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How Strategic Communication Helped an Education Nonprofit Go to the Next Level



Who They Are

Parents for Educational Freedom in North Carolina (PEFNC) is a nonprofit local advocacy organization dedicated to expanding educational choices for all families, regardless of income, race, or zip code.

What They Needed

PEFNC contracted with us to provide full-scale marketing communications support. What began as regular social media and email content quickly grew into multiple touchpoints with the public, the media, lawmakers, donors, and educational leaders, including fundraising communications, email newsletters, blog content, ghost-written op-eds, website copy, and print collateral.







EMAIL MARKETING

Before we arrived, regular communication with PEFNC's target audiences was sporadic. Working in collaboration with PEFNC's outreach, development, and grassroots departments, we kickstarted email communication by creating an editorial calendar for each target audience (parents, teachers, donors, lawmakers, and the media). The capstone of this increased effort was high-quality and visually appealing newsletters.









We achieved an impressive open rate of 32% and 18% clickthrough rate, well above industry standards for nonprofit communications.



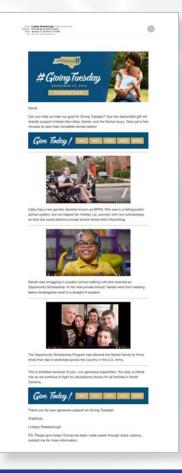




FUNDRAISING COMMUNICATIONS

One of PEFNC's topline priorities was to establish a broader, deeper donor base. We played a crucial role in ramping up donor communications through email, social media, and snail mail, including copywriting fundraising letters, developing eye-catching infographics, and creating and disseminating "ask" emails focused on key events throughout the year (such as Giving Tuesday).









We successfully helped PEFNC grow its donor base from a few major funders to a broader base of support, including individual donors.

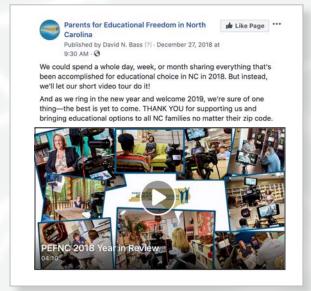




Ridiculously great content

CLIENT SUCCESS STORY:







SOCIAL MEDIA CONTENT

Knowing the importance of social media for connecting with PEFNC's audiences and driving action, we created compelling social content—text, photos, and video—and regularly posted them at strategic times throughout the week. We also took point on promoting a series of videos from PEFNC productions throughout the year.











MAJOR MEDIA PLACEMENTS

Media placements are a central plank of PEFNC's mission to reach North Carolinians with its message. We worked with PEFNC staff to brainstorm, draft, and successfully place key quotes and content in major media outlets. We also spearheaded efforts to disseminate timely press releases to the media.

The News&Observer



"Simply put, school choice and educational reform is the civil rights issue of our time and has the ability to reach across the aisle," Long said in a statement Wednesday. "Couple that with innovative steps forward to support families with students with specials needs, we truly believe that North Carolina is a national leader on educational reform.

"Those who would advocate for reverting back to an antiquated status quo that doesn't work for all families are prioritizing systems over children."

The Charlotte Observer Public money for private school scholarships is working, and will soon expand dramatically Nariah Hunter, Janet Nunn's granddaughter, shown two years ago at age 7. She is a straight-A student at Victor Christian Center School in Charlotte, the beneficiary of an Opportunity Scholarship.