

THE YCRO DISPATCH



Dear Community,

As donation requests die down and PPE becomes more widely available, YCRO has taken the decision to wrap up and we couldn't be happier! What started as a novel idea one individual had to help their community by 3D printing a mask sparked the start of an organization. After donating almost 9,000 pieces of equipment, releasing 12 articles, and producing multiple tutorial videos, our team has learned a lot. Getting YCRO to where it is today was anything but straightforward; in addition numerous structural changes in the entire organization, every subteam experienced their own hurdles and learned their own lessons, and the leads would like to share those with you!

IN THIS ISSUE

CHALLENGES FACED

LESSONS LEARNED

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3D PRINTING

One issue the 3D printing subteam faced was with maintaining a steady level of production. We were able to solve this problem by placing multiple prints on the same bed and by also stacking prints on top of each other.

Trying to motivate people was a significant challenge for 3D Printing. A lot of people had printers, but not enough were willing to put in the time to produce equipment on a large enough scale to be able to finish orders in a timely manner. It's understandable - the amount of time and filament that mass producing PPE takes is a lot to ask for.

We must thank the people who stuck around and contributed so much to our cause, in both filament they could have used for other purposes, and in time they could have used in other ways. It's been an amazing journey working with them and making what was once just a Facebook post into a reality.

From this I take away the truth that whatever we can contribute, whether it be tangible resources or time spent or simply goodwill, will leave a huge mark on whoever is on the receiving end. I also learned that a lot more goes into managing a team than what meets the eye.

FUNDS

There are surprisingly more options than you may think when starting an organization. The issue is that there's not as much guidance available for easy access to start off, and because of that you're going to default to possibly the hardest option, like we initially did. There, we wasted about 3 months, give or take a few. Just keep pushing and exploring what's out there, and you're going to have a much better time in the long run.

INNOVATIVE DESIGN

Be willing to explore ideas. Innovative Design (formerly known as 2d printing) was born from an off-hand comment, and we eventually got to a point where we could deliver products to hospitals. Also, if you can do something beforehand (paperwork, designs, etc...), try to do it before! Don't rely on people to do it for you, so be proactive. But have fun with it :) Sometimes accidents can turn into the best ideas.



PUBLICITY

Publicity is about working smarter, not harder. It's really easy to get caught up in the semantics of making different social media accounts, designing very intricate posts etc etc, but it really comes down to utilizing your pre existing connections in a way that will work for you. Also, the nature of being in publicity means that you should have an idea of what is going on in all of the other "sections" of your organization at all times so that whenever you need to post an update regarding a certain subteam, you don't need to spend a ton of time catching yourself up to speed. In the end, organization and persistence is key, and don't be afraid to follow any opportunity you can! :)

OUTREACH

Don't be afraid to reach out and contact an organization or a location that could possibly help you on your goal. Its important to keep in mind that not everyone will get back to you, so its a game of numbers. Even if the first 20 people don't reply, keep up hope that the 21st one will!

WEB DEV

It's difficult to visualize and plan for everything your website will need to provide for the organization. However, clearly establishing those requirements will make the planning much easier, which will make the website MUCH easier to code. It'll also help you avoid making 4 different versions of the website over time :)

Along with this advice, we hope to offer guidance for any future endeavors. As we wrap up operations, YCRO is offering the general public resources on how to help their own community. This includes reaching out to larger groups of dedicated individuals that want guidance on how to start a similar organization. We are releasing startup guides, templates, and documents to best support these groups.

We are eternally grateful for the support and encouragement we have received. We thank every individual and organization that has played a role in helping our community during this time of crisis. We hope everyone who was a part of our journey learned something new or developed a new skill.

**Stay safe,
The YCRO Leads**

