

Keynotes for Nonprofits December 2009



Workshops & Conferences

Developing Nonprofit Leadership Capacity:

Tips for strengthening governance and strategic leadership in your organization

January 21st, 2010

9:00 AM – 3:30 PM

Initiative Foundation, Little Falls

Gain a framework for engaging volunteer leaders at a higher capacity level. Learn how to develop and use tools to guide decision-making. This energetic and popular workshop is geared to staff and board leadership, and participating as 2+ member teams is strongly recommended. This workshop will cover two main topics:

1. **Enhancing Governance Leadership:** Gain a framework for engaging volunteer and staff leaders at a higher capacity level. Topics include:
 - roles and responsibilities of nonprofit board members;
 - the roles of the Board Chair & committees; and
 - tips for maximizing meetings.
2. **Strengthening Strategic Leadership.** Learn how to develop and use tools to guide decision-making. Topics include:
 - mission, vision and core values – creating a unified long-term focus;
 - how to use the strategic planning process; and
 - aligning people's daily efforts around what matters.

Pre-registration is required, to allow for sufficient materials, space, and food; please don't wait too long as space is limited! Compassion Capital Fund awardees may attend this workshop at no cost. All other attendees must pay \$13, which will cover the cost of materials, lunch and a snack.

For more information [download the workshop flyer](#) or [fillable registration form](#). If you have any questions please contact Tricia Holig at tholig@ifound.org, 320-631-2003.

Board Governance Series

January through November, 2010

Bremer Bank, St. Cloud & Larson Allen, Waite Park

Bremer, in partnership with the Center for Nonprofit Excellence and Social Innovation (CNESI), is facilitating a series of Board Governance Training sessions beginning on January 14th. All sessions will include practical information, tools and good practices as well as information on new, innovative approaches to board work. Each session is offered two times during the day - over lunch from 11:30 - 12:30 or in the early evening from 5:00 - 6:00. We strongly encourage attending as staff & board *teams* to enhance learning.

Pre-registration is required for each session. These are offered at a low price of \$10.00 per person, per session (bring your own lunch/dinner) or \$20.00 if you'd like lunch/dinner included. With registration of at least four sessions, your organization will be eligible for up to three hours of complimentary consulting services from CNESI.

Note: space is limited so please register at your earliest convenience!

For more information [download the brochure and registration form](#) or call 320-255-7137.

Taking the Mystery Out of Grant Writing!

March 11th, 2010

8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

The Boy Scouts of America, 1911 Scout Drive, Sartell, Minnesota

The St. Cloud State University Center for Continuing Studies, along with the Central Minnesota Community Foundation, invites you to attend a one day workshop that will take the mystery out of grant proposal writing, increase your skills and improve your results. Grant writing is about aligning your organization's mission and project, with the mission and focus areas of a prospective funding agency. This workshop will guide you through the process and provide you with the information and tools that you need to understand the essentials of grant writing.

Who Should Attend?

Do you have limited experience in funder research and grant proposal writing? Do you need a refresher course in the basics of grant writing? If so, this workshop is for you! Executive directors, board and staff members working in nonprofit or government organizations will also benefit from this information packed workshop!

Cost: \$89 per person, includes refreshments, lunch and workshop materials. A \$10 early registration discount will apply for all registrations received by February 26, 2010. All registrations are due by March 4, 2010.

For more information [download the flyer/registration form](#) or contact Gail Ruhland at: Gmruhland@stcloudstate.edu, 320-308-3081.

Funding Opportunities:

Strengthening Communities Fund:

Building Nonprofit Capacity to Advance Economic Recovery

Information sessions now scheduled for January & February!

Beginning in 2010, the Initiative Foundation will assist 80-100 nonprofits, collaborations and community groups as they enhance their ability to offer services to their communities. In addition to the grant awards that will be available, extensive training and technical assistance will enhance central Minnesota's nonprofit sector.

The Healthy Organizations Partnership's Strengthening Communities Fund is available primarily to organizations that address broad community economic needs and help move people and communities towards economic recovery in some way. Three different levels of assistance will be offered, to best

meet the individual needs of smaller nonprofits and grassroots organizations. Strong priority will be given to organizations with operating budgets under \$500,000, as well as those that work in some way with helping people access federal, state and local benefits.

While we are still awaiting final approval from the federal government of our Request for Proposal, [a draft version is available](#) to give you an idea of what is included (and excluded) with this opportunity.

Informational sessions are scheduled for:

January 21, 2010: Initiative Foundation, Little Falls from 6-8:30 PM

January 22, 2010: Initiative Foundation, Little Falls from 9-11:30 AM

January 22, 2010: Bremer Bank, downtown Brainerd from 1-3:30 PM

February 3, 2010: St. Cloud Library from 8:30-11 AM

February 3, 2010: Lakes and Pines Community Action Council, Mora from 8-10:30 AM

Registration is not required. For more information visit www.ifound.org/ or contact Tricia at tholig@ifound.org, 320-631-2003.

Please watch for more details about this program in the next version of this newsletter and/or [on our website](#) as it becomes available.

Social Change Fund Grant ***Headwaters Foundation for Justice***

The [Social Change Fund](#) is Headwaters' broadest fund, awarding grants to more than 25 organizations annually. The fund supports organizations that operate with a long-term vision for social justice, are committed to leadership of community members affected by the injustice, and use organizing to build power and effect social change.

Last year, Headwaters received 75 proposals and funded approximately 40. This year they have \$280,000 in funds available. Headwaters is holding three information sessions, including one in Moorhead on January 15, for organizations interested in applying for a grant from the Social Change Fund. *The grant deadline for the Social Change Fund is February 1, 2010.*

For more information about the information sessions or applying to the Fund, [click here](#) or contact Monica Bryand at 612-879-0602 x 10 or via [email](#).

Things to Know/Resources

MAVA Reveals Survey Results ***Status of Minnesota's Volunteer Programs in a Shifting Environment***

The Minnesota Association for Volunteer Administration (MAVA) recently released results from their November 2009 survey: *The Status of Minnesota's Volunteer Programs in a Shifting Environment*.

The survey found that:

- nearly 60% of organizations reported an increased reliance on volunteers compared to a year ago;
- over 50% reported an increase in volunteer hours of service;

- 44% of respondents reported increased numbers of inquiries from potential new volunteers;
- 52% reported volunteers were more likely to have strong work skills.

Respondents shared hundreds of strategies for volunteer programs to respond to the current times. The survey included responses of 280 Minnesota nonprofit and governmental organizations.

The goal of the survey is to help leaders of volunteers capitalize on their organization's volunteer resources by seeing how their experiences in the changing times compare to overall trends and to share strategies for responding to changes. For the full survey report go to: www.MAVANetwork.org/shiftingenv.

Fighting Poverty with Passion – AmeriCorps*VISTA

The Initiative Foundation is looking for next year's VISTA project sites. VISTA members serve full-time for one year helping to build capacity in nonprofits and government agencies fighting poverty. Last year our VISTA members: raised over \$260,000 in cash and nearly \$85,000 in in-kind resources for their organizations and helped recruit over 1100 new volunteers in addition to initiating new programs, creating training workshops and materials, developing websites, etc.

Organizations interested in learning more about the VISTA national service program and/or in applying to be one of our twenty-five 2010-2011 VISTA Project Sites can get the full Request for Inquiries on our website http://www.ifound.org/effective_volunteers.php or by calling Chris Fastner, VISTA Program Manager, 320-632-9255.

Inquiries will be accepted through February 5, 2010.

Wanted: a few great people interested in reviewing grant applications.

Starting in March, the Initiative Foundation will be looking for assistance as they review grant applications for their Strengthening Communities Fund grant program. Individuals who are interested:

- must not be applying for this grant program,
- should have a basic understanding of capacity building within nonprofits,
- have time available in March (½ day for a meeting and approximately one day of prep), and
- be able review the applications from an impartial perspective.

This would be a unique opportunity for you to learn more about and/or refine your understanding of the grant review process from a funder's perspective! If interested, please let Cathy know at chartle@ifound.org or 320-631-2018. We will also need reviewers in the future, so if March is not good but you may be interested at another time, please also let her know.

Bremer Nonprofit Connection

Offered by Bremer, this quarter's newsletter offers tips and information on Social Enterprise and Earned Income Strategic for nonprofits. Read it by visiting: <http://www.bremer.com>.

Outrun the Recession

An article by the Stanford Social Innovation Review, Winter 2010

"Recessions are not sprints; they are endurance events. To find out how nonprofits are faring during the toughest recession in more than 30 years, we have been surveying 100 nonprofit executives across the

United States at six-month intervals since late 2008. As of October 2009, some 80 percent of our respondents had experienced funding cuts, and a full 93 percent said that they were feeling the effects of the downturn.

Yet many of our respondents are also adopting healthy habits that not only will help them survive the present recession, but also may help them thrive when better times return. Below we summarize the seven healthy habits of nonprofits that endure.” [Continue reading this article](#) or [download a PDF](#).

This newsletter is designed to share funding opportunities, resources, and conferences or training events of common interest for program participants and supporters of the Initiative Foundation. For more information about these and other training opportunities, contact Cathy Hartle chartle@ifound.org.

If you wish to be removed from this mailing list or if you have other names/e-mails to add please contact Tricia Holig, tholig@ifound.org.