




Title	 <i>Fundly Connect</i>
Publisher	NonProfitEasy/Fundly Inc. <i>Contact Information</i> Address: PO Box 1654, Rohnert Park, CA 94927 Email: missy.singh@fundly.com Phone: 707-929-3563 ext 2 (general support) Website: https://connect.fundly.com/
Platform	Cloud-based, internet-based
Minimum System Requirements	Current web browser, internet connection
Target Languages	English
Target Audience	University-based service learning administrations; Non-profit organizations
Price	Free for students and non-profit organizations; Variable rates for universities based on service needs
Reviewers	<i>Kelly H. Koutnik & John I. Liontas</i> University of South Florida

Fundly Connect is a cloud-based software which provides universities with a platform for maintaining and creating connections with non-profit organizations, simplifying the service-learning process for their students, and establishing a service-learning record-keeping system fit for the digital age. It initially began with the efforts of Merith Weisman, Director of Community Engagement and Strategic Initiatives at Sonoma State University. Merith wanted to automate and organize the process of establishing and monitoring service-learning opportunities at the university level, which for so many years consisted of logbooks and paper trails. The goal was to create a platform wherein digital connections could be made for service-learning opportunities and collaborations between universities and non-profit organizations. Over the course of a few years and through collaborations with University of California San Francisco (UCSF), San Francisco State University (SFSU), and University of San Francisco, a platform was created which would later serve the needs of universities in the immediate region. In 2015, beta testing was conducted for an updated version of the platform, now called *Fundly Connect*, with SFSU. Following this successful phase and integrating continued feedback and contributions from several universities in the area, the first rollout of the current program in select universities came in Fall 2017. The software is currently going live nationally and is available to serve the needs of university service-learning programs and non-profit organizations countrywide.

Presently, most universities require service-learning activities for their students and these can be difficult to track and organize at the rate and variety of which they are carried out. Often, students will be taking several courses and have different requirements for each course. Universities are required to report service-learning activities in a specific manner and are tasked

with maintaining records of these activities, which can be a complicated and monumental chore. Alternatively, non-profit organizations often have difficulty finding individuals who are willing and able to help, individuals who regularly serve as a lifeline to such organizations. *Fundly Connect* provides a solution to each of these concerns, in that the software eases the burden for university administrators, students, and non-profit organizations alike.

Toward this end, the software features a highly customizable and cohesive interface, allowing each university to adapt the software to fit their needs. For example, universities now have the ability to create their own custom page and URL for ease of access and cohesiveness with current programs and activities already established. In addition, university administrators have the option to set parameters for students regarding the logistics of hours required for individual courses, areas of interest offered, current community partnerships, and more. Faculty can obtain individual login credentials and manage class activity as they see fit. They also now have the option to transfer monitoring of their assigned students' activity to the university-appointed service-learning administrator

The screenshot displays the SF State ULink website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the San Francisco State University logo and three login options: Student Login, Faculty/Staff Login, and Organization Login. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with a 'WELCOME!' button and links for FIND AN OPPORTUNITY, OUR PARTNERS, ABOUT US, HELP, and CALENDAR. The main content area features a 'REGISTER AS' section with a 'DIRECTORY' tab and sub-tabs for Student, Faculty/Staff, Organization, and Team. A central banner includes a map of the San Francisco Bay Area, a photo of students in a garden, and the SF State ULink logo with the tagline 'Create Connections, Explore the Possibilities'. Below the banner, a purple bar displays statistics: Active Opportunities : 67, Number of Students : 148, and Hours Volunteered : 622. The page also includes a 'Search Opportunities' form with fields for Keyword and Enter your address, and buttons for SEARCH and ADVANCED SEARCH. A 'Featured Opportunities' section shows 'No Record(s) Found'. At the bottom, there is a 'Ulink' logo and a welcome message: 'Welcome to SF State's official community engagement portal!'. A section titled 'Community/Industry Partners: Why Partner with us?' includes a bullet point: 'Whether you are a non-profit organization, government or public institution, large corporate organization or a small business, and whether you require a short term solution or have a long term project in mind, you can draw on the'.

Conversely, students can create individual profiles housing all their service-learning activities. Each profile acts as a résumé of their experience, while also organizing the requirements for each course and concurrently offering search features to find activities of interest.

The left screenshot displays the San Francisco State University homepage. At the top, there are navigation links for 'Student Login', 'Faculty/Staff Login', and 'Organization Login'. Below this is a 'WELCOME!' banner with links for 'FIND AN OPPORTUNITY', 'OUR PARTNERS', 'ABOUT US', 'HELP', and 'CALZADIA'. A 'REGISTER AS' dropdown menu is set to 'Faculty/Staff'. A 'Calendar' section is visible, showing a grid for August 2018 with various events listed, such as 'Summer Internship' and 'Education Intern'. A search bar with 'SHOW ADVANCED SEARCH' is also present.

The right screenshot shows a dashboard with a 'Summary' and 'Current Courses' section. It features six key metrics in colored boxes: 148 ACTIVE STUDENTS (blue), 0 ACTIVE TEAMS (red), 172 ACTIVE ORGANIZATIONS (red), 0 ACTIVE OPPORTUNITIES (orange), 67 ACTIVE PARTNER OPPORTUNITIES (purple), and 22 ACTIVE FACULTY (green). Below these are two columns of bar charts: '67 Organizations Awaiting Approval' and '4 Opportunities Awaiting Approval' on the left, and 'Total Service Learning Students', 'Number of Faculty/Staff Involved in Community Service', and 'Online Students' on the right.

The *Fundly Connect* platform also benefits non-profit organizations. Specifically, non-profit organizations can gain regional visibility by creating an available opportunity through the software and, with a few simple clicks, sharing that information with multiple universities in their area. Organizations are also able to set tailored parameters concerning prerequisites or background screenings required, whether the opportunity is paid or unpaid, and creating searchable tags by topic or area of interest as needed.

The left screenshot shows the 'Browse Reports' interface with the 'University Summary' report selected. The report displays a table of metrics for 'University Summary' and 'Service Learning Report'. The 'University Summary' table includes categories like 'Campus Compact Membership Status', 'Students involved in community service/engagement activities', and 'Faculty/Staff Involved in Community Service'. The 'Service Learning Report' table includes 'Service Learning Courses Offered', 'Students Approved for Service Learning Courses', and 'Total Hours of Service Learning'. The right screenshot shows the 'Service Learning Report' with a table of statistics: Number of SL Course (196), Total Number of Active Learning sites (187), Total Number of Learning sites in the database (336), Total number of SL students/places (24), Total number of student enrolled in SL course (112), Total SL Hours (720/75), and Total Open Division SL Courses (162).

It bears repeating that all of the features *Fundly Connect* offers are customizable to meet the needs of universities, large or small, and allow administrators to effectively manage and document their service-learning program activities. As previously mentioned, the software is cloud-based and is available to users with updated browsers and a robust internet connection. Moreover, *Fundly Connect* is also mobile responsive and can be used on tablets and other smart devices. Accessing the portal is simple, only requiring users to create a username and password and then obtain approval from their university administrator. While approval requirements can vary based on university needs, they are set in place to ensure both safety and compliance with regulations. Should concerns arise, an extensive FAQ section is available to users as well as collaborations with appointed university administrators who can walk students and organizations through the process of portal use and navigation. For ease of access, quarterly updates to the software are maintained based on user feedback and feature requests. The cost of university administrative licenses for this software varies, as it is based on organization-specific needs and

characteristics, including size and number of community partners. The software is offered free of charge to students and non-profit organizations.

In sum, *Fundly Connect* provides a reasonable entry point to universities looking for an automated and efficient system of tracking, managing, and documenting service-learning activities. Its intuitive interface offers the opportunity for customization to meet diverse customer needs, whether those of a student, a non-profit organization, or a university administrator. This software, now available to universities across the nation, is by all accounts an innovative and useful tool certain to strengthen service-learning opportunities. Most assuredly, service-learning opportunities are vital to the students and the organizations they serve. *Fundly Connect* bridges this gap with a digital footprint too important to ignore.

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