# What's working in Acquisition?

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#### The Acquisition Challenge

- Greater competition in the mail
- Smaller, post-recession list market
- Increasing Costs
- Shrinking retention

#### **Acquisition Trends**

- According to Target Analytics:
  - Number of donors in their index declined by 2.7% from the first quarter of 2011 to the first quarter of 2012
  - This continues a trend of declining donors since the third quarter of 2005 (post-hurricane Katrina).
  - In the first quarter of 2012, new donor populations were flat.

#### **Success Stories!**

- Covenant House
- Planned Parenthood Federation of America

#### **Covenant House – Our Mission**

Covenant House was founded in 1972 with the mission to help homeless youth escape the streets.

Today, Covenant House is the largest privately-funded agency in the Americas providing food, shelter, immediate crisis care, and essential services to homeless, throwaway, and runaway kids.

#### Acquisition Program – History

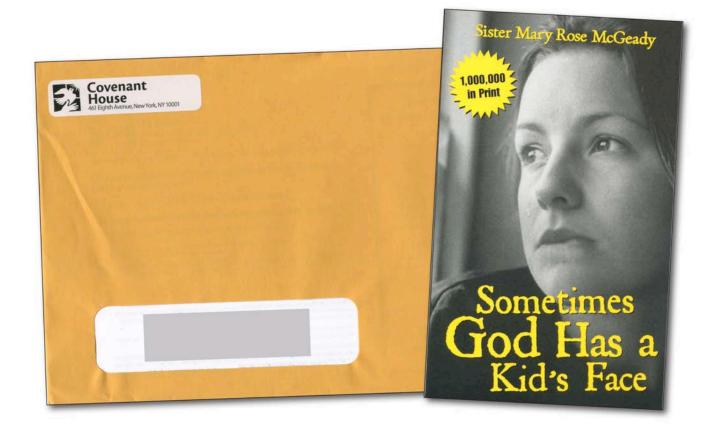
Direct response Fundraising since the 80's

- > 20+ million pieces mailed annually
  - 230k new donors acquired annually
  - Overall ROI ranged from \$.50 to \$.60
  - 1-3 year breakeven on upfront investment
- Average gift \$18-\$20
- Net LTV \$20-\$30 in Year 3-4

### **Acquisition Control Packages**

Control	Package	Year
Mission	Book	1990's
Premium	Name Stickers	1999-2002
Hi-end Premium	Pin	2003-2005
	Cross & Chain	2006-2007
Higher-end Premium	Inline Key Chain	2008-2010

#### **Control Packages: The Book**



#### Control Package: In-line Angel Key



#### 2008 – Financial & Economic Crisis

#### Package Strategy – FY08

Package	Mailed	RR	Donors	Average Gift	Revenue
Cross & Chain	70k	1.27%	889	\$15.98	\$14.1k
Inline Key Chain	70k	1.88%	1,316	\$14.24	\$18.6k

#### Acquisition Performance FY08-FY10

Fiscal Year	Mail Quantity	Donors	ROI	Breakeven
FY2010	11m	182k	\$.37	3+ year
FY2009	8.4m	192k	\$.37	3+ years
FY2008	16m	285k	\$.41	3+ years

### Package Strategy – FY08

Package	LTV	Mailed	RR	Average Gift	LT- ROI
Cross & Chain	27 months Later	70k	889	\$15.98	\$.86
Inline Key Chain	27 months later	70k	1,316	\$14.24	\$.66

### Acquisition Overview – FY11

- Hold on Acquisition
- Upfront and Long Term metrics reviewed
  - List Category
  - List
  - Package
  - Segment
- Agreed on new thresholds for Success

#### FY11 Acquisition Thresholds

Upfront ROI threshold of at least \$.40

- Average gift of \$18-\$20
- Break-even at 2-3 years

# FY11 Acquisition Strategic Changes

- Migrate from 3 large mailings to monthly Acquisition drops reduce seasonality and market risks
- Develop a rotating package strategy so that there is more than one Acquisition control

# FY11 Acquisition Strategic Changes

- More heavily depend on ROI and Net per Donor for Acquisition list selection
- Exploit House Match Rental Opportunities
- Heavy testing into marginal lists with tighter selects

#### FY11 Package Strategy

Migrated away from Inline Key Chain to:

- Mission based appeals
  - Book with Paint Can Letter
  - Dove Greeting Card with Paint Can Letter
- Hi-end premium that met current thresholds
  Cross & Chain
- Hi-end premiums used seasonally

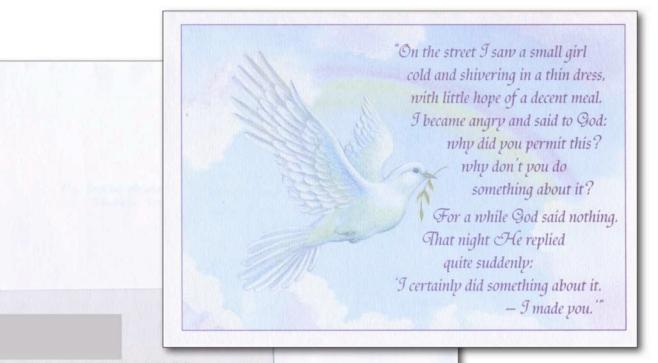
### FY11- Testing into Mission

Description	Inline Key Chain	Cross & Chain	Book w PC letter	Dove Greeting Card
Mailed	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
RR	1.89%	1.46%	1.70%	0.82%
Avg Gift	\$15.37	\$15.46	\$17.21	\$19.83
Revenue/M	\$290	\$226	\$293	\$162
Cost/M	\$882	\$501	\$475	\$316
ROI	\$0.33	\$0.45	\$0.62	\$0.51
Net/Donor	\$31.39	\$18.79	\$10.72	\$18.83

#### FY11 – Mission with a lift

- ROI and Net per donor for Dove Greeting Card Dove is 2<sup>nd</sup> only to the Book
- Cost per package is inexpensive
- Average gift is strong
- How do we increase response rate

#### **Dove Greeting Card**



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#### **Dove Greeting Card with Labels**



### FY11 – Dove Greeting Card

Dove Greeting Card	Dove Greeting Card W LABELS
20k	20k
.96%	1.38%
\$20.16	\$20.86
\$192	\$287
\$298	\$340
\$.65	\$.84
(\$11)	(\$4)
	Card 20k .96% \$20.16 \$192 \$298 \$.65

#### FY11- Christmas Cards



#### FY11- Christmas Cards

Description	FY10	FY11
Mailed	2.1m	870k
RR	2.4%	4.32%
Average Gift	\$19.43	\$16.44
Revenue	\$980k	\$618k
Cost	\$2.2m	\$1.2m
ROI	\$0.44	\$0.53
Net/Donor	\$25	\$15

### FY12 - Dove Greeting Card with Coins

Description	Dove GC	Dove GC w Coins
Mailed	30,000	30,000
RR	1.04%	1.81%
Average Gift	\$19.95	\$19.35
Revenue/M	\$181	\$350
Cost/M	\$421	\$530
ROI	\$.49	\$.66
Net/Donor	(\$20)	(\$10)

#### FY12 – Blanket



#### FY12 – Blanket

Description	Control – C&C	Blanket	
Mailed	20k	20k	
RR	1.56%	5.74%	
Average Gift	\$17.33	\$16.15	
Revenue/M	\$269	\$927	
Cost/M	\$543	\$3000	
ROI	\$.50	\$.29	
Net/Donor	(\$17)	(\$40)	

#### FY12 - Christmas Appeal



### FY12 - Christmas Appeal

Description	Christmas Appeal	Dove GC w PC letter; coins	88 religious Labels; coins	Book w PC letter
Mailed	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
RR	1.33%	1.85%	1.86%	1.36%
Avg Gift	\$23.05	\$21.79	\$16.00	\$18.70
Revenue/M	\$307	\$402	\$298	\$254
Cost/M	\$300	\$500	\$650	\$500
ROI	\$1.02	\$0.80	\$.45	\$.50
Net/Donor	\$0.50	(\$5)	(\$19)	(\$18)

#### For the Future

- Co-op Participation
- Compiled Lists
- Chronic Non–Responder model
- Zip model(s)
- Responder models (decile ranking)

#### Planned Parenthood Federation of America





Cecile Richards President			
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Cecile Richards President					
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Cecile Richards President			
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#### Thank You! Sharon Adams <u>sadams@covenanthouse.org</u>

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#### Don't forget to visit the Solutions Showcase! Many of the ideas discussed today are on display at the Solutions Showcase!