

#### Donor comms 101

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#### The virtuous circle...

You ask. You thank. You report. You ask. You thank. You report. You ask. You thank. You report.

Appeals, thanks, & newsletters work together.

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The part the charity cares about

The part the donor cares about

The viituous

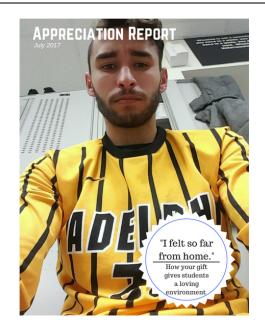
App Is, thanks, & newslette work together.

You ask. You thank. You report.

### "Did my gift make any difference?"

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5



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Source: Adelphi Chabad 6





And why do you want to hug them hard?

#### "Kiss 8 out of 10 goodbye."

~ Tom Belford, commenting on the average (and deplorable) 2014 "first-time donor" retention rate. Source: Fundraising Effectiveness Project, with 8,000 responding charities.

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A 10% improvement in your donor retention improves your LTV 50% immediately.

And that's just the beginning....

Source: Adrian Sargeant, 2010

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9

Your donor newsletter is how you report impact. It is also a LOUD thank you.

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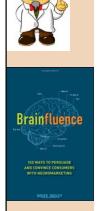
#### St. Jude's language

- "I can never thank you enough"
- "Because of you"
- "Thanks to your support"
- "Thanks to friends like you"
- "The support of friends like you"

Source: Pam Grow

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11



"Mom was wrong. Research shows that even when people perceive that flattery is insincere, that flattery can still leave a lasting and positive impression of the flatterer."

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# You ask. *And flatter!*You thank. *And flatter!*You report. *And flatter!*

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13

#### Why do I ALWAYS open their emails?

Because they love me silly ... up one side and down the other.



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### You gave your donors a big job.

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15



Pareto, Australia

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#### Now what?

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17

Dear Donor, Angelo has something he'd like to tell you...

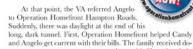
Severe wounds made work nearly impossible for this discharged Iraq war vet. With a new baby coming and past-due bills piling up, Angelo turned to Operation Homefront for a little emergency help — and help you did!



he problems began during Operation Iraqi Free-dom. During an attack, Angelo's Humvee over-turned into a canal. He was pulled from the wreck with a cracked skull and several fractured verte-brae. He needed both brain surgery and back sur-

brae. He needed bot gery. The back surgery led to eight months of paralysis and an infection in his spinal cord. Angelo had worked hard all his life. He wanted to stay in the military. But his injuries were just too much, and he was discharged with a small disabil-

ity severance, More bad luck arrived. The National Guard informed Angelo that they had overpaid him by \$18,000 — and wanted



nated prepaid gift cards to help with food, as well as new furni-ture for the kids' rooms and a crib, car seat and clothes for the

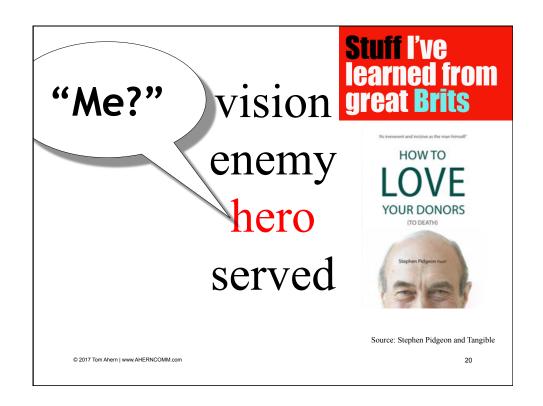


#### The Family's future

Things are looking up again for Angelo and Candy. The VA has increased his med-ical disability to 70%, so the family has a little more income

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#### [a successful appeal...]

Enemy

It originates as a humble stream at a small woodland lake of our state. And it gets its first full taste of what humans can do to abuse a waterway when it hits the Twin Cities, where, for well over a century it served as an industrial sewer, made utterly devoid of life.

With your help, we can heal that abuse.

Hero

As a new Friend, you join a family of conservationists, anglers, kayakers, hikers, environmental worry-warts and futurists who share one big dream ...

... to restore the river to its original state, including its prairie and floodplain habitats. And to make it safe and accessible for recreation.

Vision

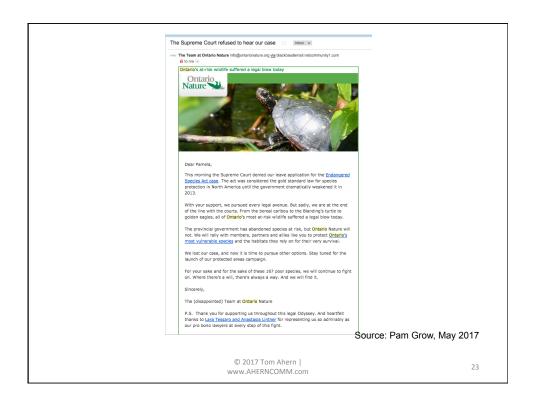
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2

#### donors make sad happy

hero fights enemy (and doesn't always win)

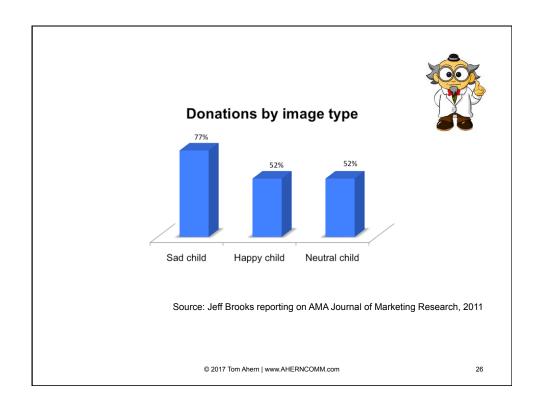
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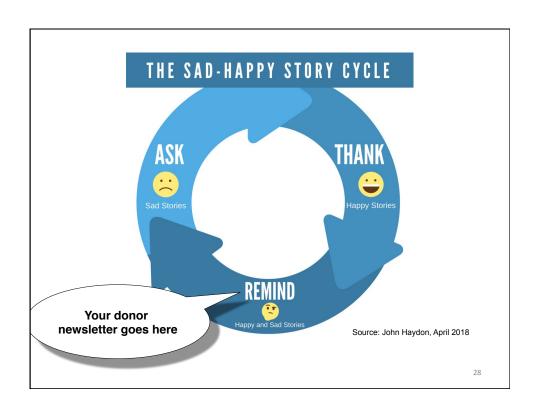
If you don't already have an "enemy" for your donors to defeat, please get one.

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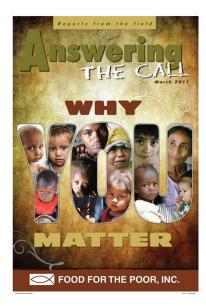


Angel Aloma, ED of Food for the Poor, a billion dollar charity, to Tom Ahern:

"...much of what we are doing now in regards to donor centricity was inspired by your wonderful presentation.... I am convinced that the reason why we have grown in the last years of tough economic conditions in the country is because of that wonderful switch that you inspired [in our communications]."

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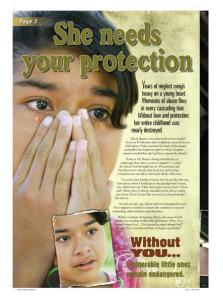
29



2012 gifts via the newsletter:

\$106 MILLION

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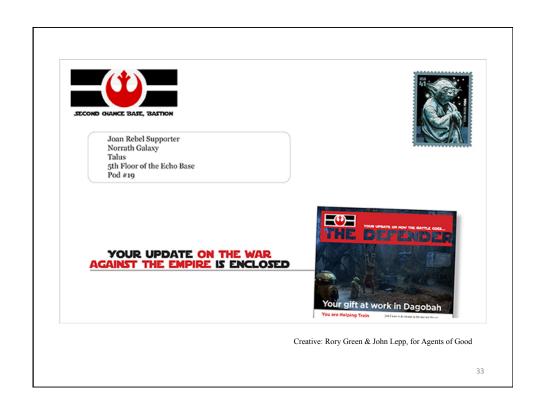
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#### "Find a common enemy."

[This was] some of the first feedback I received as a newbie copywriter, and I never forgot it.

Lisa Sargent, Feb 2017

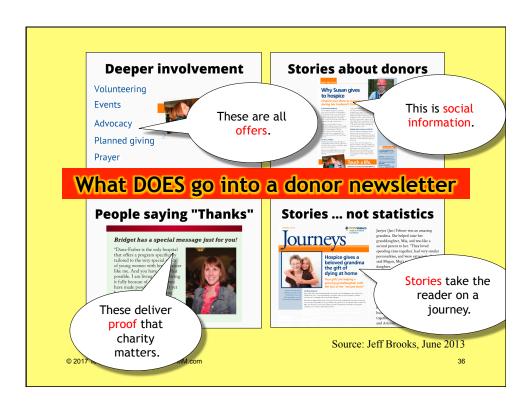
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#### Content

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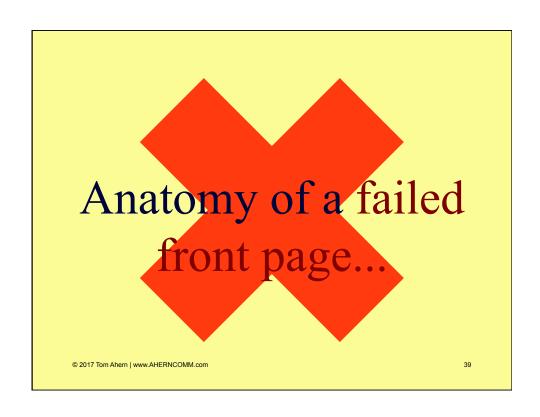


Do they know you're a charity. Or do they assume *someone else's* money does the job?

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37

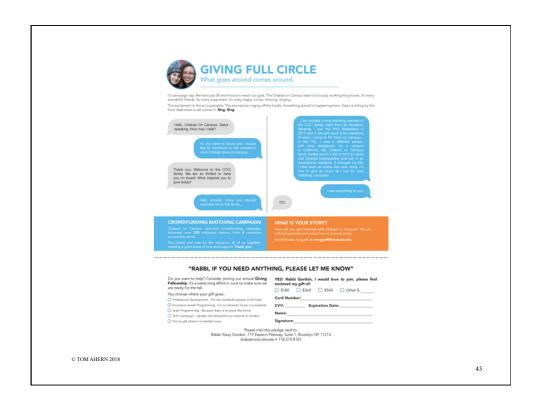














### Headlines matter most of all

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45







#### Connecting to our Essence

When a student successfully fasts the entire Yom Kippur for the first time in her life or hears the shofar blown on Rosh Hashana even though he didn't make it to services, we are re-Jewish lives, one mitzvah at a time.

spark within—a spark which is a part of G-d Himself—and that From all of the staff at Chabad at Penn, we wish you and yours Mitzvahs are conduits that enable our divine sparks to con-

Ethics of our Fathers, "If I am only for myself, what am I?", compelling us to take responsibility for the spiritual welfare of others.

Your support for Chabad at Penn places you squarely in the position or parties in our more here at Penn is **tremendously impacting** reach Jewish students on campus, and ensure that after they position of partner in our work. Your partnership enables us to The Baal HaTanya taught that every Jew possesses a divine they arrived. We thank you for collaborating with us.

47

Rahhi Toni & Nochama Hasholovich

#### Beautiful thanks, but off-message headline makes it easy to miss

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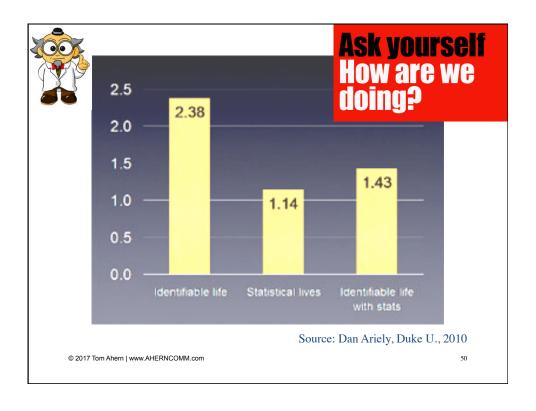
#### A good *donor* headline:

- (1) captures the gist of the story
- (2) has a hook (anything new)
- (3) applauds the donor ("you")

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# By the way: Numbers are your weakest evidence when reporting to individuals.

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# Statistics: "human beings with the tears dried off..."

Source: Dr. Paul Slovic, April 2007

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5

# High-visibility location ... but what do these numbers say emotionally?

(Hint: 0)



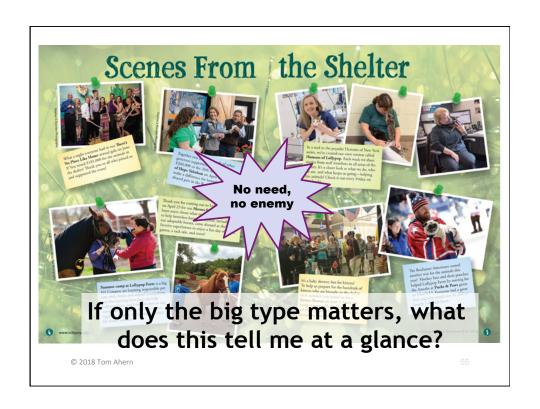
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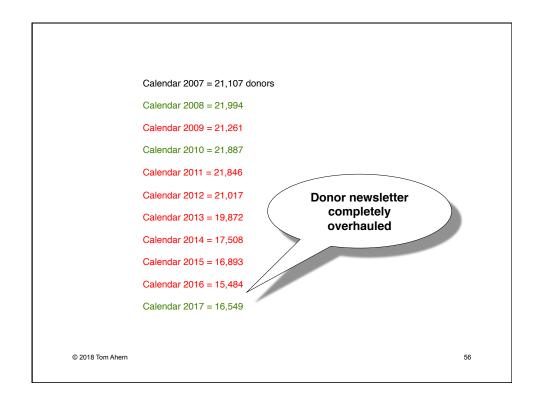
RU telling half the story?

Remember: If there are no problems to solve, donors have nothing to do.

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Ratted out: Woman arrested on 69 counts of animal abuse 3 arrested; charged with animal	
	Cruelty  Nearly a dozen dogs were left in a hot trailer without food or water
Rochester Woman Faces Animal Cruelty Charges	
Deputies: Man charged with animal abuse after neutering attempt	
Webster teen charged with animal	
cruelty  © 2018 Tom Ahern	UPDATE: Brockport man accused of animal abuse will not receive custody of the dog

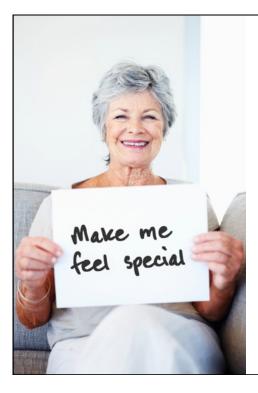




#### Donor who?

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57



### Her!

And that's all she wants from your organization.

Source: Mark Phillips, Bluefrog

#### Adrian Sargent's loyalty factor #2 of 7

#### Your "service quality" is good

Do you anticipate questions, for instance? Do you acknowledge gifts promptly?

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59



For eyes over 60...

AIGA recommends 14 pt. for body copy.

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Support our Work

Donate Now >>

DID YOU KNOW YOU HAVE FAMILY HERE IN OBERLIN? WHETHER IT BE FOR SOME MATZO BALL SOUP WHEN YOU ARE FEELING UNDER THE WEATHER OR SOMEONE TO TALK ABOUT JEWISH AND SPIRITUAL ISSUES. OR JUST LODICING FOR A GOOD CHAT, WE ARE HERE FOR YOU.



WITH RABBI SHLOMO AND DEVORAM ELKAN SERVING AS CO-DIFECTORS: CHARAD AT OBERLIN OPENED ITS DOORS IN THE FALL OF 20 IO WITH SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL, RECREATIONAL AND RELIGIOUS PROGRAMMING FOR STUDENTS AND FACULUT'S MICE OPENING. WE HAVE BECOME A MEETING GROUND OR CONVESSATION THAT HIGHLIGHTS AND COMPLEMENTS THE OWERSTY AT OBERIN COLLEGE, CHARAD IS A HOME WHERE ALL JEWS ARE WELCOME NO MATTER WHAT AFFILIATION, DEFOUNINATION ON SEXUAL GRIENTATION, WE GIVE YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO GAIN A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION OF YOUR JEWISH HERITAGE. MOST IMPORTANTLY, CHARAD IS A PLACE WHERE BEING JEWISH IS FUN.

CHABAD AT OBERLIN STUDENT GROUP IS ALSO LED BY A GROUP OF STUDENTS WHO CONTINUE TO DEVOTE MANY HOURS TO BUILDING AND FOSTERING JEWISH COMMUNITY AT OBERLIN. LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR FABULOUS BOARD HERE

NEVER USE ALL CAPS FOR BODY COPY. EVER.

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## "The Domain Formula" for money-making print newsletters

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62

#### Domain's proven formula:

- 11x17 format, folding to 4 8.5x11 pages
- 6 pages is OK, 2 pages is not as good, 8 pages is not
- one-color, two-color, full-color
- NOT a self-mailer
- mail in a #10 envelope: "Your newsletter enclosed"
- send exclusively to current donors
- include a reply envelope and reply device
- mail as often as possible
- use the newsletter for "impact reporting"; i.e., how your donors' charity is making a difference

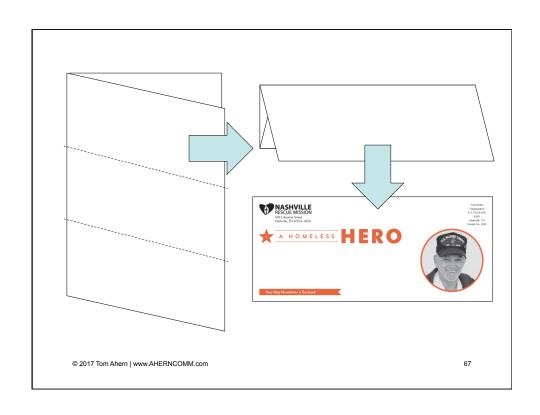
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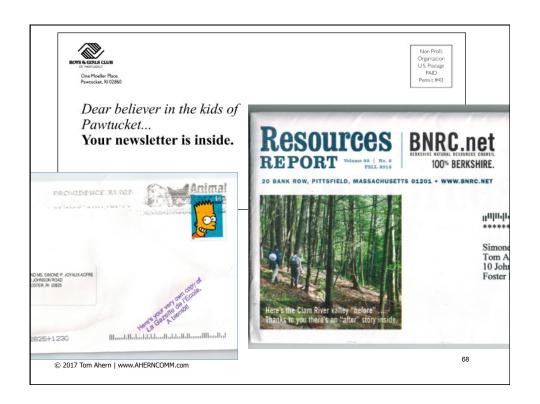
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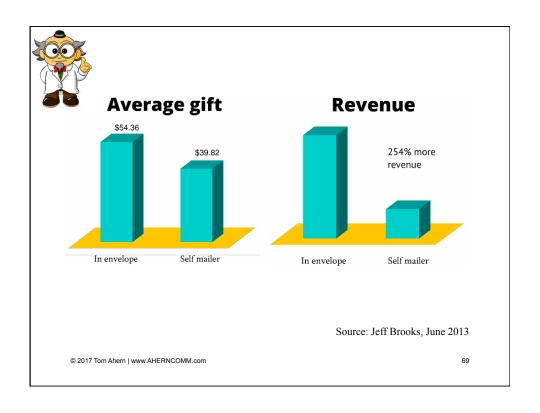












#### Paper or digital?

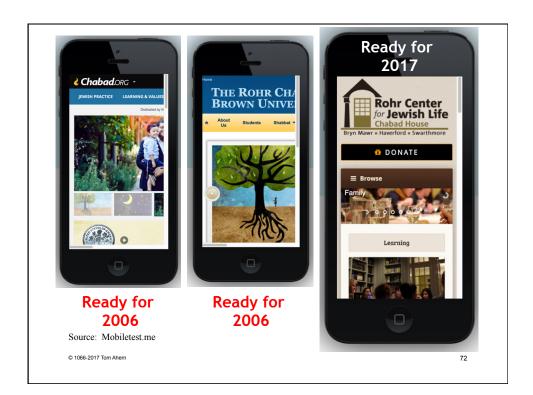
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### "65% of all emails are read on mobile"

Constant Contact March 2015

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"For every 1,000 fundraising [emails] delivered to supporters, groups in our study raised \$40."

2015 M+R: new metrics for new channels; SORRY: 2016 was even worse

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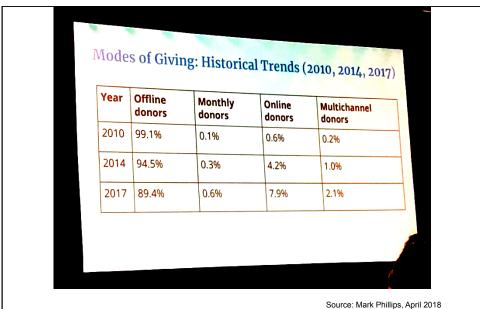
73

#### "Online Giving Reaches Record High in 2016"

[at 7.2% of giving across US]

Blackbaud, Feb 22, 2017; it didn't improve much the next year

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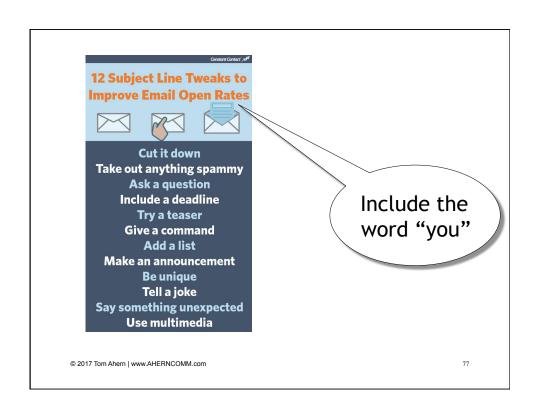
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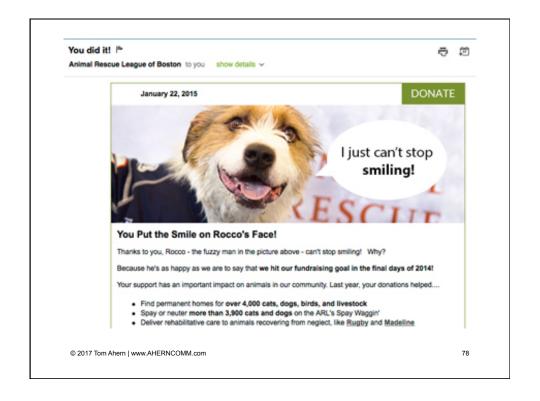
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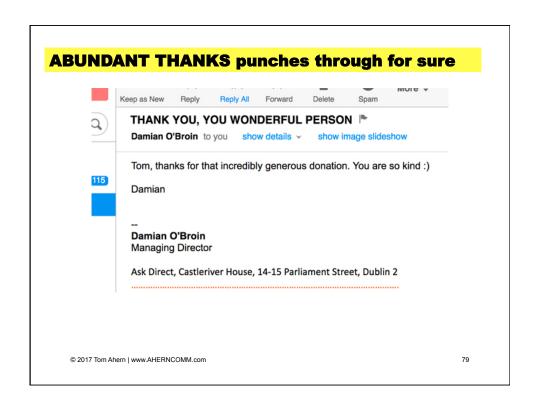
#### Email Job #1: Get opened

### Play around with your subject lines

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#### **PERSONALIZATION also helps**

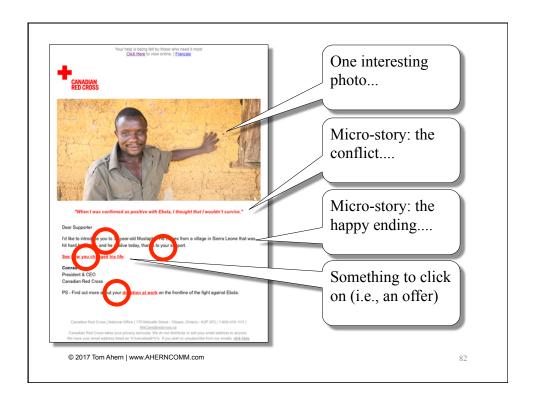
[subject line that worked]

#### A goat named Tom Ahern

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### AARP E-News Formula

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"...the minimal email copy resulted in a 6.5% click through rate.

Average is 2-4% so definitely had a positive effect." Andrew G, 3/5/15

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8

The purpose of email (or Facebook, for that matter)?

It's a welcome mat to your website or giving page, where people can DO stuff.

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#### DO stuff like what...?

- Explore deeper: "For more information"
- Join an exclusive society such as the Chancellor's Inner Circle
- Accept an invitation to an event
- Obtain a free, informative brochure
- Sign up for a special interest group ("If you're a butterfly lover, don't miss...")
- Take advantage of a special offer such as a discount "for a limited time only, early-bird special"
- Subscribe to your electronic or printed newsletter
- · "See more"
- Browse a calendar of upcoming events

- Traipse through a full gallery of event or documentary photos
- See the progress on a new building
- Take advantage of a matching gift campaign
- · "Buy a brick"
- Take a virtual tour
- Learn more about volunteering
- · Watch a short, fascinating video
- · Get thanked
- Make noise (send a letter to Congress)
- Tell their own personal story
- · Answer a survey
- Gift a cow to a poor family (Heifer)
- · Enter a contest

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85

# So, paper or digital? !Both!

Print is for money. Both are for love.

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## A lucrative makeover

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### In conclusion...

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## You're in my home: "Why are you here?"

Bad guest or good?

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95

# To make ME Pleased! Proud of myself! feel good!!! Happy! Important! Needed!

**Entertained!** 

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**Surprised!** 

