAL GIFT TO	CROSSROADS!
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#### **30<sup>th</sup> Annual AFP MA Conference on Philanthropy**

# **Testing and Learning**

- Tests conducted in all aspects of program:
  - Outer envelop treatments
  - Inserts
  - Lists
  - Segments
  - Mailing territory
  - Supporting emails



### An Integrated Program

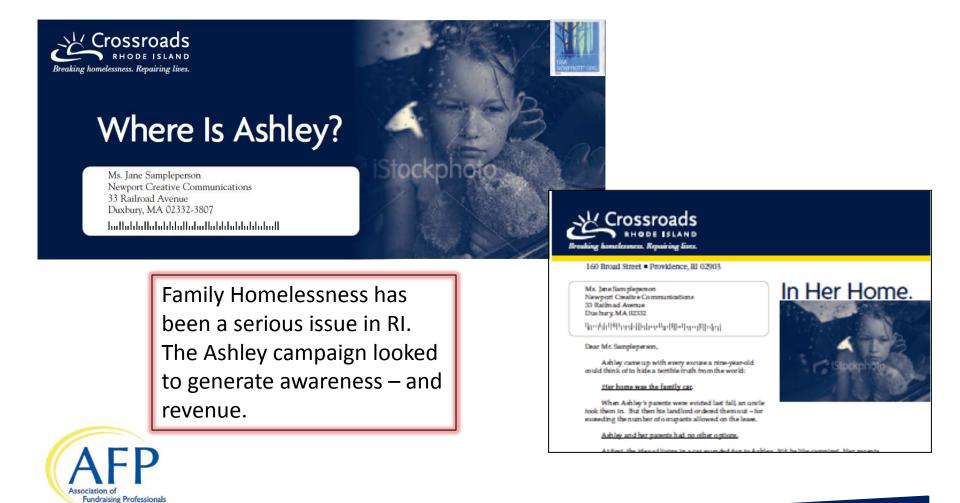
• "Ashley"

• Holiday Giving Program



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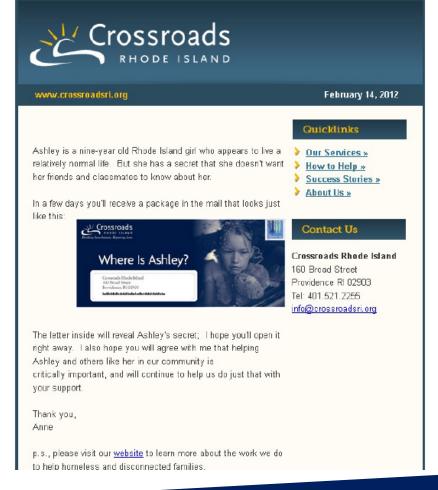
#### Where's Ashley? - Mail



Massachusetts Chapter

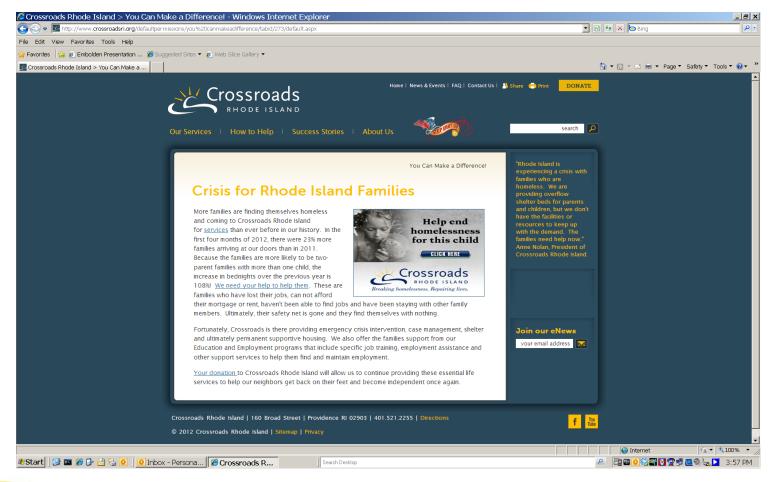
### Where's Ashley? - Email

Email prenotification





### Where's Ashley? – Landing Page





#### Where's Ashley? - TV



Massachusetts Chapter

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# Holiday Campaign

- Not satisfied with previous holiday efforts
- Wanted a marquis campaign, set-apart from the usual mail formats to provide increased revenue, reinforce the brand and to allow for cross-channel communication.



## Holiday Catalog

- Employs a new theme each year:
  - Miracle On Broad Street

Home for the Holidays 2011 HOLIDAY CATALOG



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## Holiday Catalog-Truly Integrated Fundraising

- Direct mail piece
- Supporting emails
- Interactive landing page
- Print ad in Newspaper
- Dimensional personal outreach package
- Stand alone catalogs used at multiple events



### Holiday Catalog-Mail



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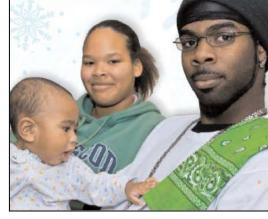
#### **Holiday Catalog-Mail**

🦧 GIFT ITEM NUMBER

# Showers and a night's rest for a family of 4

Each month, Crossroads spends hundreds of dollars to run the water, stock the soap and shampoo, and buy and launder towels, sheets and blankets in our First Step Emergency Shelter. Help us provide a clean, comfortable haven for a desperate family.

Donation amount: \$62







#### Jacket, boots, scarf, mittens

Kids often protest, "I don't want to wear my mittens!" But poor children know that winter is bitter when their mittens have holes . . . their jacket no longer fits . . . and their boots leak. Keep a homeless child warm and dry this winter, from head to toe.

Donation amount: \$100

#### CRI FACT:

The most recent Rhode Island Emergency Shelter Board Report states that 230,282 bed nights of shelter were provided throughout the state. 90.1% of these nights were provided by emergency shelters, like Crossroads Rhode Island.



#### Imagine...

not knowing where you will sleep tonight. Imagine not knowing where you will get your next meal. Now imagine that the help of one person, through one organization, could get you through this.



Anne Nolas President

You could be the person that helps - through a Miracle on Broad Street.

And Crossroads Rhode Island is that organization.

#### Dear Neighbor,

Crossroads Bhode kland, based at 160 Broad Street in Providence, is the leading homejess services or gan ization in our state. We provide assistance 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to solve both the immediate and long term needs of people in desperate situations through emergency food and shelter, education, job training and other estential life services.

as fortunate neighbors in their struggle to



#### Holiday Catalog-Email

#### **Email Pre-Notification**

From: Sent: To: Subject: Crossroads Rhode Island [enews@crossroadsri.org] Tuesday, December 08, 2009 9:31 AM Chris Barry Holiday giving made easy....and meaningful



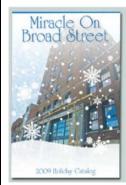
Crossroads Rhode Island eNewsletter

December 7, 2009

Email Marketing by

12.11

Constant Contact



#### What have you put on your holiday wish list this year? A hot shower? Transportation to a job interview?

Transportation to a job interview? GED tutoring services? A healthy meal for your family?

For the hundreds of families and individuals whom we'll serve during this holiday season, these basic essentials are on their list.

Browse our <u>Miracle on Broad Street Virtual Gift</u> <u>Catalog</u> for a meaningful assortment of "gift" ideas.

To see how you can become part of the Miracle on Broad Street this holiday season, visit the <u>Crossroads</u> website.

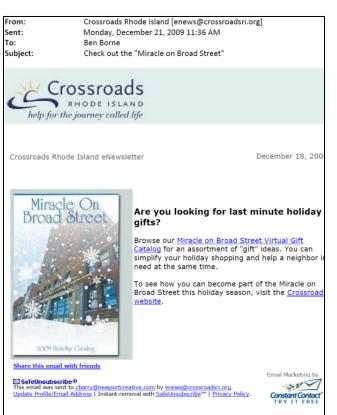
Share this email with friends

#### SafeUnsubscribe®

Dis email was sent to <u>cbarry@newportcreative.com</u> by <u>enews@crossroadsri.org</u>. <u>Update Profile/Email Address</u> | Instant removal with <u>SafeUnsubscribe™ | Privacy Policy</u>.

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#### Holiday Catalog-Personal Outreach





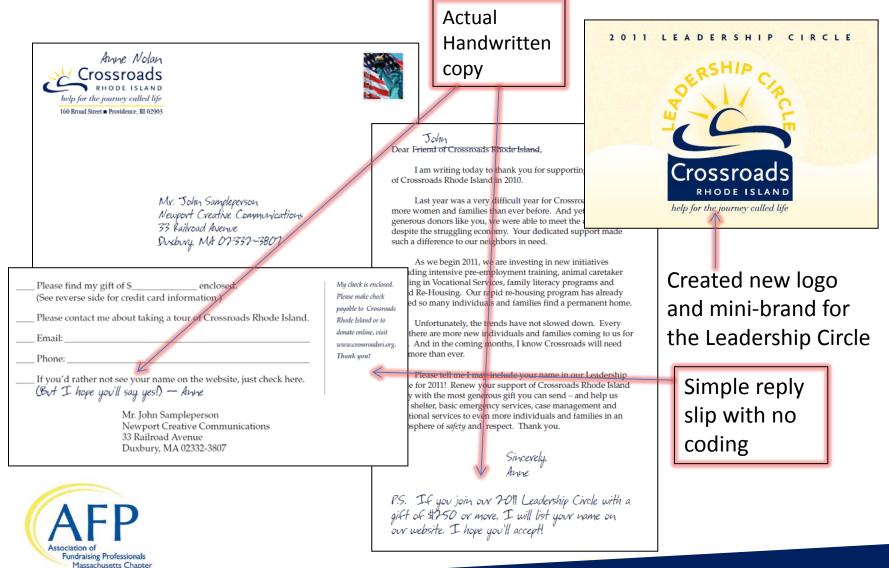
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# Major Donor Appeal

- Opportunity to create an exclusive branded identity for major donors and to upgrade likely candidates.
- January is typically a strong time for renewal campaigns.
- Wanted the package to stand out, and feel as though it was personally sent by the President.
- Offered opportunity for donors' names to be listed on the website.



#### Leadership Giving



#### **30<sup>th</sup> Annual AFP MA Conference on Philanthropy**

# Legacy Giving

- Integrated copy onto back of reply forms
- Added footer to donation acknowledgment stationery
- Enhanced website content
- Mailed newsletter to select segments
- Created model Planned Giving score



# Legacy Giving

• Created Endowment Fund

 Held at RI Foundation – benefit: "back room support" from Foundation staff

- Trained and Engaged Board
- Launch of 1894 Legacy Society Launching this year



# Impact on Individual Level

- Barbara: first gift of \$100 to DM appeal in 2004; has given 4-6 times/year each year since; gift amounts have increased from average of \$300 to \$750 over last year; most recent \$10,000 worth of P&G stock.
- **Nancy:** \$100 annual giver thru DM; responded to Women's Shelter Appeal with \$10,000 pledge in 2008; has given 16 times since with gifts averaging \$400 each; Legacy Society member; volunteer.
- **Bill:** first gift of \$150 in response to 2010 Thanksgiving Acquisition DM; gave 5 gifts totaling \$1750 in 2011; 5 gifts in 2012 totaling \$2,500; 2 gifts totaling \$2,000 YTD 2013; Legacy Society member.



#### **Give Online**

#### Donor "Bill" gave last gift online via website form

The most effective way to support our efforts to help our homeless neighbors in Rhode Island is with a generous, tax deductible\*\* donation. You can support Crossroads Rhode Island right now with a secure credit card contribution in any amount.

\* indicates required field

Personal Information	
* Your First Name:	
* Your Last Name:	
* Your Billing Address:	
Address Line 2:	
* City:	
* State:	Rhode Island
* Zip Code:	
* Telephone:	
* Your Email Address:	

Contribution Payment & Allocation Information
Payment Details (all required):

\* Select an amount: \$50
\$100
\$150
\$200
\$2200
\$2200
\$2200

#### Back-end donation administrator - \$1,000 donation on 9/23

Search Results						
🛛 Ignore pagi	□Ignore paging (exports all pages)					
Export to E	Export to Excel Export to CSV					
Date 🤜	Name	Email	Amount			
09/23/2013			\$1,000.00	View		
		Subtota	<b>1:</b> \$1,000.00			
Total Donations: 1 Total Donation Amount: \$1,000.00						

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Fundraising Professionals Massachusetts Chapter

#### Donor came from organic Google Search (Custom Report in Google Analytics)

	2000	2010 2020	2030	2040	2050	)	
-		~					
Prir	Primary Dimension: Traffic Type						
	Plot Rows Secondary dimension - Sort Type: Default - Default - Default -						
	Traffic Type	Donation from Donate Now button (Goal 1 Completions) ?	Donation Event (Goal 4 Value)	Bounce Rate	Pages / Visit 🕜	Avg. Visit Duration	
		<b>1</b> % of Total: 100.00% (2)	\$1000.00	<b>41.84%</b> Site Avg: 41.84% (0.00%)	<b>3.05</b> Site Avg: 3.05 (0.00%)	00:03:47 Site Avg: 00:03:47 (0.00%)	
	1. organic	1	\$1000.00	36.92%	3.26	00:03:54	
Э	2. Announcement	0	\$0.00	75.00%	2.00	00:00:29	
Э	3. direct	0	\$0.00	56.00%	2.58	00:04:02	
Э	4. E-mail	0	\$0.00	0.00%	4.00	00:00:50	
Э	5. email	0	\$0.00	100.00%	1.00	00:00:00	
	6. referral	0	\$0.00	20.00%	3.20	00:03:03	
	Show rows: 10 + Go to: 1 1 - 6 of 6 < > This report was generated on 10/7/13 at 11:39:12 AM - Refresh Report						

#### Used keyword "crossroads rhode island" (Custom Report in Google Analytics)

#### Primary Dimension: Keyword

	Plot Rows Secondary dimension - Sort Type: Default -					
	Keyword	Donation from Donate Now button (Goal 1	Donation Event (Goal 4 Value) ?	Bounce Rate (?)	Pages / Visit	Avg. Visit Duration
		<b>1</b> % of Total: 100.00% (2)	\$1000.00	<b>36.92%</b> Site Avg: 41.84% (-11.74%)	<b>3.26</b> Site Avg: 3.05 (6.90%)	00:03:54 Site Avg: 00:03:47 (3.04%)
	1. (not provided)	0	\$0.00	39.47%	2.63	00:02:25
$\square$	2. crossroads rhode island	1	\$1000.00	50.00%	2.00	00:02:16
	3. animal caretaker education and training	0	\$0.00	100.00%	1.00	00:00:00
	4. cna classes for free in ri	0	\$0.00	0.00%	7.00	00:05:47
	5. cna classes in ri providence	0	\$0.00	100.00%	1.00	00:00:00
$\Box$	6. crossraods fundraiser providence	0	\$0.00	0.00%	6.00	00:01:51
	7. crossroads	0	\$0.00	20.00%	8.20	00:02:49
	8. crossroads kingstown crossings	0	\$0.00	0.00%	8.00	00:04:31
	9. crossroads of rhode island, jobs	0	\$0.00	0.00%	6.00	00:00:43
$\Box$	10. crossroads of ri	0	\$0.00	0.00%	3.00	00:06:21

Show rows: 10 A Co to: 4 1 10 of 27

# Impact of New Strategy

- A more effective calendar of mail and email communications.
- Varied creative for minimal donor fatigue
- Prompt and personalized gift acknowledgment
- A deeper connection with donors
- Built foundation for Legacy Giving Program



# Impact of New Strategy

- Total donors up 90% in 5 years
- Total multiple donors up 65%
- Total revenue up over 250%
- Net revenue up over 550%
- CP\$R reduced from \$0.77 to \$0.34
- New donors increased by 50-65% annually
- Endowment Fund established



Karen A. Santilli

Crossroads Rhode Island 160 Broad Street Providence, RI 02903 (401) 277-4328 ksantilli@crossroadsri.org



Ben Borne

Newport Creative 33 Railroad Avenue Duxbury, MA 02332 (781) 934-1430 bborne@newportcreative.com





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Thank you to our Chapter Sponsor *Development Guild/DDI* for its generous support of the Massachusetts Chapter!





Funding the Future: Engage, Innovate, Transform.

**October 17, 2013** 

**30th Annual AFP MA Conference on Philanthropy**