

Changing the Present: A Virtual Nonprofit Experience



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INTRODUCTION

When I started my internship with Changing the Present, the interactive nature of my work environment surprised me. I enjoyed having the freedom to create projects for fellow interns and conduct virtual interviews for applicants from the comfort of my home. My responsibilities were not clearly defined, but this gave me the freedom to choose what existing projects I wanted to work on as time allowed. Some tasks were data-heavy, and I used different methods of data collection for many of these tasks. Maintaining a healthy work-life balance while meeting students from all over the world is one of the benefits of working at Changing the Present. To find this internship, I thoroughly searched Handshake, but am glad I invested time into this job. I would highly recommend this opportunity to anyone who is self-motivated, passionate about improving international nonprofit work, and intentional in where they invest time and resources.



WATER FOR LIFE
SAFE WATER FOR THE WORLD

About Changing the Present

This nonprofit organization is dedicated to reducing the amount of excess "stuff" that the average consumer purchases during birthdays, holidays and other special occasions. Many unwanted gifts are sent to landfills domestically and overseas throughout the year, which creates enormous amounts of waste and detracts from affected communities' quality of life. Instead of buying a gift out of obligation, consider donating to a cause in your loved one's name and sharing the joy of mindful generosity. Be the difference and change the way the world think about gift-giving.



Roles & Responsibilities

During my initial interview, I was offered the role of Team Leader, as the Environmental team had been inactive since fall semester. I accepted the position and enjoyed creating projects for the interns I would later hire in the following weeks. Some of the tasks I completed while familiarizing myself with Changing the Present fell outside of my job description, one of which included pulling contact information from other nonprofits' websites to flesh out our database. This task, albeit tedious, gave me insight into how other nonprofits' activity, or lack thereof, reflects in their web presence. Many Audubon Society chapters, for example, consist of members who may not consistently check the organization's listed emails or social media handles due to their individual schedules.



One Minute for Good

A project which required collaboration with the Marketing team, One Minute for Good is a campaign that amplifies how anyone can take small steps toward being a more conscientious citizen of the world. Some of the suggested actions for environmental and social justice initiatives, for example, included signing petitions or watching and sharing documentary trailers on their social media profiles. Activism can take many different forms in the modern era, and this project allowed my fellow interns and me to provide examples of how a person can engage with their favorite causes while encouraging friends and loved ones to get involved.



water for people
EVERYONE • FOREVER



Transferable Skills

Working for a virtual nonprofit provides interns with a unique skillset. As is the case with any organization, effective communication with others is a crucial part of a functional workplace. This interactive work environment allows interns to ask how to fill gaps in workflow, increase sponsorship, or contributions to projects and initiatives. Students with an aptitude for data science can play an essential role in amplifying the website's design and functionality while honing their skills via projects focused on data analytics. Students are also able to create a professional profile through Changing the Present, which amplifies their social networks in a way that caters to those who are interested in nonprofit work.



CONCLUSION

Even though I learned a great deal from my internship experience, I plan to pursue employment in other fields, namely business consulting and analytics. My passion for nonprofit work will continue to foster my involvement with organizations which align with my values. Changing the Present is a relatively new

