

# Volunteers, Communities and User Groups

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Apple Users Group Advisory Board*

# Introduction

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- *A little about me*
- *What on earth is a “volunteer?”*
- *Who is our Community?*
- *Beyond your Basic Meetings*

# About Me

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- *Maui Apple Users Society- President*
- *Director for non-profits for six years- Youth, program development.*
- *Live in Maui and work on Macs*

# What is a Volunteer?

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- *Basic Definition-One who enters into, or offers for, any service of his own free will.*
- *Expanded Definition- . . .not expecting rewards, thanks, or recognition for their efforts.*
- *Why do we volunteer? Because we want to help move something forward or make it better.*

# Our Community

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- *Definition- A body of people having common rights, privileges, or interests, or living in the same place under the same laws and regulations.*
- *Look beyond your User Group*

# Beyond Your User Group

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- *Example of a community outreach program*
- *User Groups in Action- Share your experiences*
- *How do we as share these experiences with the User Group community as a whole?*

User Group Volunteers

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# The Thankless Job?

- *People do not volunteer with the expectation of being given something in return. If they do, volunteering is not a job for them.*
- *A successful volunteer experience will give that individual a feeling of personal accomplishment (But don't forget to thank them).*





# Types of User Group Volunteers

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- *Board Members- Help bring guidance and direction to User Groups. Helps balance out tasks and responsibilities so one person does not have to take on all tasks. Offers support to each other as volunteers.*
- *Event and Other Volunteers- One-time volunteers, offer skills in other non-board areas. Great resources for User Group.*

# Why Volunteer?

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- *Why do we decide to help out?*
  - *We want to make things better for others*
  - *We want to feel we made a difference*
  - *Because we feel we have something to offer*

# Volunteer Requirements

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- *Volunteering is a Privilege*- Don't ever forget that or take advantage of it! Not everyone has the abilities or skills you can offer.
- *Do you need to be a Mac Pro? NO! User Groups are not based on Mac Geekness.*
- *What are the time requirements? Make sure you can make the time commitment. If you can't it only hurts others you made commitments to. Share responsibilities if need be.*
- *We need to guide volunteers just like employees, and help keep them focused on a task if need be.*

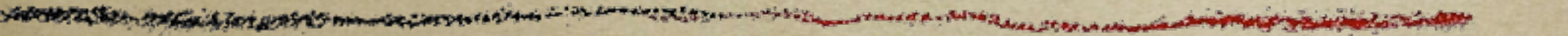
# Keeping Volunteers Interested

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- *Thank them! Thank them! Thank them! Thank them! Thank them!*
- *When you can recognize or give a small token of your appreciation.*
- *A thank you card goes a long way!*



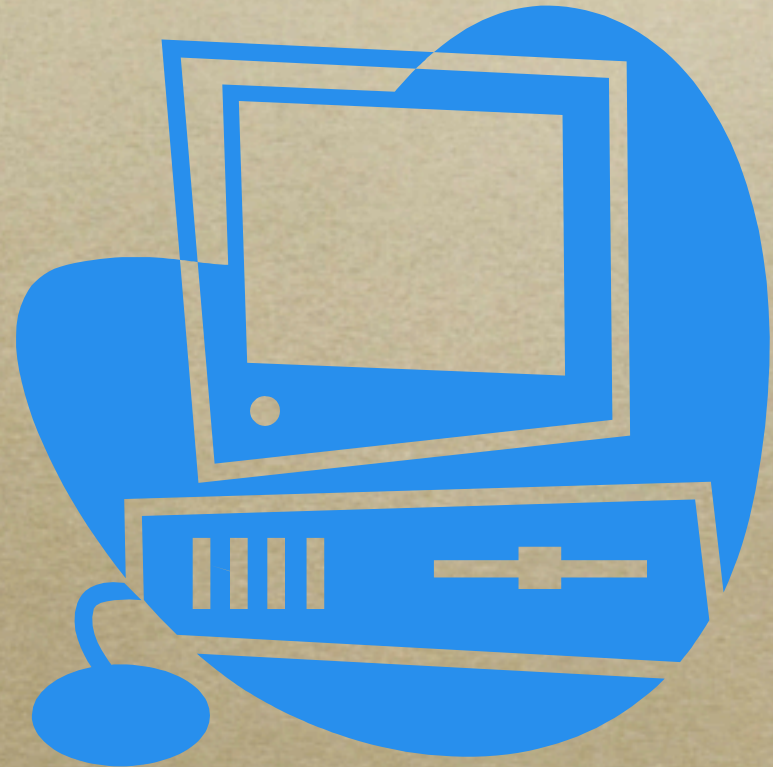
Communities



# Thinking Outside the Box

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- *More than just Mac*
- *Beyond Meetings*
- *What other things can your User Group be doing?*



# Two Types of Communities

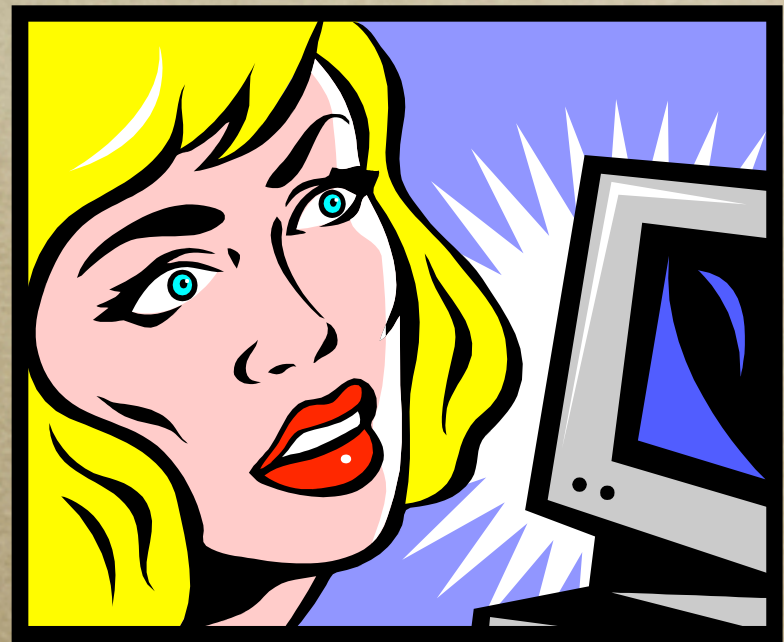
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- *User Group Members- We are a community in our towns and worldwide. Network in person and on-line.*
- *Community as a whole*
  - *City or Town*
  - *Non-Mac people*

# Making an Impact

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- *Give something to your local community they would never expect*
- *Something new, different and beneficial*





# Benefits of Helping Your Community

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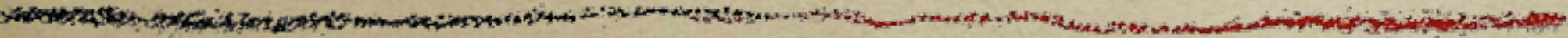
- *Free Media Awareness at events*
- *Presence and Awareness in your community*
- *New Members*

# Community Partnerships

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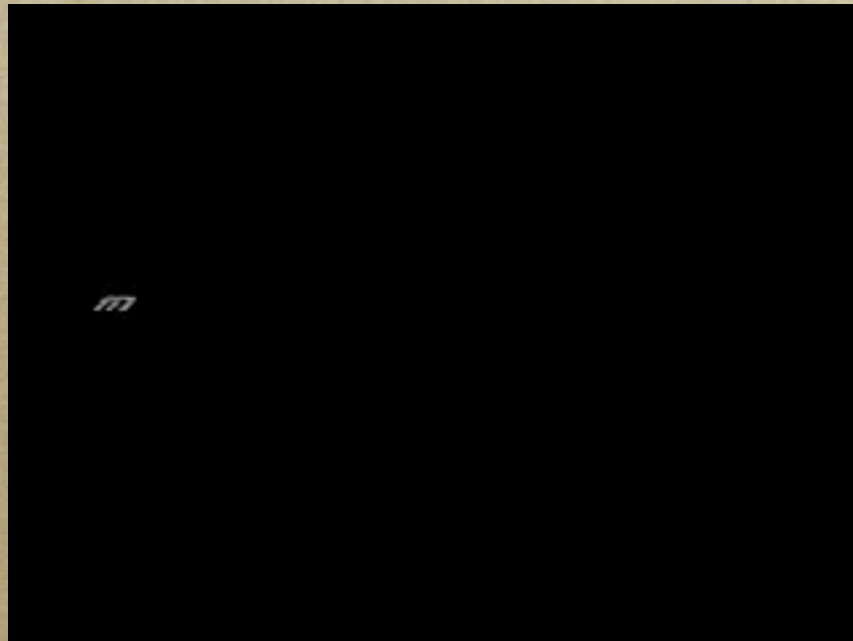
- *A partnership is when all parties involved benefit from the relationship*
- *It can only benefit the community working together*
- *Can make for some good relationships*
  - *Maui Apple Users Society uses community college Mac lab for free. As a trade we teach an Mac Class for them at no cost. Benefits both parties.*

Beyond Meetings / Ideas in Action



# Community Work Day-CompuSwap

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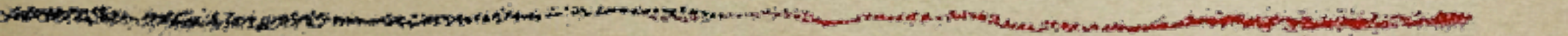
# Other Ideas

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- *Help fix School computers*
- *Free Mac Fix-it Days*
- *Trade off services for UG benefit*
- *Help bridge the digital divide*

# Other User Groups in Action

(time to share your ideas and programs)



Q & A / Open Discussion

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