

Student Reporter

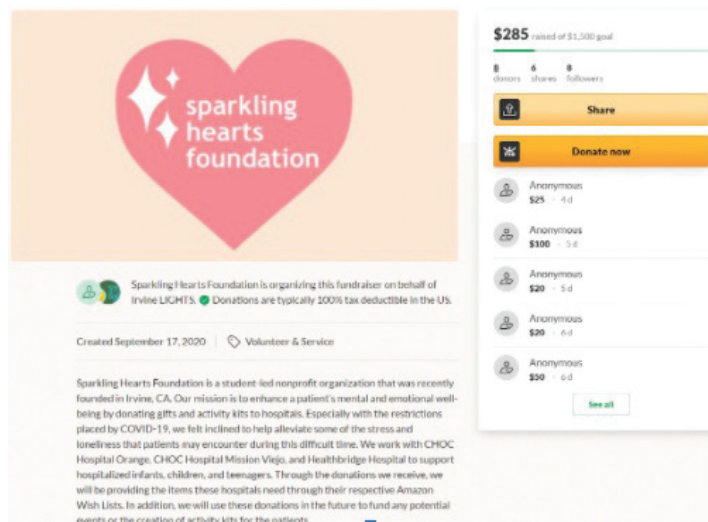
Sparkling Hearts Foundation: The Formula for Founding a Non-Profit



Iris Lim
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Wake up. Eat. Do homework. Sleep. Repeat. Since the COVID-19 pandemic struck the nation earlier this year, many students found their exciting lives being reduced to a mundane cycle of the same few actions. Among numerous activities, volunteer opportunities were suddenly very limited. During this time, Nimi Patel, a junior at Arnold O. Beckman High School, took the initiative to start her very own non-profit organization: Sparkling Hearts Foundation.

After facing the cancellation of her volunteer opportunities at St. Joseph's Hospital, Patel was determined to find a new way to help patients and foster her passion for the medical field. Patel, along with her friends Vivian Vu and Carissa Osterhoudt, began coming up with various ideas to aid their community. As people across the country found their mental healths deteriorating in isolation, Patel thought of the millions of hospitalized



Sparkling Hearts Foundation is now raising funds through GoFundMe.

[Source: Iris Lim]]

children and teens who were suffering twofold with their physical and mental complications.

Initially, Patel's goal was to create an organization that would host various holiday events for hospitalized kids; however, the restrictions placed by COVID-19 in conjunction with several age limits in place made this simply unfeasible. After

considering a plethora of options, she decided upon her new objective: "to enhance a patient's mental and emotional well-being by donating gifts and activity kits to hospitals." In this way, Patel would be able to broaden her organization's effect, despite the difficult restraints she faced.

As opposed to a mere club, Patel felt inclined to make

Sparkling Hearts a registered non-profit organization in order to reach a wider audience and increase its impact.

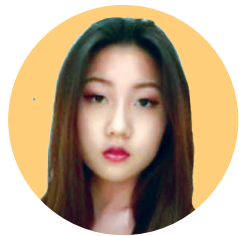
Patel was simultaneously very excited and slightly apprehensive because of the immense responsibilities associated with founding a non-profit.

Since Sparkling Hearts launched, it has gained a full executive board, advertising team, and hundreds of followers. Nimi believes that starting a non-profit is possible for anyone who has determination and endurance.

She recommends being especially cautious of the various legal components of being a non-profit organization and making sure to stay organized and responsible. There may be many obstacles, but if you continue to work hard and remain persistent, you are definitely capable of doing amazing things as well!

Student Reporter

The Dark Realms of Social Media



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Technology has been shaping our society since the beginning of humanity. From the first telephone invented in 1876 to the various iPhones we have today, technology is constantly evolving. One of the more recent innovations in communication is social media.

Available on the average smartphone are Instagram, Facebook, Tiktok, and countless other varieties of networking platforms. Most of these applications allow the user to post pictures, videos, or thoughts from their daily lives and connect with other users. Thanks to the virtual aspect of social media, people can contact each other from miles away and retain long distance friendships that would have otherwise been difficult. With the right techniques, one can even amass thousands of

followers and create a career for themselves online. From the average citizen to the world famous celebrity, anyone can utilize and harvest the benefits of social media.

Where there are pros, there are cons. Millions of people are connected through one application, and not everyone has good intentions. After the rise in popularity of social media, the rate of cyberbullying skyrocketed and it is now the most common form of bullying. Hidden behind a screen and given easy access to others' information, bullies are more courageous on the internet than in person. After all, their identity is protected and they are less likely to suffer repercussions online. After one cyberbully posts a hate comment, others are empowered to do so as well, quickly spreading hate

like wildfire. This intensifies the bullying that the victim experiences and can become very dangerous if not monitored.

Another dark aspect of social media is the unseen advertising strategy. Every post, account, or product a user interacts with is secretly tracked by highly complex algorithms that aim to find what they are interested in. This data is then used to formulate personally tailored advertisements that appeal to the specific user. Although this strategy is very effective and innovative for businesses, it does not take into consideration the safety of the consumer. A very upsetting example of this is the vaping industry. E-cigarette companies, such as Juul, specifically target younger audiences who tend

to be more impressionable and easy to influence. By exposing children to their content, using sneaky strategies and developing flavors that appeal to minors, vape companies can easily market their products to teens who are unaware of the long-term repercussions. In recent years, online networking has made it even easier for these ill-intended companies to track their audience.

Overall, social media is a wonderful development that has connected our society in ways unimaginable. However, it is also an undeniable fact that it can be extremely dangerous for unsuspecting users. With cyberbullies and money-hungry companies roaming the internet, it is critical that we remain aware of such dangers and protect ourselves from falling prey.

Student Reporter

Among Us: The Perfect Game While Social Distancing



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Among Us is an online social deduction game that takes place in a space themed environment. Modeled after other classic multiplayer party games, such as Mafia and Werewolf, Among Us divides players into two roles: the majority are "crewmates" and a small number of people are "imposters". The crewmates perform various tasks while trying to identify which players are imposters. Meanwhile, the imposters sabotage the tasks and try to kill the crewmates while they fix wiring, upload data, or empty the garbage.

In order to eliminate the imposters, the crewmates hold meetings to discuss the identity of a potential imposter and eliminate the player by voting him or her out. The imposters can also manipulate the process by convincing the crewmates to vote off an innocent teammate.

The crewmates win if they successfully eliminate all of the imposters, or if they complete all of their tasks before the imposters kill wipe out the entire crew. The imposters win if they kill enough people so that there are an equal number of crewmates and imposters.

Among Us was originally released in 2018, but was not well known and had little mainstream popularity. The demand for the game erupted recently, as many famous live streamers and YouTubers such as xQc, CallMeCarson, Pokimane, Shroud, Ninja, and PewDiePie began playing the party game during the Covid-19 pandemic. After these popular influencers got onboard, other consumers saw what they were missing and wanted to try it out for themselves, prompting a



In Among Us there are many tasks you have to complete to figure out who is the imposter in your group.

[Source: Jonathan Chun]

snowball effect in the game's playerbase.

After playing the game myself, I really enjoyed the game, as it was extremely fun to play with my friends. It's very easy to learn and one you can quickly master all of the unique tasks in each map by playing the game numerous times. Among Us is a great way to stay connected with your friends during quarantine because you are able to create private servers that allow you to host rounds of play with

friends rather than random users. If you don't have enough people to play with or if you just want some solo practice, you can always join a public match which will randomly assign you to a group.

Overall, I recommend this game for everyone. There are both free and paid options for all types of computers and phones, and it is easily located on your device's app store. So why not enjoy some fun while social distancing and enjoy a space adventure?