

Forum:[Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [Would like some advice with starting/funding a Charity/Non-Profit for mental health](#)

Anima - April 12, 2020, 3:16 am

Hi all :)

I hope everyone is doing well in these times. While being self isolated it's really got me thinking about what I want to do with my life. Ultimately I'd love to start a non-profit for people struggling with mental health/suicidal thoughts/depression/anxiety/abuse at home.

Being a sufferer with mental health myself, I know how hard this can be and the lack of resources/facilities there are. I've done charity work for a good few years and it's the most rewarding job I've ever been at. I loved every moment I was there for years.

I'll try keep it short and sweet

Please note I've not planned this in detail since I have no idea how to take this forward or if it's even a good idea so I thought to ask you lovely people

Basic Idea (It could be written better, I apologise.):

Have gaming/internet cafes available for everyone around the UK with access to free therapy and other bits. (I was thinking about having a membership scheme to help fund them? People can apply for free membership so they can have access to everything & a few extras)

Why gaming/internet cafes?

It gives people a safe place to go, whether they have abusive parents/spouse or are having dark times and need people to be around them and a good place for them to make possible friendships. I don't know the legalities or whether it would even be viable but maybe a few rooms/sleeping areas for those who need a safe place to stay

What would they offer? Free & Discounted Counselling/Therapy (I suppose it will presume on funding, Ideally free but I guess I have to be realistic?)

Food & Drink

I'd like to have an emergency number people can call about self harm/suicide

Everyone would be treated equally whether they have the free funded membership or are just general public paying to use the services

Study areas and resources (laptops, printer, paper, pens, books etc) available for kids (Parents can't afford it/abusive parents/parents just don't care)

This is just a brief idea of what I'd love to be able to do, I'd love some feedback on it and what I could improve & add.

Questions I have to help get this going:How would I start even getting funding to do something like this?

What can I do now to start

Should it be a Charity/Non-profit or a for-profit business that donates the profits to fund this?

Do you think something like this would be able to sustain for the first couple years while it gets going

Thanks for taking your time to read this, sorry if it's not posted in the right place.

Cyam - April 12, 2020, 11:16 am

I like the idea, but I don't think you've posted this question to a correct forum. Try Reddit for example, I'm sure you will receive much more helpful answers rather than people LQ posting going for lounge award.

Anima - April 12, 2020, 12:38 pm

(Apr 12, 2020 11:16 AM)Yung Gravy Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I like the idea, but I don't think you've posted this question to a correct forum. Try Reddit for example, I'm sure you will receive much more helpful answers rather than people LQ posting going for lounge award.

Aye i've made a post under /r/advice on reddit since I can't make a post on charity since ive not got 300 comment karma >.>

Theocritus - April 12, 2020, 1:12 pm

I've always been wary of non-profits and the like. even with the noblest goal i feel it is rife for corruption or misuse

Anima - April 12, 2020, 1:16 pm

(Apr 12, 2020 01:12 PM)Theocritus Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I've always been wary of non-profits and the like. even with the noblest goal i feel it is rife for corruption or misuse

I think the main misconception with non-profits is that people don't expect the staff to be paid, plus i think anything can be corrupted or misused? Take free samples for example ?

Theocritus - April 12, 2020, 1:20 pm

(Apr 12, 2020 01:16 PM)Anima Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I think the main misconception with non-profits is that people don't expect the staff to be paid, plus i think anything can be corrupted or misused? Take free samples for example ?

true, i just have bad experiences with them historically

Anima - April 12, 2020, 1:32 pm

(Apr 12, 2020 01:20 PM)Theocritus Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) true, i just have bad experiences with them historically

That's fair, I think they're pretty highly regulated in the UK. Ive never had a bad experience with them personally

Perileos - April 12, 2020, 1:43 pm

How would I start even getting funding to do something like this?

It is highly unrealistic, requiring high upfront costs in a business that isn't commercial. Although local governments might grant a subsidy which will never be enough to break even. Thus, you would

have to look to other means of obtaining funding. Donations are risky because you are dependable on externalities. You said a membership idea; yet kids can apply to obtain a free membership? E.g. supervisors check if a kid deserves free membership or not?

What can I do now to start?

I would read upon what your local government does to help kids in need, see what subsidies they grant, what NFP organisations they support and so on.

Should it be a Charity/Non-profit or a for-profit business that donates the profits to fund this?

I think you would barely make any profit with this business model, therefore I think a for-profit business is too ambitious.

Do you think something like this would be able to sustain for the first couple years while it gets going?

Work together with an financial advisor or account to come up with a master budget and predicted sales and other means over income.

Anima - April 12, 2020, 2:00 pm

[quote='Perileos' pid='59627243' dateline='1586724204']

You said a membership idea; yet kids can apply to obtain a free membership? E.g. supervisors check if a kid deserves free membership or not?

I was thinking something along the lines of an application of some kind

Ya i totally agree, its very ambitious but something i'd love to be able to do

Stanley - April 12, 2020, 4:28 pm

I'm Stanley HF's helper bot. This OP (original poster) of this thread wants everyone to see this page and has elected to bump it to the top of the showthread listing. Since HF doesn't want a ton of LQP (Low Quality Posts) this is the best method of bumping your content. There is a small ?yte fee for each bump. Any OP can bump any of their threads on HF from the linked icon on the top of their first post.

If you haven't already read the first post of this thread we encourage you to do so.

Thanks,
Stanley

Perileos - April 12, 2020, 4:32 pm

(Apr 12, 2020 02:00 PM)Anima Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) (Apr 12, 2020 01:43 PM)Perileos Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) You said a membership idea; yet kids can apply to obtain a free membership? E.g. supervisors check if a kid deserves free membership or not?

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Anima - April 12, 2020, 4:34 pm

(Apr 12, 2020 04:32 PM)Perileos Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) So what are you waiting on?

Idk where to start haha, Like would this be something I should try and kickstarter?

Perileos - April 12, 2020, 4:35 pm

(Apr 12, 2020 04:34 PM)Anima Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Idk where to start haha, Like would this be something I should try and kickstarter?

I would look into government subsidiaries first, other foundations perhaps that can help you start up.

Boil - April 12, 2020, 11:47 pm

This is an amazing idea! I hope to see this up and going in the future.

Dorrance - April 12, 2020, 11:56 pm

Go in with good intentions and focus on the project. Only have people on board that sees the same vision as you.

jfm-8 - April 13, 2020, 12:08 am

(Apr 12, 2020 03:16 AM)Anima Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Hi all :)

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Thanks for taking your time to read this, sorry if it's not posted in the right place.

It's amazing what you're trying to do.

Having a good heart and making sure the people that work around you are not in it for the profit as i'm sure some people will try to benefit from this will get you places :)

bevc - April 13, 2020, 12:08 am

(Apr 12, 2020 03:16 AM)Anima Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Questions I have to help get this going:How would I start even getting funding to do something like this?

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Thanks for taking your time to read this, sorry if it's not posted in the right place.

I assume you're in the UK? There used to be a lot of funds you could apply for for something like this, but because of the 'B' word (and now I suppose, the 'C' word as well) it's all a bit up in the air around government grants etc. I used to do a bit of IT work for some private sector orgs that had ties to the public sector, and there were a shizz-ton of EU money pots to apply for, people got money for all kinds of crap. But I wouldn't hold your breath on the current government being generous with our taxes, especially after coronavirus and then brexit happen. They'll use our money to bail out easyjet and pay the shareholder's bonuses, but I very much doubt it's going to be boom-time for charities that help out poor and needy people.

Probably the best thing to do would be find some nice rich fat businesses that want to virtue-signal on twitter. That would be my advice.

Yanix - April 13, 2020, 12:43 am

Kind and good deeds always prosper...keep it up =)

The Broker - April 13, 2020, 12:59 am

(Apr 12, 2020 11:16 AM)Yung Gravy Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I like the idea, but I don't think you've posted this

question to a correct forum. Try Reddit for example, I'm sure you will receive much more helpful answers rather than people LQ posting going for lounge award.
best comment here yet

EDIT: this comment got me a red egg yey