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**The Title:** A Community Marketplace for Louisiana Non-profits

**The Project:**

The "Louisiana Community Marketplace" website will help non-profit organizations endure through tough economic climates when public and private donations are at their lowest, by providing a common avenue for marketing commercial products and services. LACommunityMarketplace.com will consolidate non-profits' across the state into a single location for (a) easier access to goods and services by donors and (b) providing broader commercial exposure of their products. However, the most important goal is to generate sustainable revenue for the client, HOPE.

**The Problem:**

In tough economic times like these, non-profits struggle to secure funding. A major factor is obscurity. A small non-profit may only be known to a small audience and may not have the resources available to advertise themselves to a larger audience. LACM will provide the location and audience to help small non-profits succeed. The client, HOPE, would like to solve this problem in a way that will solve their own funding issues by charging a fee small on all items sold.

**The Impact:**

This project will impact both the people of various poverty stricken communities as well as the non-profit organizations that serve them. The site will accommodate several non-profit organizations throughout the state. They will be able to advertise and sell items as well as receive donations on the site. The HOPE Ministries will run the site and will therefore gain a percentage of all sales generated on the site from other organizations as well as their own. The people of the communities will benefit from this in the end because the funds are used to assist them in leading productive and successful lives.

**The Motivation:**

As human beings, we have sympathy and compassion for the unfortunate who are left homeless. We applaud the United Methodist HOPE Ministries and their work to help the poverty stricken people pick up the pieces and succeed. We believe it is our duty to assist them in their cause and feel that, as computer scientists, this is the most effective way we can help.