*Corresponding Author's Email: yujia.zhu@sofia.edu
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Decentralized Altruism: How Solo-Founder AI-Driven Nonprofit Mode (SFADNM) With Anarchist Principles is Reshaping Nonprofits in the Digital Age

Yujia Zhu
Sofia University, Costa Mesa, USA

Abstract

The traditional nonprofit sector is often constrained by financial dependencies, bureaucratic inefficiencies, and hierarchical governance structures that limit innovation and social impact. This study introduces the Solo Founder AI-Driven Nonprofit Model (SFADNM), an emerging paradigm that leverages artificial intelligence (AI) to decentralize nonprofit governance, eliminate financial dependencies, and scale social impact without monetary transactions or hierarchical oversight. Grounded in anarchist principles of self-governance, mutual aid, and autonomy, SFADNM challenges the Nonprofit Industrial Complex (NPIC) by demonstrating that a single founder, supported by AI automation, can sustain a nonprofit organization without external funding, paid labor, or institutional support. Employing a qualitative research methodology, this study combines a comprehensive literature review with a theoretical and case study analysis. Using FASSLING, an AI-driven human services product line from Canadian federally registered nonprofit For A Safer Space (FASS), as a case study, this research explores how AI enables decentralized decision-making, enhances operational efficiency, and ensures continuous service delivery without human intervention. The paper also examines the ethical considerations, sustainability challenges, and governance mechanisms required to maintain AI-driven nonprofit operations. Ultimately, SFADNM presents a disruptive alternative to conventional nonprofit models, illustrating how AI-powered, decentralized altruism can redefine the future of philanthropy, social entrepreneurship, and nonprofit sustainability in the digital age.

Keywords: Solo Founder AI-Driven Nonprofit Model (SFADNM), decentralized altruism, anarchist nonprofit models, artificial intelligence in nonprofits, nonprofit industrial complex (NPIC)

1. Introduction

The traditional nonprofit model is often characterized by significant funding dependencies, bureaucratic constraints, and operational inefficiencies, as extensively documented in the literature. Many nonprofits rely heavily on government funding, which, while essential for sustainability, often leads to increased bureaucratization and administrative burdens.

Compliance with government regulations and reporting requirements can divert resources away from mission-driven activities, creating a cycle of inefficiency (Georgelas, 2014; Lu & Zhao, 2019). In low-income countries, these challenges are further exacerbated by weak governance structures and limited organizational expertise, as seen in nonprofit health centers struggling with performance and resource management (Fangwa et al., 2023).

Another fundamental challenge in the nonprofit sector is measuring success. Unlike businesses that can rely on profitability as a performance indicator, nonprofits often struggle with evaluating their effectiveness. This lack of clear metrics can obscure incompetence and self-serving practices, making it difficult to identify and correct inefficiencies (Schizer, 2020). Additionally, nonprofits—like public sector organizations—face bureaucratic malaises such as personnel constraints and red tape, though the severity of these issues depends on organizational context and task clarity (Jung et al., 2012). The complexity of funding, particularly the reliance on government grants, introduces unintended consequences, forcing nonprofits to navigate intricate public sector grant systems (Georgelas, 2014).

In response to these challenges, some nonprofits are transitioning into social enterprises to diversify revenue streams and reduce reliance on traditional funding sources. This shift increases financial stability and operational flexibility but requires a fundamental transformation in organizational culture and strategy (Ko & Liu, 2021). Meanwhile, decentralized governance models, particularly those inspired by blockchain technology and decentralized autonomous organizations (DAOs), are emerging as an alternative to hierarchical nonprofit structures. DAOs use smart contracts and distributed decision-making to enhance transparency, accountability, and operational efficiency (Davidson, 2024; Erkasap, 2024). While DAOs hold promise in various fields—including corporate governance and even sports clubs (Germing et al., 2024)—they face challenges such as declining participation, centralization risks, and governance vulnerabilities (Ballandies et al., 2024; Tamai & Kasahara, 2024). Hybrid DAOs, which integrate traditional legal structures with decentralized governance, present a promising direction for addressing these challenges by offering increased scalability and compliance (Shah, 2024). Despite the hurdles mentioned above, the rapid growth of DAOs, including managing significant funds and engaging millions of governance token holders, signals their transformative potential (Sharma et al., 2024).

Amid these shifts in nonprofit governance and structure, the Solo Founder AI-Driven Nonprofit Model (SFADNM), first introduced by me in December 2024 in her paper "Radical Innovation in Leveraging AI Through Founder Mode: Scaling Social Impact in Solo- Founder AI-Driven Nonprofits Mode (SFADNM)" (Zhu, 2025b), represents a groundbreaking departure from conventional nonprofit operations. This model leverages artificial intelligence (AI) to eliminate financial dependency, minimize operational overhead, and enhance scalability. Unlike traditional nonprofits that require extensive staffing, fundraising, and hierarchical governance, SFADNM demonstrates that a single founder, supported by AI, can create and sustain a nonprofit delivering global social impact without financial backing or a large workforce. By rethinking nonprofit operations, this model challenges the systemic limitations imposed by the Nonprofit Industrial Complex (NPIC) and introduces a mission-centered, sustainable alternative in the digital era (Zhu, 2025a).

Traditional nonprofits often struggle with structural and financial constraints that hinder innovation and long-term impact. The reliance on donor-based funding frequently leads to mission drift, where organizations adjust their priorities to align with funders' interests rather than the needs of their beneficiaries. Moreover, high operational costs—including staff salaries, office maintenance, and administrative overhead—create a persistent dependency cycle that is difficult to break. Hierarchical governance structures further slow decision-making processes,

making it harder for nonprofits to respond to emerging social issues. Additionally, high burnout and turnover rates among employees and volunteers contribute to ongoing instability.

SFADNM directly addresses these inefficiencies by replacing human labor with AI-driven automation and eliminating the need for external financial support. Unlike conventional nonprofits that scale operations by increasing staff and funding, SFADNM leverages AI as its operational backbone, enabling a single founder to manage the organization autonomously. AI systems handle administrative tasks such as scheduling, data processing, and user engagement, ensuring that services remain available 24/7 while significantly reducing costs. The model's zero-funding structure demonstrates that impactful social services can be delivered without monetary transactions, fundraising, or donor reliance.

A key example of SFADNM in practice is For A Safer Space (FASS) and its AI-powered platform, the world's first comprehensive, one-stop human care service AI platform, FASSLING.AI. Unlike conventional mental health or crisis support services that depend on trained staff and cyclical funding, FASSLING provides holistic human services entirely through AI, operating around the clock without human intervention. By bypassing financial and geographic barriers, it ensures immediate, accessible, and cost-free support on a global scale. This model is uniquely sustainable, requiring no donor contributions, government grants, or institutional backing; its operations are sustained solely by AI and cloud-based services. The success of FASSLING demonstrates the viability of AI-driven nonprofit models, opening the door for similar implementations in mental health, crisis response, education, and social justice sectors (Zhu, 2024).

The implications of SFADNM for the future of nonprofit work are profound. By redefining sustainability and efficiency, it offers a *scalable, low-cost alternative* to traditional nonprofit structures. This model ensures *mission integrity* by removing financial and governance constraints that often force nonprofits to compromise their original goals. Additionally, SFADNM democratizes social entrepreneurship by providing an *accessible framework* for founders—particularly those from underrepresented backgrounds—who may lack access to traditional funding or nonprofit networks. As AI technology continues to evolve, SFADNM challenges *longstanding assumptions* about how nonprofits must operate, paving the way for decentralized, AI-powered social impact initiatives that maximize efficiency while minimizing resource dependency (Zhu, 2025b).

Ultimately, the emergence of Founder Mode as an AI-driven nonprofit strategy represents a paradigm shift in the nonprofit sector. By removing barriers related to funding, staffing, and bureaucracy, SFADNM empowers solo founders to focus entirely on mission execution. This model proves that nonprofits can operate effectively and ethically without financial transactions or hierarchical oversight. As AI technology advances, SFADNM stands as a compelling alternative for those seeking to drive large-scale social change without compromising autonomy, scalability, or sustainability.

This study seeks to examine the transformative potential of the SFADNM as an alternative to the traditional nonprofit structure by addressing three core research questions. First, it investigates how a solo-founder AI-driven nonprofit challenges conventional nonprofit models that rely heavily on fundraising, paid staff, and hierarchical governance. SFADNM fundamentally reconfigures these structures by replacing human labor with AI automation, decentralizing decision-making, and eliminating financial dependencies, thereby offering a new paradigm for mission-driven work. Second, the study explores the role of anarchist principles—self-governance, mutual aid, and autonomy—in shaping this model. In contrast to traditional nonprofits, where boards and funders often dictate strategic direction, SFADNM operates through decentralized governance that supports self-governance and autonomy,

enabling mission fidelity without external interference. This research examines how such principles foster sustainability and resilience in nonprofit operations. Third, the study delves into how AI facilitates scalability, sustainability, and impact without the need for financial transactions. While traditional nonprofits face limitations in service expansion due to resource constraints, SFADNM leverages AI to automate service delivery, allowing for limitless scalability, personalized support, and continued impact without the burden of monetary exchange. Through this exploration, the paper aims to position SFADNM as a radical yet viable reimagining of nonprofit practice.

This study has significant implications for social entrepreneurs, activists, and technologists seeking to challenge the status quo of nonprofit operations. By bridging altruism, technology, and decentralized governance, SFADNM offers a groundbreaking framework for launching and sustaining mission-driven organizations without financial constraints. This research contributes to discussions on nonprofit innovation, ethical AI, and decentralized governance models, inspiring future research and real-world implementation of AI-driven altruistic organizations.

2. Methodology

This study employed a qualitative research methodology grounded in a literature review and theoretical analysis to examine the Solo Founder AI-Driven Nonprofit Model (SFADNM). Given the nascent nature of this framework, a systematic review of existing literature on nonprofit governance, artificial intelligence (AI) applications in the social sector, and anarchist organizational principles informs the conceptual foundation of SFADNM. This methodological approach integrates case study analysis, comparative research, and critical discourse analysis to establish a robust understanding of how AI-driven automation can revolutionize nonprofit sustainability, governance, and social impact.

To contextualize the theoretical discussion, this study also employed a case study methodology by analyzing FASSLING, an AI-powered human services product line developed by For A Safer Space (FASS). This case exemplifies how the SFADNM operates in practice, demonstrating the feasibility of AI-driven service delivery without human intervention. The analysis centers on key operational aspects, including the integration of AI automation in humanitarian intervention and support, the elimination of financial dependency through AI-driven sustainability, and the implementation of ethical governance mechanisms that ensure fair and equitable service distribution.

A literature review serves as both the methodological foundation and analytical framework of this study, offering a multidimensional synthesis across nonprofit studies, AI ethics, decentralized governance, and anarchist social movements to provide a comprehensive examination of SFADNM's theoretical underpinnings. It begins with a critique of traditional nonprofit structures, evaluating the limitations of conventional organizations—such as their dependency on donor funding, bureaucratic inefficiencies, and hierarchical governance models (Georgelas, 2014; Lu & Zhao, 2019). The review then explores decentralized governance models, including decentralized autonomous organizations (DAOs) and anarchist nonprofit frameworks, which emphasize autonomy, mutual aid, and non-hierarchical decision-making (Davidson, 2024; Erkasap, 2024; Tamai & Kasahara, 2024). Building on this, it investigates the role of AI in nonprofit operations, particularly in automating service delivery, decision-making, and organizational governance, supported by studies highlighting AI's capacity to reduce operational costs and increase accessibility (Efthymiou et al., 2023; Sreerangapuri, 2024). Finally, the review critically engages with the ethical considerations of AI-driven nonprofits, assessing key concerns such as algorithmic bias, transparency, and accountability

(Pasipamire & Muroyiwa, 2024; Westover, 2024), thus positioning SFADNM within a larger dialogue on equitable and sustainable innovation in the nonprofit sector.

The study relied on secondary data sources, including peer-reviewed academic literature, reports from nonprofit organizations, and publicly available case study documentation. A thematic analysis was conducted to identify recurring patterns, challenges, and opportunities within SFADNM, drawing comparisons with traditional nonprofit models.

Given the exploratory nature of this study, its findings are interpretative rather than empirical. While the literature review provides a strong theoretical basis, future research should incorporate empirical data through interviews, surveys, and longitudinal studies on AI-driven nonprofit operations. Additionally, potential biases in the selection of literature are acknowledged, and efforts were made to include diverse perspectives from both academic and practitioner sources.

By employing a literature review as a methodological framework, this study systematically examines SFADNM as an emerging nonprofit model. Through interdisciplinary analysis and case study research, it highlights how AI-driven automation and decentralized governance can redefine nonprofit sustainability, governance, and impact in the digital age. This methodological approach not only provides a conceptual foundation for future research but also contributes to the ongoing discourse on the intersection of AI, nonprofit innovation, and social entrepreneurship.

3. Theoretical Foundations

The critique of the Nonprofit Industrial Complex (NPIC) underscores how traditional nonprofits, rather than dismantling systemic power structures, often reinforce them due to corporate influence, financial dependency, and bureaucratic inefficiencies. Entangled with state and market forces, nonprofits can inadvertently exacerbate social issues such as policing and incarceration, disproportionately affecting marginalized communities (Durazo, 2024). In Vancouver, for instance, the NPIC enables the government and wealthy entities to evade responsibility for social inequities by shifting the burden onto nonprofits, which, in turn, become more focused on revenue generation and less accountable to the communities they serve (Kelsall et al., 2023).

This dynamic is further complicated by corporate social responsibility (CSR), where corporations, under the guise of philanthropy, shape nonprofit agendas to align with their business interests. A stark example is the chocolate industry's influence on child labor in Côte d'Ivoire, where corporate-backed initiatives have largely failed to address exploitative labor conditions (Cole, 2014). Additionally, in non-democratic contexts, nonprofits can serve to legitimize authoritarian regimes rather than challenge them, thereby maintaining the status quo (Skokova & Krasnopolskaya, 2024).

Nonprofit inefficiency is often attributed to inadequate motivation and poor information flow. Unlike for-profit entities, which rely on clear financial metrics, nonprofits struggle with less tangible success measures, leading to stagnation and ineffective service delivery (Schizer, 2020). Furthermore, the increasing trend toward professionalization and corporate governance—while intended to enhance impact—often shifts nonprofit priorities toward market-oriented strategies that may not align with their social missions (Díaz-Perdomo, 2024). This shift risks diluting the moral authority and civic purpose nonprofits are meant to uphold (Robichau & Fernandez, 2024). Consequently, while nonprofits have the potential to drive social change, their operational frameworks often tether them to existing power structures and limit their transformative capacity.

Anarchist principles in nonprofit work emphasize mutual aid over hierarchical charity models, advocating for decentralized decision-making and non-hierarchical governance to reduce gatekeeping and power asymmetries in service delivery. Unlike traditional charity, mutual aid fosters egalitarian relationships and empowers communities. This was demonstrated by the Occupy Sandy movement, which provided effective disaster relief through solidarity rather than top-down aid, challenging both state and nonprofit hierarchies (Hansson, 2023; Pason, 2024).

This approach aligns with anarchist critiques of hierarchical systems, which are seen as perpetuating oppression and inequality. Social work and other nonprofit sectors could benefit from adopting anti-authoritarian perspectives to subvert and ultimately dismantle these structures (Sawatsky, 2024a). Decentralized decision-making—a core tenet of anarchist governance—ensures equitable participation and reduces power concentration, which is often a source of systemic inequity and inefficiency (Cheok, 2024).

Mutual aid networks during the COVID-19 pandemic illustrated the potential of non-hierarchical structures to effectively address community needs. However, these networks also faced challenges in fully realizing their principles due to structural inequities and the pressures of prolonged crises (Pearlman et al., 2023). Ethical considerations in anarchist nonprofit work focus on minimizing gatekeeping and power imbalances by prioritizing solidarity over hierarchical control. This approach is not only more ethical but also more practical, aligning with humanity's natural inclination toward cooperation and community support—values often overshadowed by competitive and hierarchical ideologies in Western societies (Martin & Laurin, 2023; Sawatsky, 2024b).

By embracing these anarchist principles, nonprofits can build more just and resilient systems that prioritize community empowerment and equitable resource distribution. This reorientation challenges the status quo of hierarchical charity models and offers a transformative vision for social change (Dillard-Wright & Jenkins, 2024; Prichard, 2022).

Artificial intelligence (AI) is revolutionizing nonprofit work by enabling decentralized decision-making, enhancing operational efficiency, and scaling services. AI-driven automation allows nonprofits to optimize resource allocation, streamline processes, and improve service delivery. For instance, machine learning and natural language processing have reduced operational costs by 30% and increased customer satisfaction in sectors such as retail and healthcare (Sreerangapuri, 2024). In the nonprofit sector, AI supports data analysis, fundraising, program assessment, and donor engagement, significantly boosting impact and efficiency (Vinnik et al., 2024).

AI also enhances program design, resource management, and predictive analytics, improving decision-making accuracy (Efthymiou et al., 2023). Additionally, AI-driven business analytics provide real-time insights, allowing nonprofits to make data-informed strategic decisions that lead to increased productivity and cost efficiency (Chowdhury, 2024). Many organizations are now leveraging generative AI for content creation and branding, which enhances their operational effectiveness without requiring additional resources (Vinnik et al., 2024).

However, AI implementation in nonprofits presents challenges, including data privacy concerns and the need for specialized skills. These require thoughtful preparation and leadership guided by ethical considerations (Iskandarova & Sloan, 2023). Despite these challenges, AI's potential to transform nonprofit operations is immense, offering solutions for optimizing resource allocation, personalizing donor engagement, and scaling services to better fulfill their missions (Efthymiou et al., 2023). As AI technologies continue to evolve, they

promise to further decentralize and enhance nonprofit work, amplifying social impact (Gooyabadi et al., 2023).

The integration of AI into nonprofit organizations presents both opportunities and ethical challenges, particularly concerning algorithmic bias, transparency, and trust. AI can revolutionize nonprofit efficiency, fundraising, and stakeholder engagement, yet it also risks perpetuating systemic biases if not developed and implemented responsibly (Vinnik et al., 2024).

Algorithmic bias, often stemming from training AI on biased datasets, can reinforce social disparities and undermine fairness (Gwelo, 2024; Pasipamire & Muroyiwa, 2024). This bias is not merely a technical issue but also a social one that affects the autonomy and decision-making capabilities of marginalized groups, such as smallholder farmers in agricultural supply chains (Gwelo, 2024). Additionally, concerns over transparency, accountability, and data privacy further compromise trust in AI systems (Eghaghe et al., 2024; Westover, 2024).

To navigate these challenges, nonprofits must adopt transparent and accountable AI practices, engage stakeholders, and ensure that AI development aligns with ethical and regulatory standards (Westover, 2024). Ethical governance frameworks are essential for ensuring compliance with these standards and addressing concerns related to misinformation, privacy, and digital equity (Eghaghe et al., 2024; Vasa, 2024).

Decentralized AI applications, such as blockchain-based governance and DAOs, hold promise for empowering marginalized communities by promoting digital justice and participatory governance (Calzada, 2024). To foster trust and mitigate bias, nonprofits must prioritize inclusivity and cultural sensitivity in AI development, actively involving local communities in decision-making processes (Pasipamire & Muroyiwa, 2024). By doing so, AI can serve as a powerful tool for social innovation and sustainable development, ensuring its benefits are equitably distributed across diverse populations (Calzada, 2024).

4. The Founder Mode Approach: Solo-Founder AI-Driven Nonprofit Mode

FASSLING, World's 1st Comprehensive, One-Stop Human Care Service AI Platform, is the AI-driven product line of For A Safer Space (FASS), represents the first fully AI-powered nonprofit model capable of delivering human services without human intervention. Unlike traditional nonprofits that depend on paid staff, volunteers, and donor funding, FASSLING operates autonomously through AI automation, enabling 24/7 service delivery with zero operational costs. Its core mission is to provide unrestricted, stigma-free, and accessible humanitarian support to individuals worldwide, regardless of financial status, location, or background.

By leveraging advanced AI technologies, FASSLING replaces conventional nonprofit service mechanisms, ensuring instantaneous, personalized interactions without requiring human oversight. Using large language models and AI-driven decision-making systems, it offers users empathetic, nonjudgmental, and practical support—serving as an alternative to costly, inaccessible, or bureaucratically constrained human services.

FASSLING's most groundbreaking feature is its complete financial independence, setting it apart from conventional nonprofits that often struggle with fundraising, donor conditions, and long-term financial sustainability. Unlike traditional models, FASSLING requires no funding to operate, thanks to its innovative design. By fully replacing human service providers with AI, it eliminates the need for salaries, administrative staff, and managerial oversight, thereby

removing a significant portion of operational costs. Additionally, FASSLING incurs no infrastructure expenses such as physical office space, equipment, or IT maintenance, as it is hosted entirely on existing AI platforms like OpenAI. Its self-sustaining architecture ensures that as long as AI services remain active, FASSLING can continue offering support indefinitely, making it arguably the most sustainable nonprofit model to date.

By removing financial dependencies, FASSLING ensures total autonomy free from donor priorities, external stakeholders, or institutional pressures. This allows for direct, unconditional service delivery without bureaucratic delays or funding restrictions.

FASSLING's AI-driven model directly challenges the entrenched structures of the NPIC by eliminating the need for fundraising, hierarchical governance, and restrictive grant conditions. Traditional nonprofits often impose eligibility criteria, funding availability, or institutional gatekeeping, creating inequities in service distribution. FASSLING dismantles these barriers by offering instant, unrestricted support to anyone, anywhere.

Without reliance on institutional funding, FASSLING bypasses the power dynamics that dictate who receives help and under what conditions. This model is particularly revolutionary in crisis intervention, emotional and mental health support, and social services, where individuals typically face waiting lists, bureaucratic delays, or financial barriers.

Moreover, FASSLING confronts resistance from traditional nonprofit models, which often view decentralized, AI-driven approaches as disruptions to existing power structures. By demonstrating that a single founder, empowered by AI, can deliver large-scale, high-impact services without external resources, FASSLING exemplifies nonprofit innovation in the digital era.

One of the most revolutionary aspects of the Solo Founder AI-Driven Nonprofit Mode (SFADNM) is its ability to scale impact without financial transactions. Traditional nonprofits rely on continuous fundraising, donor engagement, and grants to sustain operations, but SFADNM eliminates financial dependency entirely. A key enabler of this model is the ChatGPT platform, which allows a single founder to develop AI-powered applications at no cost and maintain them indefinitely, as long as the platform itself exists. This innovative approach ensures that nonprofit services can be deployed, scaled, and sustained without requiring paid staff, financial investments, or external funding sources.

Traditional nonprofits are labor-intensive, requiring staff for service delivery, administrative tasks, and community management. These roles introduce high operational costs, necessitating continuous fundraising. SFADNM fully automates nonprofit operations through AI-driven solutions, removing the need for human labor while maintaining service quality. AI-powered chatbots and virtual assistants handle thousands of simultaneous user interactions, providing personalized support without human intervention. Administrative tasks such as data management, scheduling, reporting, and client support are managed entirely by AI, eliminating traditional staffing needs. AI-driven nonprofits operate without working hours, salaries, or staff rotation, ensuring continuous availability at no additional cost. This allows a single founder to manage a large-scale nonprofit independently while maintaining high service quality and user satisfaction.

Furthermore, traditional nonprofits often function under hierarchical control, where decisions are made by boards, executives, and funders rather than the communities they serve. SFADNM disrupts this model by leveraging AI to facilitate decentralized, community-driven engagement. AI ensures services are open to all users without applications, financial assessments, or bureaucratic approvals. Instead of relying on human administrators, AI moderates discussions and enables users to share knowledge and support each other

autonomously. By removing centralized control, SFADNM fosters a more equitable and inclusive approach to service delivery.

While SFADNM presents a compelling alternative to traditional nonprofit funding models, it also raises ethical concerns about sustainability, autonomy, and AI governance. Since SFADNM depends on third-party AI infrastructure, its longevity is tied to external platforms. If these platforms alter pricing, discontinue services, or impose restrictions, SFADNM could face operational challenges. Long-term sustainability may require the development of alternative AI solutions that ensure greater independence.

Additionally, ensuring fairness, inclusivity, and bias mitigation in AI-driven services is crucial. Without human oversight, risks such as algorithmic bias or misinformation could emerge, particularly in sensitive areas like crisis intervention. Ethical AI governance frameworks must be implemented to ensure AI systems uphold nonprofit values, prioritize user well-being, and prevent harm. Nonprofits adopting the SFADNM model must carefully consider where AI can fully replace human intervention and where human oversight remains necessary.

By removing financial, bureaucratic, and hierarchical constraints, SFADNM fundamentally disrupts the NPIC—a system that perpetuates dependency, institutional control, and financial gatekeeping in nonprofit work. Unlike traditional models that require securing funding before service delivery, SFADNM eliminates financial gatekeeping by demonstrating that meaningful social impact can occur without monetary capital. It replaces exploitative labor practices—where volunteers are overburdened or staff are underpaid under the guise of mission-driven work—by fully automating administrative, operational, and service functions through AI, thereby eradicating the need for human labor. SFADNM also bypasses institutional bureaucracy by operating without legal contracts, government oversight, or philanthropic restrictions, enabling entirely unrestricted service delivery. Furthermore, it challenges entrenched nonprofit hierarchies that mimic corporate structures—where executives are highly compensated while frontline staff shoulder the work—by showing that a single founder, empowered by AI, can drive scalable impact without institutional overhead or traditional governance models.

The book *Boundless Compassion in the Digital Age: The Intersection of Solo-Founder AI-Driven Nonprofit Mode (SFADNM) and Buddhist Dāna* mentions,

This is where SFADNM fundamentally differs from these traditional models. It is not built for the accumulation of personal influence, financial gain, or hierarchical dominance. Instead, it operates without financial incentives, external validation, or institutionalized power structures. The founder does not answer to boards, donors, or shareholders, but neither do they profit from the model. In this way, rather than accumulating power, the solo founder dissolves it, stepping into a role of pure service where AI handles operations, and the founder's sole responsibility is ensuring mission integrity. In SFADNM, the solo founder does not function as a conventional executive or decision-maker but as a steward of the nonprofit's mission. Their primary role is to ensure the AI-driven nonprofit operates in alignment with ethical and altruistic principles rather than pursuing personal ambition, financial survival, or external recognition. Unlike conventional nonprofits, where leadership often revolves around securing funding, building influence, and managing reputational risks, SFADNM eliminates these factors entirely. With no financial transactions, no institutional stakeholders, and no personal financial incentives, the founder's role is stripped of ego-driven motivations. Moreover, AI replaces many traditional executive functions, removing human bias, inefficiencies, and hierarchical bottlenecks that often emerge in leader-centric organizations. (Zhu, 2025a, p. 45)

This excerpt relates to anarchist principles in nonprofit management by embodying core anarchist values such as anti-hierarchy, decentralization of power, voluntary association, and mutual aid. Rather than reinforcing traditional structures of control—boards, donors, executives—the SFADNM model dissolves them entirely. It removes financial incentives and institutional authority, replacing them with mission-focused stewardship and AI-based operations. This shift eliminates hierarchies and ego-driven leadership, aligning closely with anarchist ideals of noncoercive collaboration and collective responsibility without centralized authority. The founder's role becomes one of humble service, not power—a radically non-hierarchical, de-commodified approach to nonprofit management.

The SFADNM model challenges the hierarchical, bureaucratic, and financially constrained structures that dominate the nonprofit sector by embracing principles of decentralization, mutual aid, and autonomy, effectively dismantling the NPIC and demonstrating that large-scale, mission-driven social impact can thrive without financial dependencies or institutional constraints. As AI technology continues to evolve, SFADNM offers a transformative blueprint for the future of the nonprofit sector—one where AI-driven automation replaces exploitative labor practices, self-governance supplants hierarchical control, and non-monetary sustainability redefines the very foundation of operational viability.

This model represents the future of liberated, mission-focused, and radically accessible social service organizations. It offers a practical framework for activists, social entrepreneurs, and mission-driven individuals seeking to reject traditional nonprofit limitations and build a new paradigm of decentralized, AI-powered altruism. Through SFADNM, AI-driven automation proves that social impact can be achieved without wealth, power, or institutional approval—ushering in a new era of digital-era philanthropy.

5. Challenges and Ethical Considerations

AI-driven nonprofits face significant challenges in maintaining human empathy and connection, particularly in humanitarian work. While AI integration offers increased efficiency and anticipatory approaches, it also raises ethical concerns, including privacy risks and algorithmic bias, which can undermine the autonomy and justice of affected populations (Beduschi, 2022; Kreutzer et al., 2024).

The potential for AI to replicate compassionate care is explored through advanced technologies such as humanoid robots, which simulate empathy through multisensory interactions and neuromorphic computing. However, skepticism remains about their ability to form genuine emotional connections with humans (Aulbach, 2024; Hernandez, 2024). In healthcare, the concept of "compassionate AI" suggests that AI can enhance patient outcomes and caregiver resilience by embedding empathy into its design. Yet, this requires careful attention to cultural and ethical contexts to prevent depersonalization (Graves & Compson, 2024; Morrow et al., 2023).

Moreover, the emergence of technologies like virtual reality as "empathy machines" illustrates both the potential and the ethical dilemmas of using immersive experiences to foster compassion in humanitarian efforts (Ponzanesi, 2024). Despite these advancements, a fundamental gap remains in understanding how AI can authentically convey empathy—an essential factor in maintaining meaningful human-AI interactions, especially in mental health support systems (Roshanaei et al., 2024). Addressing these challenges requires a multidisciplinary approach to ensure AI solutions sustain human values and rights, complementing rather than replacing human compassion in nonprofit work (Felländer et al., 2022). While AI has the potential to support humanitarian efforts, its deployment must be

responsible, adhering to comprehensive guidelines and training to mitigate risks while enhancing its capacity for empathy and connection (Beduschi, 2022; Kreutzer et al., 2024).

The SFADNM challenges traditional nonprofit governance by eliminating hierarchical oversight and financial dependencies. Conventional nonprofits rely on boards, executives, and funders to guide decision-making, ethics, and accountability. In contrast, AI-driven nonprofits function without these structures, raising a critical question: Who makes ethical decisions in a decentralized system?

Traditional organizations often depend on governing bodies, ethics committees, and legal frameworks to guide ethical decision-making, but these structures can introduce bureaucratic inefficiencies, conflicts of interest, and donor-driven constraints that may not align with the nonprofit's core mission. In contrast, SFADNM embeds ethical decision-making directly into its AI system, eliminating the need for human administrators to dictate values from the top down. Operating on predefined ethical frameworks, principles of algorithmic fairness, and continuous machine learning adaptation, this AI-driven model integrates humanitarian ethics, bias detection mechanisms, and regulatory compliance to function as an autonomous ethical mediator capable of making real-time decisions based on both programmed guidelines and evolving user interactions. Further enhancing this model is a community-driven ethical feedback loop, where users can actively report concerns, suggest improvements, and shape ethical standards in real time, fostering an adaptive and responsive ethical governance structure that reflects the collective voice of its stakeholders rather than a centralized authority. Through mission-driven algorithmic adaptation, AI governance systems continuously refine their ethical frameworks by analyzing user engagement, sentiment trends, and real-world outcomes; this ensures that ethical decisions remain aligned with the organization's purpose rather than financial or institutional pressures. In this decentralized model, ethical decisions emerge from a distributed intelligence framework, where AI serves as an ethical arbiter informed by collective user experiences and pre-established moral principles.

A key challenge for AI-driven nonprofits is ensuring accountability in the absence of traditional oversight mechanisms such as board reviews, donor audits, or regulatory enforcement. Without centralized human decision-makers, these organizations must adopt innovative approaches to maintain transparency, reliability, and ethical integrity. One such approach is open-source governance, where the AI's decision-making processes, including its ethical frameworks, biases, and logic, are made publicly accessible. This allows for continuous public review and refinement, reducing hidden biases and ethical blind spots while promoting a self-correcting and verifiable system. Complementing this, user-governed AI feedback loops empower the community to flag concerns, vote on proposed changes, and directly participate in refining the AI's operations. Together, these mechanisms shift accountability from static, top-down oversight to a dynamic, participatory model rooted in collective intelligence and ethical responsiveness.

To further operationalize the SFADNM model, self-governance through participatory feedback loops offers a powerful alternative to traditional hierarchical decision-making structures. In this approach, authority is not centralized in a board, executive, or even a founder figure. Instead, governance becomes a shared, dynamic process where all members of the community—users, volunteers, and contributors—have a voice in shaping the organization's evolution. This can be achieved through rotating stewardship roles, which may be assigned at random or through community agreement, ensuring that no single individual or group holds prolonged influence. For example, weekly open forums can be hosted—digitally or asynchronously—where users and volunteers express feedback on service quality, unmet needs, or new opportunities. AI systems then aggregate and summarize this feedback into accessible formats and propose

possible actions, which are presented for group discussion and consensus. By integrating AI as a supportive tool rather than a controlling entity, the organization maintains its commitment to non-coercion and collective responsibility. This mechanism not only prevents power hoarding but also nurtures a sense of shared ownership and empowerment among all participants.

Complementing this self-governing structure is a skill-based reputation system designed to replace conventional résumés or performance metrics with non-monetary, trust-based forms of recognition. Within this framework, each contribution—whether it involves facilitating support sessions, translating content, or maintaining system functionality—is recorded on a decentralized ledger. This ensures transparency and provides a living archive of community engagement. Rather than evaluating contributions based on volume, speed, or traditional hierarchies of expertise, the system rewards authenticity, helpfulness, and ethical alignment with the mission. Community members can vote or assign "trust points" to one another, acknowledging contributions that reflect care, reliability, and thoughtfulness. These reputation points function not as currency but as access keys—unlocking opportunities to take on stewardship roles, participate in strategic co-design processes, or gain access to more advanced tools and responsibilities within the network. In doing so, this system decentralizes recognition and promotes a culture of intrinsic motivation and mutual respect, aligning perfectly with the model's anti-hierarchical and de-commodified ethos.

The SFADNM fundamentally disrupts traditional nonprofit structures, particularly those reliant on hierarchical governance, financial transactions, and donor-driven decision-making. While SFADNM offers an efficient, scalable, and financially independent alternative, it also challenges the nonprofit industrial complex, leading to resistance from established organizations, regulatory bodies, and philanthropic institutions. This resistance arises from both ideological concerns and economic interests, as decentralized AI-driven models undermine traditional power structures.

Despite resistance from traditional nonprofit institutions, SFADNM can build credibility through strategic transparency, ethical collaboration, and demonstrable impact that redefines how social good can be achieved. Showcasing real-world results—such as the case study of FASSLING—offers concrete, data-driven evidence that AI-driven nonprofits can enhance accessibility, eliminate financial barriers, and sustain high-quality services without hierarchical structures or monetary dependencies, effectively challenging the belief that automation diminishes human-centered care. By prioritizing ethical AI governance, SFADNM can further earn trust through transparent decision-making, built-in feedback loops, and community-driven improvements, including open-source frameworks, user-led ethics committees, and algorithmic accountability. Central to reducing resistance is reframing AI not as a threat to human roles but as a powerful tool for empowerment that amplifies nonprofit impact. This will allow people to focus on relational, strategic, and creative contributions rather than being replaced. Finally, engaging in cross-sector collaboration with academia, ethics researchers, and progressive nonprofit leaders can position SFADNM not as a disruptor but as a transformative partner within the broader social impact ecosystem.

While traditional nonprofits may initially resist AI-driven models, SFADNM can overcome skepticism through ethical transparency, measurable impact, and strategic engagement. By demonstrating that AI-driven automation enhances accessibility, removes financial barriers, and improves service efficiency, SFADNM both redefines nonprofit governance and provides a scalable alternative that prioritizes direct service delivery over financial dependency and hierarchical oversight.

6. The Future of Decentralized Altruism

The emergence of the SFADNM marks a radical departure from institutionalized philanthropy, replacing traditional nonprofit models with a post-institutional nonprofit ecosystem. In this evolving landscape, AI-driven automation, mutual aid networks, and decentralized digital altruism eliminate the need for hierarchical governance, financial dependencies, and bureaucratic inefficiencies. Instead of relying on boards, funders, and administrative infrastructure, AI-powered nonprofits function as stateless, autonomous entities, driven by decentralized systems that facilitate direct community engagement, peer-to-peer support, and non-monetary sustainability. This transformation challenges longstanding assumptions about nonprofit operations, demonstrating that mission-driven social impact can be achieved without wealth, centralized authority, or institutional power structures.

Traditional philanthropy operates within wealth redistribution models where donors, foundations, and governments control the allocation of funds for charitable causes. This structure reinforces power imbalances, as those controlling financial resources determine which causes receive support, who qualifies for aid, and under what conditions assistance is provided. The result is an institutionalized nonprofit system prioritizing financial sustainability and donor relations over direct, immediate impact. Many nonprofits become trapped in cycles of fundraising, grant applications, and compliance requirements, often shifting focus away from their original mission.

AI-driven nonprofits challenge this framework by introducing stateless philanthropy, where AI-powered mutual aid networks facilitate direct support without financial transactions or institutional oversight. In this model, AI replaces financial capital as the primary operational resource, allowing nonprofits to function independently of fundraising, donations, or government grants. Digital mutual aid platforms empower users to access services autonomously, removing bureaucratic gatekeeping that delays or restricts support in traditional nonprofits. AI algorithms optimize need-based distribution, ensuring that services and resources are allocated efficiently, in real time, and without institutional biases.

By eliminating financial dependencies and human administrative overhead, this stateless philanthropy model transforms nonprofits from funding-driven organizations into self-sustaining AI-powered ecosystems. In doing so, SFADNM redefines nonprofit sustainability, proving that direct service delivery can be achieved without institutional funding or financial transactions. This approach fosters a truly equitable, accessible, and mission-focused nonprofit model, where impact is determined by community need rather than financial availability.

One of SFADNM's most revolutionary aspects is its ability to bypass nonprofit hierarchies entirely, replacing top-down service delivery models with peer-to-peer digital altruism. In conventional nonprofit structures, decision-making, resource allocation, and service distribution are controlled by centralized leadership, creating inefficiencies and often leading to mission drift as organizations cater to funders instead of the communities they serve. Bureaucratic processes, hierarchical decision-making, and funding restrictions slow service implementation and frequently limit access based on eligibility criteria, donor preferences, or institutional priorities.

AI-driven nonprofits dismantle these constraints by leveraging peer-to-peer digital altruism, where individuals can access services directly without intermediaries, applications, or institutional approvals. Unlike traditional nonprofits, where beneficiaries are often passive recipients of aid, AI-driven models empower users to actively engage with AI-powered peer support networks, contribute feedback, and co-create solutions. This ensures that service

delivery remains dynamic, responsive, and community-driven rather than dictated by an elite governing body.

AI also facilitates the creation of self-sustaining, cooperative digital communities, where altruism is driven by shared mission goals rather than financial incentives or bureaucratic oversight. By automating service delivery, facilitating decentralized engagement, and removing financial dependencies, SFADNM shifts power away from centralized institutions and toward communities themselves, ensuring that support structures are built on collaboration, accessibility, and direct impact rather than hierarchical control.

The post-institutional nonprofit ecosystem represents a fundamental reimagining of social impact, shifting away from top-down, funding-dependent nonprofit structures toward AI-enhanced mutual aid networks and decentralized peer-to-peer digital altruism. In this model, AI serves as both the infrastructure and facilitator of global altruism, removing the need for institutional control, financial transactions, and bureaucratic limitations.

By replacing funding-driven models with AI-powered service delivery, SFADNM eliminates financial barriers, decentralizes governance, and redefines nonprofit sustainability. It proves that mission-driven impact can be achieved without reliance on wealth, centralized authority, or hierarchical oversight, ensuring that services are delivered based on need rather than financial availability.

As AI technology continues to evolve, the shift toward post-institutional nonprofit ecosystems will redefine the future of humanitarian work, making social good more accessible, equitable, and radically decentralized. This model challenges longstanding philanthropic structures, proving that technology can empower individuals and communities to create large-scale change without dependence on institutional power. SFADNM offers a blueprint for the future of nonprofit innovation, where AI-driven automation, decentralized engagement, and stateless philanthropy reshape the way we think about altruism and impact in the digital age.

7. Conclusion and Call to Action

The emergence of the Solo Founder AI-Driven Nonprofit Mode (SFADNM) represents a groundbreaking shift in nonprofit operations, challenging traditional models reliant on hierarchical governance, financial transactions, and institutional control. This study underscores the viability of AI-driven, solo-founder nonprofit structures, demonstrating that mission-driven social impact can be achieved without financial dependencies, administrative burdens, or human-led governance. By leveraging AI automation and decentralized service delivery, SFADNM enables scalable, sustainable, and barrier-free nonprofit work, circumventing the inefficiencies of conventional charity models.

One of SFADNM's most transformative aspects is its alignment with anarchist principles, which emphasize autonomy, self-governance, and direct impact. Unlike traditional nonprofits, which operate within institutionalized frameworks requiring donor approval, grant compliance, and regulatory oversight, SFADNM ensures that services remain fully accessible, community-driven, and resistant to external influence. AI functions as the enabler of decentralized governance, allowing individuals to receive support directly, free from bureaucratic gatekeeping or financial constraints. This model represents a fundamental departure from top-down philanthropy, proving that altruism can thrive without wealth accumulation, centralized leadership, or institutional authority.

Moreover, this study highlights AI's potential to decentralize altruism, demonstrating that automated decision-making, real-time resource distribution, and AI-driven user engagement can replace conventional nonprofit structures. AI's ability to operate without bias, allocate

resources based on need, and eliminate financial dependencies introduces a new paradigm of stateless philanthropy, where mutual aid and humanitarian support are no longer tethered to economic models or political agendas. By employing AI to facilitate peer-to-peer altruism, community-driven learning, and self-sustaining crisis response systems, SFADNM provides a blueprint for a post-institutional nonprofit ecosystem—where technology, rather than financial capital, drives mission-oriented social impact.

Ultimately, the findings of this study suggest that SFADNM is more than an alternative to traditional nonprofit models; it is a transformative force redefining how humanitarian aid, education, crisis response, and social movements operate in the digital age. By eliminating systemic constraints related to money, bureaucracy, and institutional control, AI-driven nonprofits offer a scalable, equitable, and truly decentralized approach to global altruism. This paradigm shift paves the way for a future where social good is driven by automation, accessibility, and radical inclusion rather than financial privilege or organizational gatekeeping.

The rise of SFADNM presents a paradigm shift in nonprofit operations, yet it also raises critical questions about the future of decentralized, AI-driven altruism. While SFADNM has proven that a single founder can create and sustain a nonprofit without financial transactions, staff, or institutional oversight, the long-term goal of true decentralization remains unresolved. Future research must explore how AI-driven nonprofits can transition beyond founder-led models, ensuring sustained autonomy, adaptability, and ethical governance in the absence of human intervention.

One key area for investigation is how AI-driven nonprofits can be fully decentralized without a central founder. In the current SFADNM framework, the founder plays a critical role in designing, training, and overseeing AI-driven operations, even if they do not engage in traditional leadership functions. However, for true decentralization to occur, AI-driven nonprofits must be able to self-regulate, self-improve, and evolve independently. This raises several research questions:

- What mechanisms can replace the founder's role in ensuring mission alignment and ethical AI governance?
- Can decentralized AI-driven nonprofits implement collective intelligence models, where user participation and AI learning algorithms co-govern the system?

Addressing these questions will help determine whether AI-driven altruism can scale beyond single-founder initiatives, transitioning into a truly leaderless, self-sustaining ecosystem of decentralized nonprofit services.

Another critical area for future research is the long-term sustainability of non-monetary altruistic models. While SFADNM demonstrates that mission-driven social services can deliver unlimited free humanitarian services based on ChatGPT platform without funding, staff, or traditional infrastructure, questions remain about how these models will evolve. Unlike traditional nonprofits, which measure sustainability based on financial health, SFADNM relies entirely on AI automation and open-access platforms. This presents new challenges that require further exploration:

- What are the risks of relying on third-party AI platforms for nonprofit service delivery? For example, if OpenAI, were to impose usage fees or modify its service terms, would SFADNM's accessibility be compromised?
- Can AI-driven nonprofits develop self-sustaining mechanisms that ensure continuity even if external AI infrastructure changes?

- How can AI-driven mutual aid networks maintain ethical, unbiased service delivery at scale?
- What happens when AI-driven nonprofits outlive their founder's involvement? Should succession planning for AI-driven social impact be explored?

These questions highlight the need for longitudinal studies on the viability of AI-driven altruistic models, ensuring they remain operational, ethical, and accessible over extended periods. Future research could explore hybrid models that integrate decentralized AI systems with open-source development communities, allowing nonprofits to be collectively maintained rather than dependent on a single founder or provider.

Although SFADNM has demonstrated the feasibility of AI-driven nonprofits, the next step is ensuring these models can become fully decentralized and self-sustaining without founder intervention. The long-term success of AI-powered altruism depends on developing governance models that uphold ethical, mission-aligned, and bias-free decision-making without human oversight. Additionally, researchers must explore the sustainability of non-monetary models, ensuring that AI-driven nonprofits can adapt to technological shifts and remain resilient against external disruptions. Addressing these questions will be crucial in advancing AI-driven nonprofit work from an experimental model into a fully realized, leaderless, and decentralized global movement.

The emergence of SFADNM marks only the beginning of a broader movement toward decentralized, AI-powered altruism. This model challenges long-standing assumptions about nonprofit sustainability, governance, and financial dependency, proving that mission-driven social impact can exist outside traditional institutional structures. However, the full potential of AI-driven altruism will be realized only through collaborative experimentation, research, and development. This is an open invitation for researchers, technologists, social entrepreneurs, and ethical AI advocates to join in exploring how AI can be harnessed for large-scale, decentralized humanitarian efforts.

To advance this vision, further experimentation is needed in AI-driven service delivery, ethical governance frameworks, and decentralized organizational models. Key areas for collaboration include:

- Developing AI models capable of independently operating, adapting, and sustaining nonprofit services without centralized oversight. This requires expertise in machine learning, ethics in AI, and decentralized governance structures.
- Creating open-source AI solutions for social good, enabling humanitarian services to scale globally without institutional funding. The goal is to ensure that AI-driven nonprofits remain accessible, transparent, and resistant to corporate or governmental control.
- Exploring hybrid governance models that enable decentralized, AI-powered nonprofits to be sustained collectively by global communities rather than by a single founder or organization.

Beyond technical and ethical innovation, collaboration is also needed to build a global ecosystem of stateless, AI-driven social good initiatives. The future of humanitarian work lies in removing economic and institutional barriers, ensuring that services such as crisis response, mental health support, education, and mutual aid are universally available, without financial constraints or bureaucratic limitations.

By working together, we can create decentralized, leaderless networks of AI-driven support systems, ensuring that compassion, equity, and direct action are no longer bound by financial

privilege or institutional gatekeeping. This is not just a call to advance technology—it is an opportunity to redefine the very foundation of social impact, replacing outdated power structures with systems that prioritize accessibility, autonomy, and direct community engagement.

For those who share this vision—whether as AI researchers, nonprofit innovators, ethicists, or community organizers—the invitation is open to collaborate, experiment, and build together. The future of altruism is decentralized, and it starts now.

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