

Low Cost \$ Ways to Advertise your Festival

Host: Columbia Homecoming Festival Speakers: Marnie Butler & Debra Rose



Advertising On A \$0 Budget

♦ FREE





Requires Time & Effort

- Have you ever tried to advertise for a Fundraising Event without spending any money?
- ♦ It is possible but requires some creativity along with time and effort.
- ◆ Let's face it. The less of your organizations money you have to spend organizing your event, the more money you will be able to generate for your cause.
- ◆ The old saying that "you have to spend money to make money" does not always hold true and I can prove it.



1. Organize a Great Advertising Committee

The more people involved in planning an event, the more people you will have attending the event.

- The first thing that one needs to do is to get a great committee together.
- ♦ I try to make sure I have someone who is a good writer, someone who doesn't mind doing leg work and someone artistic.



2. Make a Squidoo Lens about your Event It's free and it works

- **♦ SQUIDOO**
- www.squidoo.com



- Squidoo is a free
 website where you
 build these Scroll
 Down Web Pages on
 any subject that you
 are passionate about.
- http://www.squidoo.co
 m/columbiacharities



EARN MONEY FOR YOUR EVENT

- You can earn money for your cause if you are chosen as a Squidoo Charity.
- Non Profit 501c3 Organizations can apply to become a Squidoo Charity
- Sign up to be a Squidoo Charity!
 - ◆ A big big part of Squidoo's mission is to send more money to deserving non-profits so they can do good in our online and offline communities. We do that by matching hard-working charities with our hard-working lensmasters. Lensmasters build webpages...



3. Promote Your Event Using Free Social Media:

- **♦** Twitter.com
- ♦ FaceBook.com
- MySpace.com
- Craigslist.org
- LinkedIn.com
- ♦ YouTube.com
- Backpage.com
- Visitloraincounty.com













backpage.com。





Login and Passwords

- Assign at least 2 people to be administrators to any sites you create.
- Keep Login and Passwords on master spreadsheet.
- Make Login and Passwords that are easy to remember but hard to decode.
- ◆ Reverse spellings and add in numbers.
- IloveCanyd32 instead of Ilovecandy32



Emails

- ◆ These sites require an email address in order to create.
- You want people that visit your site to be able to contact you.
- ♦ You can set up free email accounts through Yahoo, Gmail, and Hotmail.
- ♦ These emails services will hold a lot of information and you can create folders to store this information.
- Make an email that reflects your event.
- Stuffedturkey@yahoo.com



Build your following

- ◆ Twitter, My Space and Face Book are great places to promote your event but these will work better if you have built a large local following.
- Find people who you think might be interested and establish a relationship whether it is as a My Space, Face Book friend or a Twitter follower.
- On many of these sites you can just invite friends from other groups to join you.
- ♦ It is to build a following, just takes time.



Twitter www.twitter.com



- ♦ Share and discover what's happening right now, anywhere in the world.
- http://twitter.com/columbiastation
- ♦ Become twitters with your local chamber, visitor's bureau and build followers.
- ♦ We use this for our ½ Marathon to let runners know about this event.
- Runners love to tweet.



Face Book www.facebook.com

facebook

- On Face Book you can start a group and add your event. This way you can send out invitations to all of your local friends.
- ◆ All you have to do is to filter your friends to show the ones in your local network. You then send out an invitation to each of them.
- ◆ There needs to be a person assigned that will create a "Fan Of" page to promote your event.

• http://www.facebook.com/search/?init=q&q=columbia+homecoming&ref=ts&sid=2c44cef66cd9cebabb3af80e41644f62



My Space www.myspace.com



- Create a My Space site that reflects your whole festival or spot light a single event within your festival.
- Remember these sites are design to target different audience to bring them to your festival.
- The idea is to capture all ages to increase your attendance at your festival.
- <u>www.myspace.com/columbiahomecomingfest</u>
- <u>www.myspace.com/columbia_engine_show</u>
- www.myspace.com/columbiabotb



Craigslist www.craigslist.com

craigslist

- Here you can list your events
- Advertise for needed items for your event.
- Advertise for participants or volunteers.
- ◆ Check out the Free stuff year round, we have been able to acquire chairs, tables and etc. for use at our events.
- Sell tickets to concerts or pre-sale ride tickets.



Link In www.linkedin.com



- On LinkedIn you can easily join groups with similar interest and that are local.
- ◆ Then you submit your event news and it will appear on their newsletter that goes out to all that group's members.



You Tube www.youtube.com



- Record events during your festival and post to you tube.
- ◆ Place a link on your website to direct traffic to You Tube to view events.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZIZLwR0Axwo

http://www.columbiastation.com/homecomingcontests/battleofthebands.html



Visitors Bureau

- Join your local Visitors Bureau
- ♦ Bed taxes from hotels are use to promote your area and your festival.
- ◆ They produce Visitors Guides that are distributed throughout your county and state.
- Many of these guides are available at the Ohio State Fair FREE, and rest stops throughout Ohio.



4. Submit Your Event To Online Newspaper Calendar of Events

- Plan ahead as this must be done at least 30 days prior to event in most cases.
- Online Newspapers offer Calendars of Events for local happenings and it is free.
- ♦ It also helps to get your event recognized by Google so people can easily find it when searching the internet.
- You can post the link to your lens or website for more information.



Utilize Events Calendars

- Post your events everywhere you can on online event calendars.
- Yahoo, Google, Visitors Bureau, Discover Ohio, Travel Ohio, Newspapers, Television, Radio Stations and local events websites in your area.
- www.loraincounty.com
- http://www.pluggedincleveland.com/events/
- http://consumer.discoverohio.com/calendarsearch.aspx
- http://www.travelohio.com/event_calendar.html
- ♦ <u>www.ofea.org</u>



RSS feed

- ♦ You can now create your own custom RSS feeds using Yahoo! News Search.
- ◆ The feeds are provided free of charge for use by individuals and non-profit organizations for personal, non-commercial uses.
- ♦ They ask that you provide attribution to Yahoo!
 News in connection with your use of the feeds.
- www.yahoo.com/rss
- http://publisher.yahoo.com/rss_guide/
- http://www.clevelandbrowns.com/rss.xml



5. Blog About Your Event

- Setting up a blog is easy and Free
- ◆ Try www.Blogger.com but there are many other blogging sites that are just as easy.
- Add pictures from past events and rss your blog into your lens.
- ◆ You can also benefit from finding other local bloggers and following them and hopefully they will follow your blog as well.
- ◆ You can comment on other blogs using your Event Lens or website URL as your identity.
- ◆ This way when the reader clicks on your avatar or name, they will be directed to your lens or website.



6. Ask Websites To Post The Link To Your Lens or Blog

- ♦ Local Websites Can Easily Link To Your Event Lens or website.
- ♦ Find active websites that will link to your event.
- ◆ Community, online newspapers, Chamber of Commerce, City, Village or Township sites.
- ◆ Local Visitors Bureau-Sometimes there is small yearly fee to join, but it is worth it because they will promote your festival.



7. Design an Eye Catching Flyer and Distribute It!

- Get lots of help with this one!
- ◆ If you don't have someone to handle this place a call to action news article in local paper. You may find a local volunteer that can assist in this.

- You can use:
 - Microsoft Word
 - Microsoft Picture It
 - Microsoft HomePublishing
- Free software for nonprofits from <u>www.techsoup.org</u>





www.techsoup.org



- TechSoup.org offers nonprofits a one-stop resource for technology needs by providing free information, resources, and support.
- In addition to online information and resources, they offer a product philanthropy service called <u>TechSoup Stock</u>.
- Here, nonprofits can access donated and discounted technology products, generously provided by corporate and nonprofit technology partners.



Printing fliers can be very costly \$\$\$

- See if a local nonprofit will print for you:
 - Chamber of Commerce
 - Churches
 - City, Village or Township
 - Senior Center
 - Printer (In-Kind Donation)

- Ask for donation from local copy company for a used copier. They get trade-in's from businesses and may be willing to donate one to your cause.
- Purchase your own used printer through eBay, Craigslist for a fraction of the cost.
- Print out your own fliers.



Advertise in local papers-FREE

- ♦ These ads can be costly-Get them FREE!
- ♦ Take out a larger size ad for your event and then,
- Sell your own ad space around your event ad and keep the profit.
- Have the business send you the ad artwork in a jpeg or gif format.
- ♦ Forward all ads directly to the newspaper at one time. Some papers will do artwork at no cost.
- ◆ This sales campaign needs to be done 3-4 weeks before papers print deadline. This will give you enough time for rework.
- ◆ PROOF READ EVERYTHING!



Place Mat Advertising

- Sell Business card ads for place mats advertising.
- ♦ \$50.00 per card
- Distribute placemat's to local restaurants, community fish fry's.
- Print your own placemats or do an in-kind trade with local printer for free advertising at your event.
- ◆ 16 Business card ads will fit around the outside of a 11 x17 placemat = 16 x \$50.00 = \$800.00
- ◆ Or 20 Business card ads will cover and entire 11x17 sheet of paper nicely = 20 x \$50.00= \$1000.00
- Advertise your event on the backside of the placemat or within the center of the placemat.



Sample 11"x17" Placemat



THANK YOU TO OUR PLACEMAT SPONSORS

COLUMBIA ENGINE SHOW - JUNE 6 & 7TH 2009 COLUMBIA HOMECOMING FESTIVAL - JUNE 26, 27 & 28TH 2009



Sample 11"x17" Placemat





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2:45-7:15pm

8:00pm (appax) 8:30pm-11:30pm

10 50cm -12 00cm

12:00om - 3:00om

Phone tend mod AWS

FIREMAN'S WATER FIGHT - By Fire Station

WOLW 13 89 AM RADIO REMOTE SHOW

KIDS WATERWELDN BATING CONTEST-Stage

ICOS PEDAL TRACTOR PULL (Bosketcoll Count)

ADULT BATTLE OF THE BANDS FINALS - Stock

HORSESHOE TOURNAMENT - bah nd Revision C

ADULT PIE EATING CONTEST-Stope

PRED ZIWIOH-POLKA MUSIC- Stage

STOP & PET PARADE - or Bostorboll Count

BAND - BILLY MORRES BAND'- Secon

GARDEN SIZE TRACTOR PULL Gelvind Fire Station)

WINNER OF ADULT BATTLE OF BANDS ANNOUNCED

NON Roce-Columb a Station 10-Mile Run & Inline Skate

SPÉCIAL PLAG PRÉSENTATION BY BOY SCOUT & VPW

COSPIE BATING CONTEST-Stock

RIE AUCTION -Stope

8:30pm-11:30pm 94ND - "77:50UTH" Sunday July 1: 2007- Festival opens at 10:30am - 11:30am

PARADE LINE UP

GRAND PARADE

LIBERTY SINGERS - Stage

HERM SCHOOL BATTLE OF THE BANDS FINALS-Stope

Preliminaries held at the SIT FT Concept Club 4/29/07-A/17/07 (92 30 pm)

Praiminories held of the HI -FI Concept Cub-4/17/07 - 6/17/07 (9 7:00om)

RIÉ S AKTING CONTÉST - Stage (Reget rotion room-1:00pm -Witner arrounced 1:30pm)

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Contact Jim Wright or Debra Rose at The Columbia Chamber of Commerce (440) 309-5295



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8. Ask Other Organizations to post your event in their newsletters and/or send to their email list

- **♦** Find the contact person for each organization in your community.
- ♦ We have several organizations that are willing to do this for us and it is always greatly appreciated. Just send an email request with the general information and a contact number and attach your flier.
- Our area churches are also really good about publishing the information in their newsletters and bulletins.



9. Send out Press Releases to local newspapers and magazines.

- ♦ Plan to do this at least 30 days in advance
- Writing a good press release takes time and talent. I usually like to have someone on my committee who specializes in this.
- Writing a good press release takes time and talent. I usually like to have someone on my committee who specializes in this.
- Find your Ohio local newspapers on www.mondonewspapers.com



How do you write a good press release?

◆ Make sure you have a good title and a great hook within your first paragraph or statement to set the tone of the article.

Make sure to keep your articles and press releases simple with only bullet point details of your actual events.



How do you write a good press release?



- http://www.wikihow.com/Write-a-Press-Release
- ◆ This website very helpful in learning to write a press release.



10. Send PSAs to Local Radio Stations

- **♦** Learn how to write an effective Public Service Announcement
- Most stations will require specific guidelines to be followed when submitting a PSA.
- Find out what those are and follow them.
- ◆ After your PSA is written be sure to send directly to the right person.
- ◆ This may take some phone calls to find out this information but will be well worth your time.



How To Write A PSA

- How To Write A Public Service
 Announcement
- ♦ There are many sites available to assist with this such as:
- http://ctb.ku.edu/tools/en/sub_section_main_ 1065.htm





Trade Services

- Give free advertising for items you need.
- ♦ Hotel Rooms for entertainment
- Trailers for hauling equipment
- Food vouchers for judges and sponsors.





Become a Sponsor of 2010 Columbia Homecoming Festival

WHAT IS THE COLUMBIA HOMECOMING FESTIVAL?

The Columbia Homecoming Festival is sponsored by The Columbia Chamber of Commerce which is



a nonprofit 501(C)(6) organization. The Columbia Homecoming Festival relies on sponsorships and donations to help fund this event. You can sponsor the festival at any level and

even become a "SPECIAL EVENT SPONSOR". The proceeds of your sponsorship and donations will help fund the following: Fireworks, Baby Liberty Pageant, Miss Liberty Pageant, Family Entertainment, Battle of the Bands, Prizes, Kids Day Games, Parade Awards, Rides, 1/2 Marathon Run & Inline Skate Race and much more. Thank you to our 2009 Sponsors for helping make last year's festival a great success.



FESTIVAL OPPORTUNITIES



COLUMBIA HOMECOMING FESTIVAL

BRINGING FRIENDS AND COMMUNITY TOGETHER

June 25, 26, & 27, 2010

Columbia Township Park State Route 82 and West River Road, 25540 Royalton Rd. Columbia Station, Ohio 44028 Phone: 440-236-9053 Fax: 440-236-9053

info@columbiahomecoming.com

www.columbiahomecoming.com



Thank you for attending

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