#### Online Tools

# Introduction for Nonprofits







# Who is Aspiration?

- Aspiration helps nonprofits and foundations use software tools more effectively and sustainably.
- We serve as ally, coach, strategist, mentor and facilitator to those trying to make more impactful use of information technology in their social change efforts.
- www.aspirationtech.org/services



# Coming Up

- Review common types of nonprofit tech tools
- Look at how to connect them to your work
- Understand their place in the larger ecosystem

**Web Sites** 

**Donations** 

**Events** 

**Email Blasting** 

Advocacy

**Contacts** 

**Multi-Function Tools** 

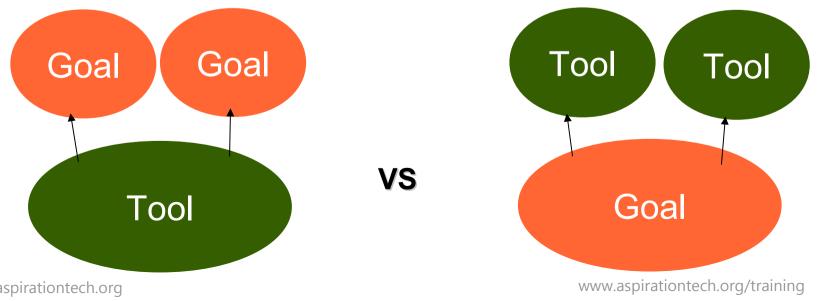
**Project Management** 

Social Media



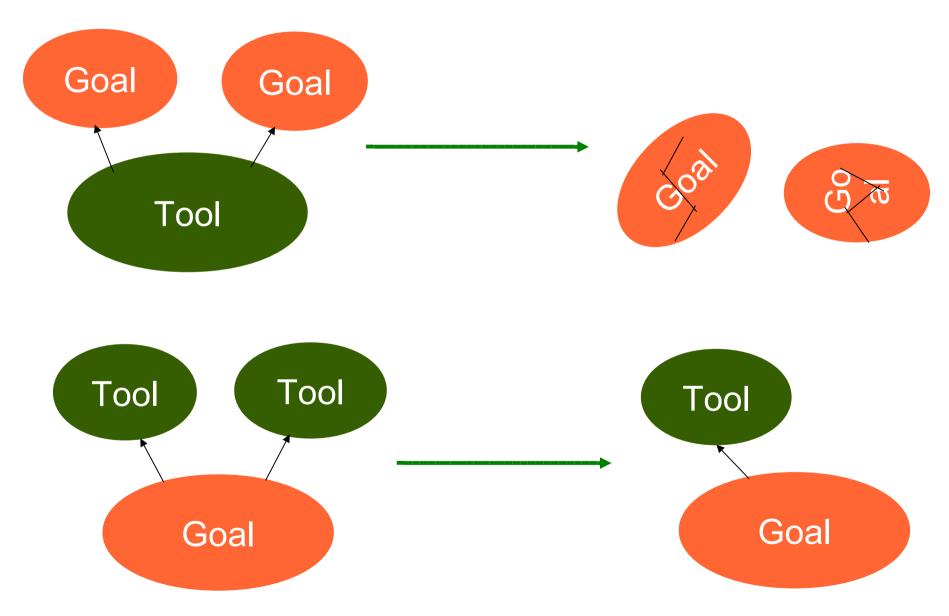
## What are your goals?

- Measurable
- What does success look like?
- ►Tool-Agnostic
  - Make sure your communications plan stays in tact when the tool you are using fails you





# Tool Agnostic?







Goal	Measurability	What does success look like?	Tools		
Increase donations through online efforts for scholarships	<ul> <li>Can ask people how they heard</li> <li>Track referring link of Donation Thank You page</li> </ul>	2 scholarships funded through online efforts	Web Site     Facebook		
Increase attendees at annual event through online efforts	<ul> <li>Compare this year's attendance to last year's</li> <li>Have a "How'd You Hear" place on registration</li> </ul>	10% increase in attendance from last year	• Twitter • Texting		



#### Data > Tools

- Think of tools as impermanent
  - Tools fall away, data (hopefully) stay
- Data is the most important organizational asset
  - Content
  - Contacts
  - Process
- Plan for tech divorce when you choose a tool



#### Data > Tools

- Open Source Tools
  - Anyone can view the underlying software code
  - Little or no licensing cost, upgrade costs
- Community Supported
  - Mission-driven, not profit-driven
- Open source tools leave you in a leveraged position with your data
  - You're not tied to a specific person or company



#### Web Sites

- Manage, organize and create web site content
  - Content Management System (CMS)
    - Manage a web site with a visual interface (buttons, WYSIWYG) rather than digging into raw code (HTML, CSS, PHP)
- Common Examples:
  - Wordpress
  - Drupal
  - Joomla



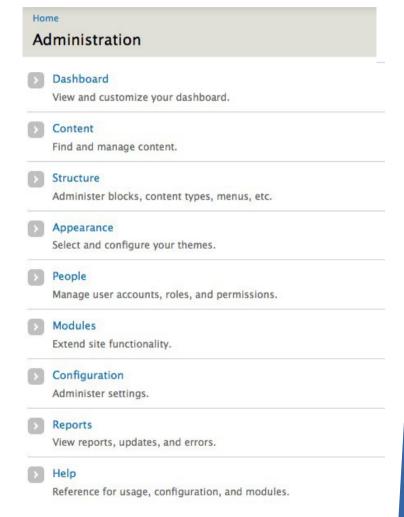














#### **Donations**

- Accept and manage donations
  - Online Donation Processors
    - Allow you to accept donations through your web site
  - Peer to Peer Fundraising Tools
  - Donor management Tools
    - Allow you to manage donors as contacts with information attached
- Common examples:
  - Network for Good
  - Click & Pledge
  - Razoo







### **Donations**

- ► To Consider:
  - Monthly Giving
  - Employer Match
  - In-Kind Donations
  - Look & Feel of your web site





#### **Events**

- Create online event registration forms and manage participants
  - Event Management Tools
    - Create, embed events
    - Accept registrations and payment
    - Manage registrants
  - Form builders
    - Create forms that visitors can fill out on your web site

- Common examples:
  - Eventbrite
  - Evite
  - Facebook Events
  - Wufoo



### **Events**

			1,531,924	a a la la a a sed							
ursday, March	1, 2012 fro	om 12:00 PN	ocial Media D 1 to 1:00 PM (PT) profit Technology Cen			Find Atte	endees:				Find
Manage	/ Edit	View						Unpublish	Сору	Cancel	Delet
EVENT SU	MMARY ►										
REGISTRATION  Collect Custom Information  Event Type & Language  Add News and Updates  ANALYZE  Charts			Status		Total Sales			Invitations	Stats		
		Status: Completed Page Views: 67 reset  Sold: 15 Pending: 0 Available: 0		Gross Sales: \$ 0.00 Eventbrite Fees Owed: - \$ 0.00 GRAND TOTAL: \$ 0.00		Email Invitations Sent: 0 Resulting Transactions: 0 Conversion Rate: 0%  Bounces: 0 Unsubscribes: 0 Complaints: 0					
Event Repor											
Cross Event Google Anal			Recent Orders	Recent Attendees							
ATTENDESO			ORDER#	TICKET BUYER	QUA	NTITY PI	RICE	DATE		PAYMEN	NT
ATTENDED						0/	0.00	Fab 00 0040	,	Free Or	4-5-5
Add Attende	es		71456275	Jennifer Kelley	1	20	0.00	Feb 23, 2012		Free Or	der



# **Email Blasting**

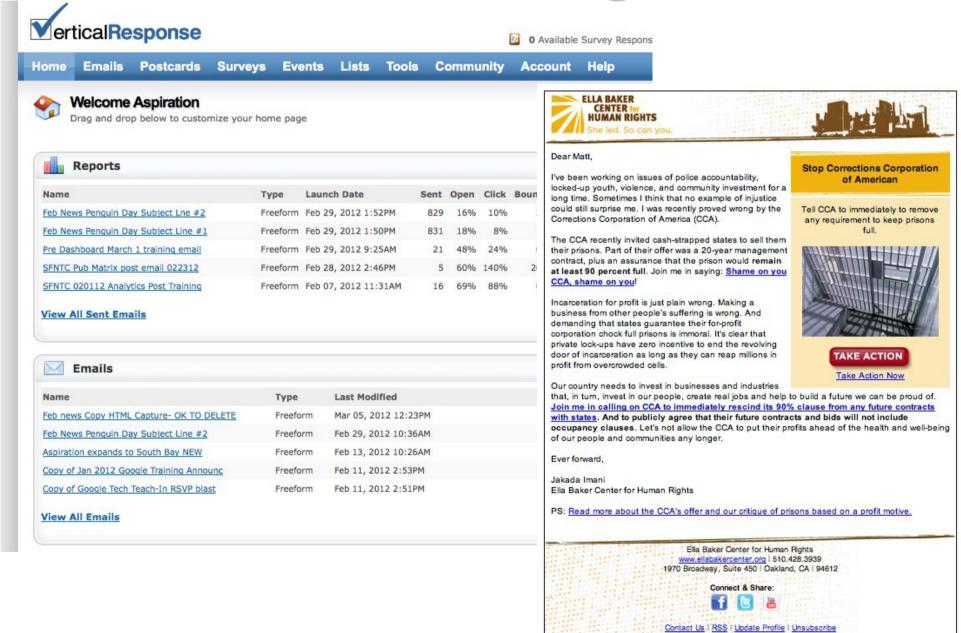
- Send organizational emails to large lists of constituents
  - Email Blaster or "Broadcast" Email Tools
    - Largely protects you from being blacklisted for spam
    - Gives you analytics based on sends, lists
    - Allows you to put together professional-looking emails (relatively) easily
- Common examples:
  - Vertical Response
  - Constant Contact
  - MailChimp

Tip:

Outlook is your evil master



# **Email Blasting**





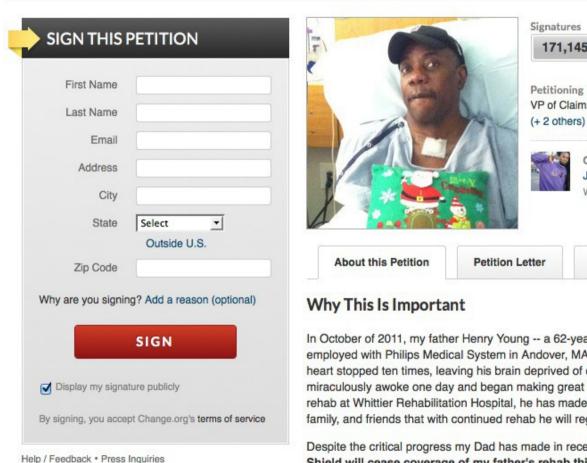
## Advocacy

- Create action online among your constituents
  - Petition Builders
    - Allows you to create petitions then either embed, send out a link or email it to constituents
  - "Contact Your Legislator" Tools
    - Matches constituents with their proper legislator automatically
- Common Examples:
  - SignOn
  - Votizen
  - Change.org



# Advocacy

#### Blue Cross Blue Shield: Henry Young Needs Rehab to Live



#### 171,145 out of 200,000 VP of Claims Management, Blue Cross Blue Shield Massachusetts (+ 2 others) Created By Jason Warren Washington, DC **Petition Updates**

In October of 2011, my father Henry Young -- a 62-year-old husband and father of three who was employed with Philips Medical System in Andover, MA -- had a heart attack while in the gym at work. His heart stopped ten times, leaving his brain deprived of oxygen. After being comatose for several weeks, he miraculously awoke one day and began making great strides towards recovery. Currently undergoing rehab at Whittier Rehabilitation Hospital, he has made enough progress to convince his medical team, family, and friends that with continued rehab he will regain functional motor and cognitive skills.

Despite the critical progress my Dad has made in recent weeks, his insurance provider Blue Cross Blue Shield will cease coverage of my father's rehab this coming Monday, March 5, 2012. If this happens,



#### Contacts

- Organize and manage organizational contacts
  - Constituent Relationship Manager (CRM)
    - Centralized Contact Database
    - Can attach information to contacts (e.g. event attendance, money donated, emails opened, etc.)
- Common examples:
  - Salesforce
  - CiviCRM
  - Convio (Blackbaud)









#### Contacts

Federated System

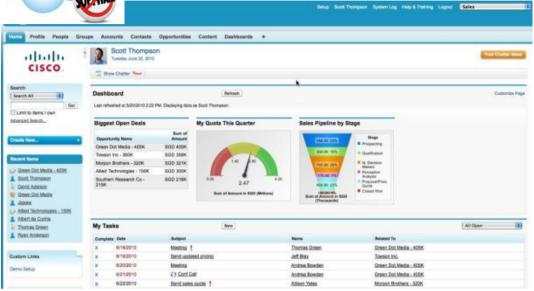
<u>CRM</u>

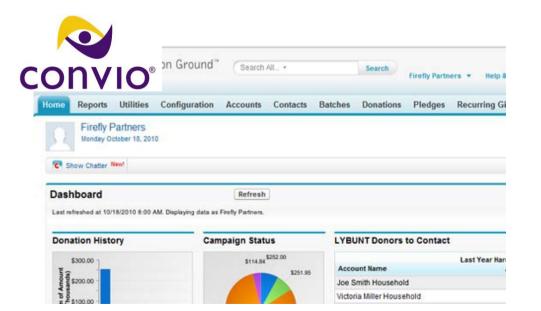












#### **CRMs**







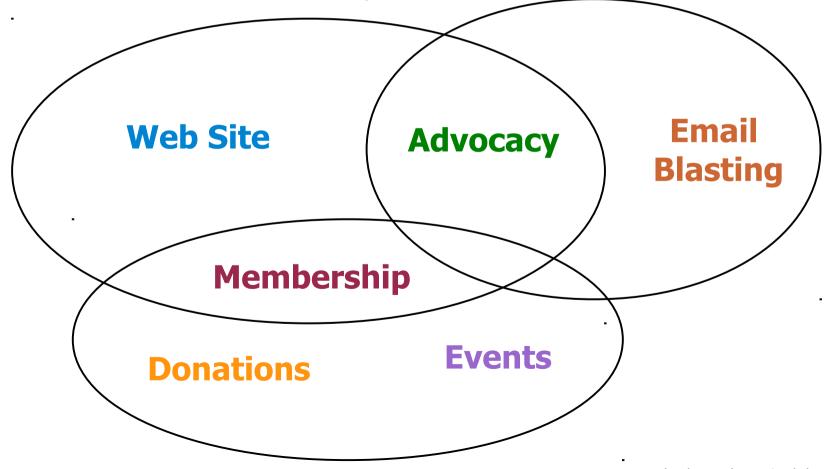
#### Multi-Function Tools

- Combine functionalities from the previous tools
  - Multi-Function tools
    - Have a wide variety of function combinations (e.g. email blasting, advocacy, web site management, events, etc.)
- Many times their focus is around your contacts
  - Many integrated tools act as CRMs
- Common Examples:
  - Salsa from Democracy in Action
  - Nation Builder
  - eTapestry
  - Wild Apricot



### Multi-Function Tools

- Different tools combine different functions
  - What are you trying to get done?





# Project Management

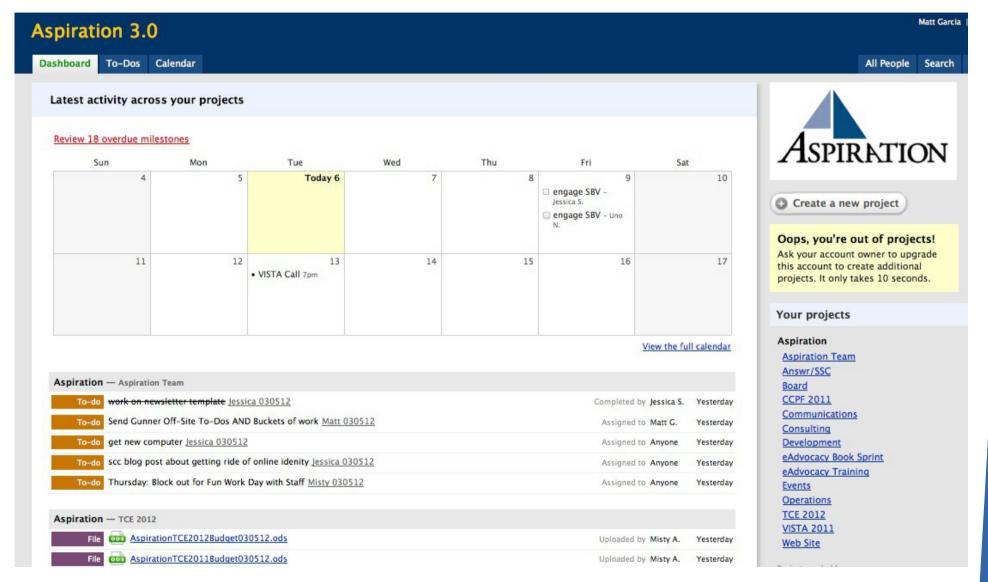
- Share and manage project (or organizational) assets
  - Project Management Tools
    - Share docs, calendars, tasks and files
    - Have multiple online users
  - Shared server
    - Share docs, files on a local network
- Common Examples:
  - Basecamp
  - Red Mine
  - Shared server

#### Tip:

This is the place to share org processes and documents (e.g. Publishing Matrix, Traffic Doc)



# Project Management





### Social Media

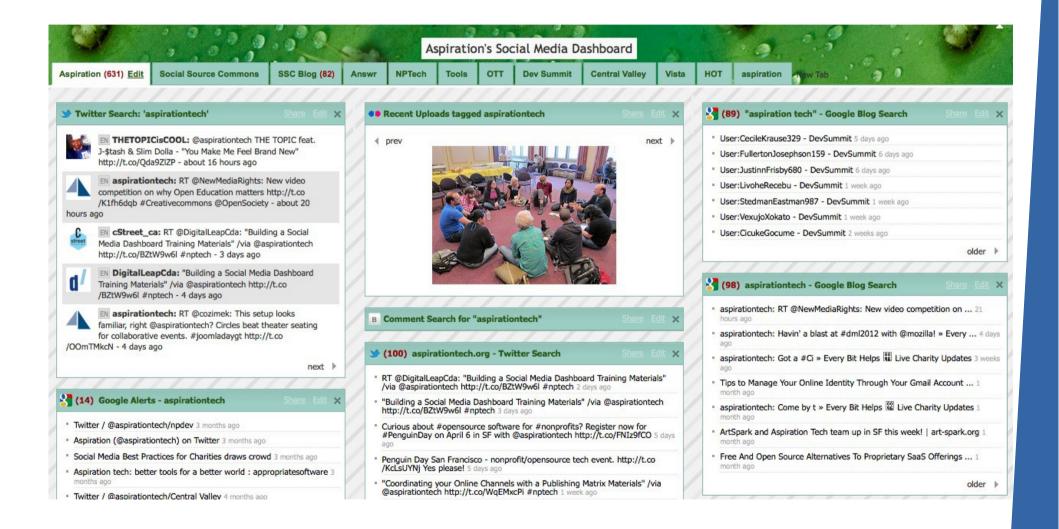
- Converse with your community
  - Blogs
    - Longer-form writing allowing conversation through comments
    - Now blog features are integrated into most CMSs
  - Social Networks
    - Shorter-form content sharing
    - Various network-specific functions for interaction
- Common Examples:
  - Wordpress
  - Twitter
- Facebook info@aspirationtech.org

#### Tip:

Only bite off as much as you can chew.



### Social Media





#### Caveats of Online Tools

Can take a lot of time

f

- Time = Money
- Big corporations who want your data
  - You are the product



- There are billion of tools
  - Which ones do we need?



How can we keep up?



# Limitations of Online Organizing



- Digital divides
- Never forget who is left out by "e" strategies
- Trust relationships are best built in person
- Online organizing is most effective when it leverages established social networks and communities
- Each community and campaign is different
- Your mileage will vary



#### **Bottom Line**

- Online tools aren't a magic bullet
- You need:
  - An measurable goal
  - A compelling message
  - Effective tactics to realize your goal
  - A plan for engaging supporters and well-defined ways for them to plug in
- eAdvocacy is more about organizing and organizational challenges than tech challenges

# 4 Processes for Sustainability



- Audience Assessment
  - Do you really know who you're talking to?
- Publishing Matrix
  - Do you have a model for when to use what tool?
- Message Calendaring
  - ▶ Is all online messaging on a unified calendar?
- Tracking & Metrics
  - Which techniques are working?



## In Summary

- Remember that tech should support your work as an organization
- Tools should support your tech strategy goals
- Think about the minimum to be successful and then iterate up
- Tools come and go, succeed and fail. Focus on your data rather than the tool



# **Next Steps**

- Define your organizational goals
- Think about what tools will help you achieve your goals
- Start tracking your measurable comms goals



### Thank You!

Questions?

► Comments?



# Use, Modify & Attribute

www.aspirationtech.org/attribute

Aspiration distributes these materials under a **Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike license**.

We encourage re-use, modification, and redistribution in any situation where they may be useful.

We love to hear about how you are improving and remixing what we've done.

Questions? Email us info@aspirationtech.org



#### Contact Us

aspirationtech.org/training/support info@aspirationtech.org

+1-415-839-6456

