

Short Form
Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax
 Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code
 (except black lung benefit trust or private foundation)

2008

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

▶ Sponsoring organizations of donor advised funds and controlling organizations as defined in section 512(b)(13) must file Form 990. All other org- anizations with gross receipts less than \$1,000,000 and total assets less than \$2,500,000 at the end of the year may use this form.

▶ The organization may have to use a copy of this return to satisfy state reporting requirements

Open to Public Inspection

A For the 2008 calendar year, or tax year beginning 7/01, 2008, and ending 6/30, 2009

<p>B Check if applicable:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Address change</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Name change</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Initial return</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Termination</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Amended return</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Application pending</p>	<p>C</p> <p>Please use IRS label or print or type. See Specific Instructions.</p> <p>SPARK VENTURES PO BOX 479329 CHICAGO, IL 60647</p>	<p>D Employer identification number</p> <p>51-0626562</p>	<p>E Telephone number</p> <p>312-458-9246</p>	<p>F Group Exemption Number</p> <p>▶</p>
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• Section 501(c)(3) organizations and 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trusts must attach a completed Schedule A (Form 990 or 990-EZ).

G Accounting method: Cash Accrual
Other (specify) ▶

I Website: ▶ SPARKVENTURES.ORG

H Check if the organization is not required to attach Schedule B (Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF).

J Organization type (check only one) — 501(c) (3) (insert no.) 4947(a)(1) or 527

K Check if the organization is not a section 509(a)(3) supporting organization and its gross receipts are normally not more than \$25,000. A return is not required, but if the organization chooses to file a return, be sure to file a complete return.

L Add lines 5b, 6b, and 7b, to line 9 to determine gross receipts; if \$1,000,000 or more, file Form 990 instead of Form 990-EZ. ▶ \$ 499,901.

Part I Revenue, Expenses, and Changes in Net Assets or Fund Balances (See the instructions for Part I.)

	1 Contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts received		1	450,396.
	2 Program service revenue including government fees and contracts		2	
	3 Membership dues and assessments		3	
	4 Investment income		4	1,185.
REVENUE	5a Gross amount from sale of assets other than inventory	5a		
	b Less: cost or other basis and sales expenses	5b		
	c Gain or (loss) from sale of assets other than inventory (Subtract line 5b from line 5a) (att sch)		5c	
	6 Special events and activities (complete applicable parts of Schedule G). If any amount is from gaming, check here <input type="checkbox"/>			
	a Gross revenue (not including \$ 54,066. of contributions reported on line 1)	6a	48,320.	
	b Less: direct expenses other than fundraising expenses	6b	35,824.	
	c Net income or (loss) from special events and activities (Subtract line 6b from line 6a)			12,496.
	7a Gross sales of inventory, less returns and allowances	7a		
	b Less: cost of goods sold	7b		
	c Gross profit or (loss) from sales of inventory (Subtract line 7b from line 7a)		7c	
	8 Other revenue (describe ▶)		8	
	9 Total revenue (add lines 1, 2, 3, 4, 5c, 6c, 7c, and 8)		9	464,077.
EXPENSES	10 Grants and similar amounts paid (attach schedule)		10	
	11 Benefits paid to or for members		11	
	12 Salaries, other compensation, and employee benefits		12	81,031.
	13 Professional fees and other payments to independent contractors		13	
	14 Occupancy, rent, utilities, and maintenance		14	4,265.
	15 Printing, publications, postage, and shipping		15	883.
	16 Other expenses (describe ▶ SEE STATEMENT 1)		16	310,615.
	17 Total expenses (add lines 10 through 16)		17	396,794.
ASSETS	18 Excess or (deficit) for the year (Subtract line 17 from line 9)		18	67,283.
	19 Net assets or fund balances at beginning of year (from line 27, column (A)) (must agree with end-of-year figure reported on prior year's return)		19	145,064.
	20 Other changes in net assets or fund balances (attach explanation) SEE STATEMENT 2		20	99,568.
	21 Net assets or fund balances at end of year. Combine lines 18 through 20		21	311,915.

Part II Balance Sheets. If Total assets on line 25, column (B) are \$2,500,000 or more, file Form 990 instead of Form 990-EZ. (See the instructions for Part II.)

			(A) Beginning of year		(B) End of year
	22 Cash, savings, and investments		145,064.	22	208,030.
	23 Land and buildings			23	
	24 Other assets (describe ▶ SEE STATEMENT 3)			24	104,317.
	25 Total assets		145,064.	25	312,347.
	26 Total liabilities (describe ▶ SEE STATEMENT 4)		0.	26	432.
	27 Net assets or fund balances (line 27 of column (B) must agree with line 21)		145,064.	27	311,915.

BAA For Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the instructions for Form 990.

Form 990-EZ (2008)

Part III Statement of Program Service Accomplishments (See the instructions.)

What is the organization's primary exempt purpose? **SEE STATEMENT 5**

Describe what was achieved in carrying out the organization's exempt purposes. In a clear and concise manner, describe the services provided, the number of persons benefited, or other relevant information for each program title.

Expenses
(Required for 501(c)(3) and (4) organizations and 4947(a)(1) trusts; optional for others.)

28	SEE STATEMENT 6			
	(Grants \$) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here	<input type="checkbox"/>	28 a	180,449.
29	SEE STATEMENT 7			
	(Grants \$) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here	<input type="checkbox"/>	29 a	10,982.
30	SEE STATEMENT 8			
	(Grants \$) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here	<input type="checkbox"/>	30 a	61,291.
31	Other program services (attach schedule) SEE STATEMENT 9			
	(Grants \$) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here	<input type="checkbox"/>	31 a	52,183.
32	Total program service expenses (add lines 28a through 31a)	<input type="checkbox"/>	32	304,905.

Part IV List of Officers, Directors, Trustees, and Key Employees. (List each one even if not compensated. See the instrs.)

(a) Name and address	(b) Title and average hours per week devoted to position	(c) Compensation (if not paid, enter -0-)	(d) Contributions to employee benefit plans and deferred compensation	(e) Expense account and other allowances
RICHARD JOHNSON 2617 W HOMER #1 CHICAGO, IL 60647	PRESIDENT & CEO 25.00	6,500.	0.	0.
SCOTT BARBEAU 2239 N SPAULDING AVE CHICAGO, IL 60647	TREASURER 7.00	6,500.	0.	0.
DANIEL MARCUS 1 W SUPERIOR ST APT 5115 CHICAGO, IL 60610	DIRECTOR 2.00	0.	0.	0.
PAUL JOHNSON 5300 N SPAULDING CHICAGO, IL 60625	DIRECTOR 2.00	0.	0.	0.
ROB HORN 2116 KENILWORTH AVE WILMETTE, IL 60091	DIRECTOR 2.00	0.	0.	0.
MARQUITA D HANUS 119 E 18TH ST CHICAGO, IL 60616	DIRECTOR 2.00	0.	0.	0.
TIFFANY STAMAN 10810 KEOKUK ROAD ROSCOE, IL 61073	DIRECTOR 2.00	0.	0.	0.
BRAIN WU 1352 N LASALLE ST CHICAGO, IL 60610	DIRECTOR 2.00	0.	0.	0.
DAVID GOLDSTEIN 35 EAST WACKER DRIVE STE 650 CHICAGO, IL 60601	DIRECTOR 2.00	0.	0.	0.
PRINCESS SCHOEFERNACKER 4851 WEST BYRON ST, APT 101E CHICAGO, IL 60641	DIRECTOR 2.00	0.	0.	0.
BRADY JOSEPHSON 2112 W AINSLIE UNIT 1S CHICAGO, IL 60625	DIR. DEVELOPMNT 40.00	42,000.	0.	0.

Part V Other Information (Note the statement requirement in General Instruction V.)

		Yes	No
33	Did the organization engage in any activity not previously reported to the IRS? If 'Yes,' attach a detailed description of each activity.		X
34	Were any changes made to the organizing or governing documents but not reported to the IRS? If 'Yes,' attach a conformed copy of the changes.		X
35	If the organization had income from business activities, such as those reported on lines 2, 6a, and 7a (among others), but not reported on Form 990-T, attach a statement explaining your reason for not reporting the income on Form 990-T.		
35 a	Did the organization have unrelated business gross income of \$1,000 or more or 6033(e) notice, reporting, and proxy tax requirements?		X
35 b	If 'Yes,' has it filed a tax return on Form 990-T for this year?		
36	Was there a liquidation, dissolution, termination, or substantial contraction during the year? If 'Yes,' complete applicable parts of Schedule N.		X
37 a	Enter amount of political expenditures, direct or indirect, as described in the instructions.	37 a	0.
37 b	Did the organization file Form 1120-POL for this year?		X
38 a	Did the organization borrow from, or make any loans to, any officer, director, trustee, or key employee or were any such loans made in a prior year and still unpaid at the start of the period covered by this return?		X
38 b	If 'Yes,' complete Schedule L, Part II and enter the total amount involved.	38 b	N/A
39	501(c)(7) organizations. Enter:		
39 a	Initiation fees and capital contributions included on line 9.	39 a	N/A
39 b	Gross receipts, included on line 9, for public use of club facilities.	39 b	N/A
40 a	501(c)(3) organizations. Enter amount of tax imposed on the organization during the year under: section 4911 ▶ 0.; section 4912 ▶ 0.; section 4955 ▶ 0.		
40 b	501(c)(3) and (4) organizations. Did the organization engage in any section 4958 excess benefit transaction during the year or did it become aware of an excess benefit transaction from a prior year? If 'Yes,' complete Schedule L, Part I.		X
40 c	Enter amount of tax imposed on organization managers or disqualified persons during the year under sections 4912, 4955, and 4958.		0.
40 d	Enter amount of tax on line 40c reimbursed by the organization.		0.
40 e	All organizations. At any time during the tax year, was the organization a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction? If 'Yes,' complete Form 8886-T.		X
41	List the states with which a copy of this return is filed ▶ IL		

42 a The books are in care of ▶ SCOTT BARBEAU Telephone no. ▶ 312-458-9246
 Located at ▶ 2239 N SPAULDING AVE CHICAGO IL ZIP + 4 ▶ 60647

		Yes	No
42 b	At any time during the calendar year, did the organization have an interest in or a signature or other authority over a financial account in a foreign country (such as a bank account, securities account, or other financial account)? If 'Yes,' enter the name of the foreign country: . . . ▶		X
42 c	At any time during the calendar year, did the organization maintain an office outside of the U.S.? If 'Yes,' enter the name of the foreign country: . . . ▶		X

43 Section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trusts filing Form 990-EZ in lieu of Form 1041 - Check here N/A and enter the amount of tax-exempt interest received or accrued during the tax year. ▶ 43 N/A

		Yes	No
44	Did the organization maintain any donor advised funds? If 'Yes,' Form 990 must be completed instead of Form 990-EZ.		X
45	Is any related organization a controlled entity of the organization within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)? If 'Yes,' Form 990 must be completed instead of Form 990-EZ.		X

Part VI Section 501(c)(3) organizations only. All section 501(c)(3) organizations must answer questions 46-49 and complete the tables for lines 50 and 51. SEE STATEMENT 10

	Yes	No
46 Did the organization engage in direct or indirect political campaign activities on behalf of or in opposition to candidates for public office? If 'Yes,' complete Schedule C, Part I		X
47 Did the organization engage in lobbying activities? If 'Yes,' complete Schedule C, Part II		X
48 Is the organization operating a school as described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)? If 'Yes,' complete Schedule E		X
49a Did the organization make any transfers to an exempt non-charitable related organization?		X
b If 'Yes,' was the related organization(s) a section 527 organization?		

50 Complete this table for the five highest compensated employees (other than officers, directors, trustees and key employees) who each received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization. If there is none, enter 'None.'

(a) Name and address of each employee paid more than \$100,000	(b) Title and average hours per week devoted to position	(c) Compensation	(d) Contributions to employee benefit plans and deferred compensation	(e) Expense account and other allowances
NONE				
Total number of other employees paid over \$100,000				

51 Complete this table for the five highest compensated independent contractors who each received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization. If there is none, enter 'None.'

(a) Name and address of each independent contractor paid more than \$100,000	(b) Type of service	(c) Compensation
NONE		
Total number of other independent contractors receiving over \$100,000		

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than officer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.

Sign Here

Signature of officer _____ Date _____

Type or print name and title _____

Paid Preparer's Use Only

Preparer's signature	ALAN SHAPIRO	Date	2/11/10	Check if self-employed	<input type="checkbox"/>	Preparer's Identifying Number (See instructions)	335-44-9113
Firm's name (or yours if self-employed), address, and ZIP + 4	SHAPIRO, OLEFSKY & CO., CPA'S		EIN		36-3016183		
	425 HUEHL STE 12A		Phone no.		(847) 564-4111		
	NORTHBROOK, IL 60062						

May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown above? See instructions Yes No

SCHEDULE A
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Public Charity Status and Public Support

To be completed by all section 501 (c)(3) organizations and section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trusts.

▶ Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ. ▶ See separate instructions.

OMB No. 1545-0047

2008

Open to Public Inspection

Name of the organization

SPARK VENTURES

Employer identification number

51-0626562

Part I Reason for Public Charity Status (All organizations must complete this part.) (see instructions)

The organization is not a private foundation because it is: (Please check only **one** organization.)

- 1 A church, convention of churches or association of churches described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(i)**.
- 2 A school described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)**. (Attach Schedule E.)
- 3 A hospital or cooperative hospital service organization described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iii)**. (Attach Schedule H.)
- 4 A medical research organization operated in conjunction with a hospital described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iii)**. Enter the hospital's name, city, and state: _____
- 5 An organization operated for the benefit of a college or university owned or operated by a governmental unit described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iv)**. (Complete Part II.)
- 6 A federal, state, or local government or governmental unit described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(v)**.
- 7 An organization that normally receives a substantial part of its support from a governmental unit or from the general public described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)**. (Complete Part II.)
- 8 A community trust described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)**. (Complete Part II.)
- 9 An organization that normally receives: (1) more than 33-1/3 % of its support from contributions, membership fees, and gross receipts from activities related to its exempt functions – subject to certain exceptions, and (2) no more than 33-1/3 % of its support from gross investment income and unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 tax) from businesses acquired by the organization after June 30, 1975. See **section 509(a)(2)**. (Complete Part III.)
- 10 An organization organized and operated exclusively to test for public safety. See **section 509(a)(4)**. (see instructions)
- 11 An organization organized and operated exclusively for the benefit of, to perform the functions of, or carry out the purposes of one or more publicly supported organizations described in section 509(a)(1) or section 509(a)(2). See **section 509(a)(3)**. Check the box that describes the type of supporting organization and complete lines 11e through 11h.

- a Type I b Type II c Type III – Functionally integrated d Type III – Other

e By checking this box, I certify that the organization is not controlled directly or indirectly by one or more disqualified persons other than foundation managers and other than one or more publicly supported organizations described in section 509(a)(1) or section 509(a)(2).

f If the organization received a written determination from the IRS that is a Type I, Type II or Type III supporting organization, check this box

g Since August 17, 2006, has the organization accepted any gift or contribution from any of the following persons?

	Yes	No
(i) a person who directly or indirectly controls, either alone or together with persons described in (ii) and (iii) below, the governing body of the supported organization?		
(ii) a family member of a person described in (i) above?		
(iii) a 35% controlled entity of a person described in (i) or (ii) above?		

h Provide the following information about the organizations the organization supports.

(i) Name of Supported Organization	(ii) EIN	(iii) Type of organization (described on lines 1-9 above or IRC section (see instructions))	(iv) Is the organization in col. (i) listed in your governing document?		(v) Did you notify the organization in col. (i) of your support?		(vi) Is the organization in col. (i) organized in the U.S.?		(vii) Amount of Support
			Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
Total									

BAA For Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 990.

Schedule A (Form 990 or 990-EZ) 2008

