Project: Friendly Honda House Drives Sales via Personalized

Cross-Media Marketing

Vertical Market: Retail

Business Application: Direct Marketing/Traffic Generation

Friendly Honda House, a Honda dealership in New York, wanted to boost traffic for a sales weekend in May 2006. The dealership used a multi-touch personalized mailing campaign with a personalized URL as a response channel to promote the event. Total unit sales almost doubled over previous sales events.

Program Objectives

- Inform current customers of sale
- Direct potential return customers to the personalized URL to find out more about the sale; route warm leads to the sales department
- Generate sales during the weekend event
- Pre-schedule test drives for sales weekend

Significant Results Reported by User

- 1.68% of postcard recipients visited their personalized URL
- 1.12% of recipients completed the online survey
- 84 cars were sold during the sale weekend; at least seven were tracked directly to direct mail/personalized URL respondents
- Total unit sales were nearly double the previous sales record for this event (40 more cars).

Description

Friendly Honda House promotes a Spring Sale weekend every year in May. Their marketing strategy to promote the 2006 sale included point-of-purchase signs, four-color ads, and radio spots. Furthermore, since the dealership knows that much of its business comes from repeat customers, their current customer base received either a personalized e-mail or a personalized full-color postcard inviting them to the event. Those customers in the database who had provided an e-mail address received ony the e-mail version of the invitation. Other customers received the postcard.

The postcards were personalized with the recipient's first name, a personalized URL, and mailing information. The e-mail also featured the personalized URL, which was designed to look like the postcard and asked questions pertaining to their preference for new or used cars, models they like, and offered a scheduled test drive during the weekend. Randomly selected respondents were offered the chance to win an iPod as an incentive to complete the survey.





At the personalized URL, if a respondent expressed interest in used cars, the final page showed a photo of the used car team. The manager of the used car department received an automatically triggered e-mail so they could make a follow-up phone call. If the respondent indicated interest in a new car, they saw a photo of the new car sales team, and that manager received the triggered e-mail. In both cases, if the respondent answered yes to the question about scheduling a test drive, a notation was included as part of the e-mail to the sales manager to indicate that this should be treated as a hot lead.

The dealership considered the promotional efforts a success. Nearly two percent (1.68%) of the postcard recipients visited their personalized URLs and 1.12% of recipients completed the online survey. The dealership sold 84 cars during the sale weekend; seven were sold to people who were verified to have clicked through using the personalized URL. Total unit sales were nearly double previous sales records for the weekend the year before (40 more cars).