

Report of

The GroundTruth Project

December 31, 2017



TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT	1 - 2
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:	
Statement of Financial Position	3
Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets	4
Statement of Cash Flows	5
Notes to Financial Statements	6 - 9

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board of Directors
The GroundTruth Project Inc.
Boston, Massachusetts

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of The GroundTruth Project Inc. (a nonprofit organization), which comprise the statement of financial position as of December 31, 2017, and the related statements of activities, changes in net assets, and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The GroundTruth Project Inc. as of December 31, 2017, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Respectfully submitted,



Raphael and Raphael LLP
Certified Public Accountants

Boston, Massachusetts
November 13, 2018

THE GROUNDTRUTH PROJECT INC.

Statement of Financial Position

As of December 31, 2017

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS:

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 825,310
Contributions Receivable Within One Year	777,873
Other Current Assets	7,943
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>1,611,126</u>

OTHER ASSETS:

Net Property and Equipment	60,634
Contributions Receivable in One to Five Years	150,000
TOTAL OTHER ASSETS	<u>210,634</u>

TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>\$ 1,821,760</u></u>
--------------	----------------------------

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

CURRENT LIABILITIES:

Accounts Payable	\$ 15,441
Other Current Liabilities	26,648
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>42,089</u>

NET ASSETS:

Unrestricted Net Assets	118,895
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	1,660,776
TOTAL NET ASSETS	<u>1,779,671</u>

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u><u>\$ 1,821,760</u></u>
----------------------------------	----------------------------

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

THE GROUNDTRUTH PROJECT INC.

Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets
For the Year Ended December 31, 2017

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Temporarily Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
REVENUES:			
Grants and Contributions	\$ 1,010,394	\$ 739,603	\$ 1,749,997
Donations	-	-	-
Other Revenue	200	-	200
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	981,074	(981,074)	-
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>1,991,668</u>	<u>(241,471)</u>	<u>1,750,197</u>
FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES:			
Program Expenses	1,527,672	-	1,527,672
Management and General	372,588	-	372,588
Fundraising	12,995	-	12,995
TOTAL FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES	<u>1,913,255</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,913,255</u>
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS	78,413	(241,471)	(163,058)
NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>40,482</u>	<u>1,902,247</u>	<u>1,942,729</u>
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 118,895</u>	<u>\$ 1,660,776</u>	<u>\$ 1,779,671</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

THE GROUNDTRUTH PROJECT INC.

Statement of Cash Flows
For the Year Ended December 31, 2017

Cash Flows from Operating Activities:	
Decrease in Net Assets	<u>\$ (163,058)</u>
Adjustments to Reconcile Decrease in Net Assets to Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities:	
Depreciation	38,098
(Increase) Decrease in:	
Contributions Receivable	395,099
Other Current Assets	26,499
Increase (Decrease) in:	
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	(25,970)
Other Current Liabilities	(21,688)
Total Adjustments	<u>412,038</u>
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	<u>248,980</u>
Cash Flows from Operating Activities:	
Capital Expenditures	<u>(5,521)</u>
Net Cash Used in Operating Activities	<u>(5,521)</u>
Net Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents	243,459
Cash and Cash Equivalents at Beginning of Year	<u>581,851</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of Year	<u>\$ 825,310</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

THE GROUNDTRUTH PROJECT INC.

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2017

Note 1 - ORGANIZATION AND PURPOSE:

The GroundTruth Project Inc. (the Organization) was incorporated on August 8, 2012 as a not-for-profit corporation under Chapter 180 of the General Law of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The Organization seeks to build the capacity for freedom of expression in developing countries around the world by helping to train a new generation of correspondents who can work together across different media platforms and cultural backgrounds. The Organization is primarily funded by grants from third parties, including other not-for-profit organizations.

Note 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES:

Basis of Presentation - The Organization reports information regarding its financial position and activities according to three classes of net assets; unrestricted net assets, temporarily restricted net assets and permanently restricted net assets.

Unrestricted net assets represent fully available funds which can be used at the discretion of management and the Board of Directors for any of the Organization's programs or supporting services. Temporarily restricted net assets are comprised of funds which are restricted by donors for specific purposes or periods. Permanently restricted net assets include contributions that donors have specified must be maintained in perpetuity. There were no permanently restricted net assets as of December 31, 2017.

Basis of Accounting - The Organization prepares its financial statements on the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("GAAP").

Cash and Cash Equivalents - For the purposes of the statement of cash flows, the Organization considers all highly liquid investments purchased with a maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents.

Property and Equipment - Property and equipment are stated at cost, and are depreciated using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets. All property and equipment expenditures over \$5,000 are capitalized. As of December 31, 2017, net property and equipment consisted of the following:

	<u>Estimated Useful Lives</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Website	3 years	\$ 101,499
Equipment	3 years	<u>16,191</u>
Total Property and Equipment		117,690
Less: Accumulated Depreciation		<u>57,056</u>
Net Property and Equipment		<u>\$ 60,634</u>

THE GROUNDTRUTH PROJECT INC.

Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2017

Note 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - Continued:

Contributions Receivable - Contributions receivable are stated at the amount management expects to collect from outstanding balances. The Organization establishes an allowance for uncollectible contributions receivable based upon its assessment of the status of individual receivables. As of December 31, 2017, the Organization considers all contributions receivable to be fully collectible. Accordingly, no allowance has been established. All of the Organization's contributions receivable are unconditional.

Revenue Recognition - Grants and contributions received are recorded as increases in unrestricted, temporarily restricted, or permanently restricted net assets, depending on the existence and/or nature of any donor restrictions. All grants and contributions are considered to be available for unrestricted use unless specifically restricted by the donor or grantor.

All donor-restricted grants and contributions are reported as increases in temporarily or permanently restricted net assets, depending on the nature of the restriction. When a restriction expires (that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or purpose restriction is accomplished), temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to unrestricted net assets and reported in the statement of activities as net assets released from restrictions. Restricted grants and contributions whose restrictions are met in same reporting period are recorded as unrestricted grants and contributions.

Use of Restricted Support - When both restricted and unrestricted sources of support are used in a particular program, restricted support is considered to be spent first.

Income Taxes - No provision is made for income taxes as the Organization is exempt from Federal and state income taxes under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3). The Organization's Forms 990 generally remain subject to examination for three years after filing.

Advertising - Advertising costs are expensed as incurred. Advertising costs for 2017 were \$1,226.

Use of Estimates - The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

Subsequent Events - Subsequent events are events or transactions that occur after the date of the statement of financial position but that could affect the amounts or disclosures in the financial statements. Management has evaluated subsequent events through the date that the financial statements are available to be issued, which is the date noted at the bottom of the accountant's report.

THE GROUNDTRUTH PROJECT INC.

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2017

Note 3 - COMMITMENTS:

The Organization leases office space in Brighton, MA. This lease will continue until either the Organization or the lessor gives 180 days' notice of cancellation. The use of the space was contributed to the Organization and, accordingly, the Organization has recognized both donation revenue and rent expense for the fair value of the contribution.

In October 2016, the Organization started leasing office space in Woods Hole, MA at a rate of \$400 per month. The lease expired on August 31, 2017. The Organization entered into a second operating lease for the same space at the same rate which expired on August 31, 2018.

Rent expense for the year ending December 31, 2017 was \$35,916.

Subsequent to year end, the Organization entered into multiple additional leases. In May 2018, the Organization started leasing a workspace in Washington, DC at a rate of \$800 per month. This lease will expire on December 31, 2018. In September 2018, the Organization started leasing a new office in Woods Hole, MA at a rate of \$900 per month. This lease will expire on August 31, 2019. Also in September 2018, the Organization started leasing office space in Brooklyn, NY at a rate of \$2,000 per month. This is a month-to-month lease requiring a full calendar month's notice to terminate tenancy.

The Organization's future minimum base rents, including the subsequent leases, are as follows:

2018	\$	13,200
2019		7,200

Note 4 - RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS:

During 2017, the Organization paid a relative of a Director \$11,849 for photography and editing work.

In 2015, a Director made the Organization a promise to give \$1,000,000 over three years; \$335,000 was received from this promise to give during 2017 with \$330,000 still outstanding.

In 2016, a foundation for which a Director serves as the CEO made the Organization a conditional promise to give \$300,000 over three years; \$100,000 was received from this promise to give during 2017 with \$150,000 still outstanding. As there is only a remote possibility the conditions for this grant will not be met, it has been recognized as if it were an unconditional promise to give.

In 2017, three Directors separately contributed \$100,000, \$30,000, and \$25,000 to the Organization.

THE GROUNDTRUTH PROJECT INC.

Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2017

Note 5 - CONCENTRATIONS:

During 2017, approximately 74% of the Organization's grants, contributions, and donations were received from eight donors. As of December 31, 2017, approximately 90% of the contributions receivable were related to four donors.

The Organization's bank account balances may at times exceed federally insured amounts.

Note 6 - EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLAN:

The Organization has a 403(b) plan for employees that meet certain service requirements. The Organization may make discretionary matching contributions to the plan; no such contributions were made for the year ended December 31, 2017.