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Voluntold

Summary:

The goal of Voluntold is to connect volunteers with local community events that need extra help. One of the biggest challenges for local community based projects such as park cleanups, holiday events, and community get togethers is not a lack of awesome people willing to help out but a lack of communication to the community that help is needed. A person can not volunteer their time if they are not aware they are needed. Voluntold is going to change the way community projects are conducted, by having one central platform for community projects to advertise their events it will attract more people who are willing to lend their time to help out.

The app will allow users to have two primary functions. The first function is to allow users to post events they organize and create or post an event on behalf of another person or organization.

Project goals

* Android availability and google play listing
* Easy to use interface
* Completion of the project during the time allotted

Stretch Goals

* Implement facebook/twitter api’s to allow a user to share events they created or will be attending on their social media account. Each event should have a share button that works with the social media sites api to post a message and event info on the user's personal social media page.
* Have verified groups and organizations, like twitter has so users know an event came from a trusted source. The verification would have to be done by a human after an organization submitted an application. This would need to be verified with several pieces of information such as tax id, non-profit information, etc.
* In app messaging so users can contact event organizers
* Weekly push notifications of new events in the user's home area.
  + Will make use of Google’s push notification api.

Project features

* Ability to share on social media.
* Use geolocation to find events
* Ability to search time/date/location for events
* Ability to contact event administrator and/or organization
  + This will most likely be a link to the event organizers email.
* User accounts that tracks what events were attended
  + The more events a user attends the more “karma” or points the user earns, this will be displayed on the user profile.
* Use of geolocation to verify that an event was attended
* Calendar to alert user of upcoming events
* Ability to invite friends to come help with the event

Project limitations

* The app will only be as good as the people who use it, if there are not a lot of event listings it will be hard to attract volunteers
* Time for development will be a huge limitation
* Limiting development to only Android OS

Potential helpful links:

* Google Maps API: <https://developers.google.com/maps/>
* Pages API: <https://developers.facebook.com/docs/pages/publishing> Allows posting to facebook
* Twitter API: <https://dev.twitter.com/> may come in handy for allowing twitter posts
* Google Push Notification API: https://developers.google.com/gmail/api/guides/push