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“. . . Do it with joy!” - Subjective well-being outcomes of working in non-profit organizations

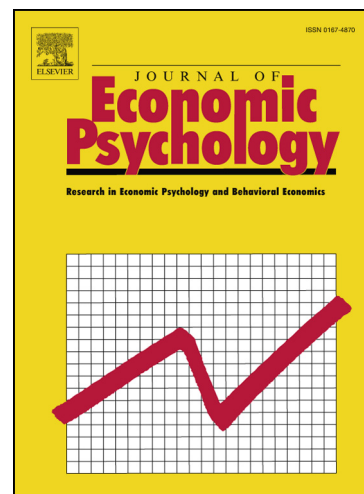
Martin Binder

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“... Do it with joy!” - Subjective well-being outcomes of working in
non-profit organizations

Martin Binder^{a,b}

^a*Bard College Berlin, Platanenstr. 24, 13156 Berlin, Germany*

^b*Levy Economics Institute of Bard College, Blithewood, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York
12504-5000, USA*

Abstract

Working in non-profit organizations has been shown to be good for individuals' satisfaction with their jobs despite lower incomes. This paper explores the impact of non-profit work on life satisfaction more general for the British Household Panel Survey (BHPS) and finds a significant positive impact the size about more than a fourth of that of getting widowed. This effect is quite uniform across the subjective well-being distribution, and thus exists also for those who are already happy. Shadow prices peg this effect at around 22.000 GBP p.a., nearly the average amount of equivalent net household income in the sample analyzed (which is roughly 27.000 GBP p.a.). The positive effect can be explained by third sector workers enjoying their day-to-day activities more, being more happy (affectively) and feeling that they are playing a useful role in their lives.

Key words: subjective well-being, non-profit organization, life satisfaction, BHPS, job satisfaction

JEL-classification: I31, PsycInfo classification: 3650

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