

The Center for Nonprofit Excellence

JULY 2015 NEWSLETTER



The Impact of Your Support: New Trainings

Advancing the Business Skills of Nonprofit Staff

Essential Skills Training Piloted This Spring

Nonprofit leaders expressed a need for affordable training that would boost their employee's basic business skills. To address this need, the Center for Nonprofit Excellence (CNE) turned to the School of Business at Sacred Heart University to develop a new Essential Skills Training series for nonprofit staff. This spring, the CNE piloted three workshops – Building Basic Finance Skills, Effective Project Management and Delivering Professional Presentations – at Sacred Heart University for small groups of nonprofit employees.

The feedback was excellent, indicating the trainings were “relevant, the right content and practical.” The CNE will finalize the curriculum and open these three workshops to the wider Fairfield County nonprofit community in the spring of 2016. Thanks to you, the CNE can continue to meet the changing needs of our nonprofit community.

“I found them all to be helpful, informative and professionally executed.”
 -- Barbara Rossi, Laurel House

Building Solutions to the Nonprofit Technology Paradox

CNE Pilots Hartford Technology Program in Fairfield County

Choosing the right technology, training staff and planning are all common IT challenges for nonprofits. To help address these challenges, the CNE is launching a new program modeled after the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving Strategic Technology Program. The program is designed to help organizations apply technology strategically within their organizations to increase impact and improve outcomes. Over the past year, the CNE has been working with the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving and the Jeniam Foundation to bring the program to Fairfield County.

Participating organizations will take part in two days of training and coaching to equip them with the skills and resources they need to fully develop an IT plan for their organization. Once their IT plan is in place, organizations will be able to request funding from the Community Foundation to implement technology upgrades. Your investment in the CNE is enabling us to bring new solutions to common challenges.

Year End Highlights FY15

2 BOARD CHAIR ROUNDTABLE GROUPS

39 PARTICIPANTS MET QUARTERLY

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

10 PARTICIPATING LEADERS

145,000 PEOPLE SERVED BY THEIR NONPROFITS

\$13+ MILLION COMBINED OPERATING BUDGETS

OTHER CNE RESULTS

404 ORGANIZATIONS UTILIZED SERVICES

710 INDIVIDUALS SERVED

16 BEST PRACTICE WORKSHOPS

97% SATISFIED WITH BEST PRACTICE SESSIONS

96% LEARNED A NEW SKILL

93% WILL IMPLEMENT WHAT THEY LEARNED

4 CONVENINGS INCLUDING
 2 LEGISLATIVE ROUNDTABLES

87% DISCOUNT TO FOUNDATION CENTER ONLINE DIRECTORY OF 140,000+ FUNDERS, SAVING 75 NONPROFITS OVER \$113,448



Center for Nonprofit Excellence

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Measuring Nonprofit Impact

Widespread Adoption of Results Based Accountability

This year, the Community Foundation adopted Results Based Accountability™ (RBA) as a framework to measure the impact of our competitive grantmaking and community leadership work. RBA is a common-sense approach to measuring impact that has been adopted by many grantmakers and government entities across the United States and beyond. Since the Community Foundation has adopted RBA, that means our grantees need to learn RBA too.

The CNE has trained 165 individuals from 112 nonprofits to date in how to effectively use RBA. In the coming year, the CNE will be offering more RBA training and opportunities for peer learning to help build the measurement capacity of Fairfield County nonprofits.

Prepping Nonprofits for Giving Day 2016

New Workshop Series Being Offered

Fairfield County's third annual Giving Day is set for March 10, 2016. To help nonprofits prepare for and maximize their involvement in Giving Day, we will once again offer our annual Giving Day information session on October 23, 2015. New this year will be a three-part monthly series of workshops designed to cover key concepts to implementing a successful Giving Day campaign. These workshops, offered through the CNE for participating nonprofits, will be held from November 2015 through January 2016. Their focus will be: How to Tell Your Story, Effectively Using Social Media, and Donor Cultivation and Stewardship.

Expanded Legislative Forums

Greater Danbury Legislative Forum

Date: Tuesday, December 1
Time: 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.

Greater Stamford Legislative Forum

Date: Tuesday, January 5
Time: 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.

Greater Norwalk Legislative Forum

Date: Thursday, December 3
Time: 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.

Greater Bridgeport Legislative Forum

Date: Thursday, January 7
Time: 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.

UPCOMING WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

Board Chair Essentials

Date: Wednesday, September 9
Time: 4:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Fairfield County Nonprofit Resource Fair

Date: Tuesday, September 22
Time: 8:30 - 10:00 a.m.

Fairfield County's Advocacy Day

Date: Thursday, October 8
Time: 8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Giving Day Information Session

Date: Friday, October 23
Time: 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

The Secret Sauce to Giving Day 2016: Storytelling*

Date: Thursday, November 12
Time: 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Giving Day 2016: Engaging and Mobilizing an Online Community*

Date: Thursday, December 10
Time: 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Giving Day 2016: Practical, Everyday Donor Cultivation and Retention Strategies*

Date: Thursday, January 14
Time: 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

*for Giving Day nonprofit participants only

For complete workshop descriptions and online registration, please visit FCCFoundation.org.



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TOGETHER WE THRIVE

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