1. What is your opinion on volunteering and non profit organizations to tackle social causes?

I think that volunteer opportunities and non-profit organizations are wonderful incubators for social change. I really admire their abilities to involve individuals of all demographic groups (i.e.: young children, the elderly, individuals with special needs) in the journey to solve a social issue.

1. As a member of the community, what are the challenges you face in terms of connecting/ looking up organizations that you want to contribute to?

I find that locating a volunteer opportunity that is directly related to my interests is a bit difficult. Often, when I search for a volunteer opportunity, the most popular results are displayed. This is an issue, because I am looking for opportunities that correspond with my personal interests. I am not simply looking to join the “most popular”/”most recently searched” initiative.

* Note about this question: At this point the person being interviewed will state a few points and I will ask them to elaborate by saying “Tell me more” and ask them follow up question as to whether time management influences their decisions to volunteer or not as the people who can interviewed can be student to old age people who with different kind of schedules. Elderly people would typically have more flexible schedule

1. What kind of volunteering/social causes are you interested in contributing to?

-Helping individuals with special needs

-Using arts (i.e.: music, visual art, culinary arts, dramatic arts) to help individuals in marginalized communities

-Working alongside an expert in my field of preference (i.e.: volunteering alongside an expert painter)

-Urban community uplift/revitalization opportunities

-Helping individuals who are homeless.

-Helping elderly individuals (especially with issues such as Alzheimer’s and Dementia)

What are your concerns on the legitimacy of non profit organizations?

* I worry that some non-profit organizations may not have a record of safe workspaces for volunteers.
* I also worry that some “non-profit” organizations may not actually be operating as non-profit groups. Instead, they may recruit volunteers to carry out processes that do not work to benefit the community/cause of interest.

Again I will ask them to tell me more and elaborate on their points and possibly ask questions based on the points they make

1. What is your primary source of receiving advertisements/ communication from non profits?

Email

1. What do you think non profits can do better connect with the public?

They can

* Participate in more community events to establish their legitimacy
* Advertise their causes more broadly in a variety of places.
* Immerse themselves in social media/electronic forms of communication
* Send delegates/representatives to established meeting areas (safe meeting spaces) to recruit volunteers.

1. In your opinion how do you feel about technology playing a role in bridging a gap between the public and non profits?

I think that technology has the ability to enable non-profits to reach a broader demographic. However, it may be more difficult for non-profit groups who use social media to really get their messages across to social media users, because there are many, many other non profit groups that are competing for the same demographics. In addition, I feel that the internet is quite biased in displaying results. Thus, it may be easier for some non profits to simply “fall through the cracks”. For example, sites like Facebook have a lot of visual “noise” (i.e.: distracting content) that could easily distract users from seeing certain advertisements. It would be nice to have some sort of platform that is devoted to only showing non-profit/volunteering opportunities.

1. What are your long term or even short term plans to contribute to the society in any way?

Short term:

* Help individuals who are homeless to acquire basic necessities of life.
* Use music to raise money for various causes
* Use visual art to raise money for various causes
* Make the lives of others happier via intangible gifts

Long term:

* Help to stop the cycles that lead individuals to be homeless
* Advocate for better homeless interventions
* Advocate for youth participation in volunteerism
* Start campaigns to activate self-esteem