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**Nerissa Belcher**

3 hours ago ·

This blog post is three years old but still relevant. In the post, Ken Berger, president of the charity ranking website, Charity Navigator, notes it is extremely rare for charities to show any significant concern for actually doing anything useful. For example, less than 10% of charities his organization contacted admitted to having any system in place to measure outcomes. And if less than 10% measure outcomes imagine the even lower percentage that obtain a significant amount of good outcomes.

IMO several factors play into these sad facts. Perhaps the most important is many charities are scams meant to enrich the guys and gals running the charities. I saw a lot of this at the Humanitarian conference I went to last weekend. One group, for example, wanted about \$3000 per head for doctors and nurses wanting to take an Amazon cruise for a week to provide care to people along the Amazon river. It had absolutely no literature demonstrating any effectiveness of the program. And do not even get me started on charities related to HIV. Most of them are scams.

Imagine you were to start a nonprofit. I'll start one right here. Please send me lots of money. My nonprofit's mission will be to enhance the self-esteem of transwomen which is necessary due to the high suicide rate in our community. Suppose I collected \$125,000 for this vital mission. I might give myself a salary of \$70,000/year and a company car costing \$30,000. Add in misc. expenses of \$25,000 and there's your nonprofit!

Another part of the problem is decent results are usually dependent upon a good effort of the people being served. Most of us are aware this is how life actually works. Look at my perpetual diet. I am s...l...o...w...l...y dropping weight with a lot of effort. This is common so nothing unusual about my experience. Some studies on weight loss show an average loss of about 3/8 pound per week and that is in the select few studies where a significant percentage of the study group dropped weight. Now imagine having a charity that included weight control as a component. Perhaps the charity might have to do with diabetes. If none of your clients were required to step on a scale let alone demonstrate eating a healthy diet and exercising what would you suppose your success rate would be? Many charities require absolutely no effort from the people being serviced.

**Ken's Commentary: A Scary Finding on Outcome Measurement**
[www.kenscommentary.org](http://www.kenscommentary.org)

KenI always enjoy reading your commentary and I also like the newly energized Charity Navigator. Maybe it's an hallucination but The CN feels alive. I give you the credit for that.I remember you from the

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You like this.


**Bonze Anne Rose Blayk** –

One term for it is "X-Inefficiency" – this brief webpage focuses on for-profit enterprises, but the principle is obviously quite relevant to "non-profits" and "charities".

PS: As the manager of your burgeoning charity, part of your \$75,000 salary will be justified by your exquisite skill in persuading potential employees and "volunteers" – maybe you could get some court referrals? – that a charitable enterprise cannot ("Alas!") compensate them properly – nor should it!

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LOLOLOLOL

<http://www.economicshelp.org/dictionary/x/x-inefficiency.html>



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**Nerissa Belcher** Fortunately research shows flunkies at charities work hardest if paid nothing. God forbid they get the idea their help should be paid for.  
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