

A conversation with Giving What We Can on June 19, 2013

Participants

- Michelle Hutchinson – Executive Director, Giving What We Can
- Robert Wiblin – Research Director, Giving What We Can
- Elie Hassenfeld – Co-Founder and Co-Executive Director, GiveWell
- Timothy Telleen-Lawton – Research Analyst, GiveWell

Note: This set of notes was compiled by GiveWell and gives an overview of the major points made by Giving What We Can.

Summary

GiveWell spoke with Giving What We Can's (GWWC) Michelle Hutchinson and Robert Wiblin

Giving What We Can's Plans

GWWC's top priority is growing its member base. Over the past two years, it has had approximately 100 new members each year, but this is slower growth than it hoped for. It has historically found most of its members via university chapters (including Oxford and Princeton) and is now planning to expand its outreach efforts in various ways.

Research

GWWC has been thinking about the priority it should give to research. It wants to conduct research to:

- Discover the most compelling presentations of information on giving to find and encourage individuals to join as GWWC members
- Provide better recommendations for donors who ask for the best organization by cause (e.g., best microfinance organizations, best AIDS-focused organization)
- Present itself as a research organization, which it believes makes it more credible in the eyes of its members
- Provide better recommendations to groups such as The Life You Can Save which lists 10 recommended organizations on its website.

GWWC has received a restricted donation to fund its research activities.

Influence on donations

GWWC has conducted annual giving surveys for the last two years to see how well their members are following up on their pledges. 90% of the respondents said they were fulfilling the pledge of giving at least 10% of their income, but not all gave to GWWC-recommended organizations.

Organization and staffing details

GWWC has 1.5 full-time staff: Michelle, the Executive Director, is half-time (she is also completing a PhD), and Rob (full-time, 80% to GWWC and 20% to 80,000 hours). They are planning to hire a communications person and a community person. They also have several interns, as well as a board of trustees consisting of Toby Ord, William MacAskill, and Nick Beckstead, which give official guidance to the staff quarterly during board meetings.

GWWC's current budget is approximately 11,000 GBP/month.

All GiveWell conversations are available at <http://www.givewell.org/conversations>