

Center for Nonprofit Excellence

WINTER 2017 NEWSLETTER



CNE Helps Leaders Grow



When Reverend Cass Shaw became President and CEO of the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport (CCGB), she knew she would be taking on a challenge.

In a city where poverty and trauma touch many lives, CCGB brings together a wide network of community partners to feed the hungry, support youth in crisis, guide former offenders and more. To be effective, Shaw recognized that she would need to develop new skills as a nonprofit leader.

But she also knew that she didn't need to do it on her own. She had a strong resource to turn to for support: Fairfield County's Community Foundation's Center for Nonprofit Excellence.

"It's basically my go-to place," says Shaw. "I know that I am a better leader, making smarter decisions and moving this organization forward because of resources I'm receiving through the Center for Nonprofit Excellence."

Shaw believes the power of the Center for Nonprofit Excellence is twofold; it provides resources, and fosters relationships. It's a combination that can be vitally important for nonprofits that are working with limited resources to make an impact where it's needed most.

By creating an environment that encourages leaders to share best practices and brainstorm creative solutions, Shaw believes the Center for Nonprofit Excellence is also creating a culture of collaboration that can make Fairfield County's nonprofits more effective as a whole.

"The competition for dollars can be fierce, and the desire to succeed is in all of us," says Shaw. "Collaboration is critical. The Center for Nonprofit Excellence pulls us all together, and reminds us all how much we need each other."

OUR IMPACT

MID-YEAR HIGHLIGHTS FY17

470 INDIVIDUALS FROM
265 NONPROFITS BENEFITTED FROM CNE SERVICES

15 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & CONVENING OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDED

98% SATISFACTION RATE WITH CNE WORKSHOPS

95% OF WORKSHOP ATTENDEES REPORTED INCREASING THEIR KNOWLEDGE

11 EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS IMPROVED THEIR LEADERSHIP SKILLS IN OUR EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

19 BOARD CHAIRS CONNECTED WITH PEERS IN OUR BOARD CHAIR ROUNDTABLE

10 MEMBERS OF JUNIOR BOARDS CONNECTED WITH PEERS IN OUR NEW ROUNDTABLE



New in 2016: Junior Board Roundtable

Modeled after our Board Chair Roundtables, this new offering focuses on providing resources and networking for Junior Board members. Members have focused discussions on managing expectations, increasing engagement and formalizing structures for success. To date, we have held two sessions with five organizations in attendance: Family & Children’s Agency, LifeBridge Community Services, Kids in Crisis, Stamford Family YMCA, and YMCA of Greenwich.

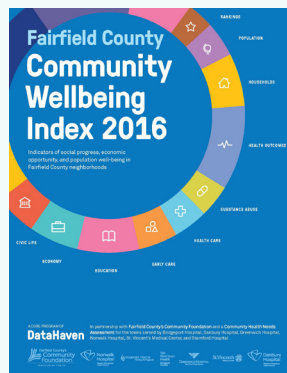
Legislative Forums: Prompting Reflections & Discussions on Community Wellbeing

During December 2016, the Center for Nonprofit Excellence hosted four Legislative Forums held in partnership with the following local universities and colleges: UConn Stamford, Housatonic Community College, Naugatuck Community College, and Norwalk Community College. During data walks and panel discussions, the *Fairfield County Community Wellbeing Index* findings and insights were highlighted (see below for more details). In total, 129 nonprofits attended, along with representatives from higher education and government sectors. Plus nineteen legislators and mayors also attended.

Newly Released: Fairfield County Community Wellbeing Index 2016

Produced in partnership with Fairfield County’s Community Foundation and DataHaven, this comprehensive 80-page report helps us better understand the complex issues facing our neighborhoods, towns and county, as well as where we are headed. By focusing on the interrelationship between quality of life, health, and economic competitiveness of Fairfield County, we can better appreciate our successes and acknowledge our challenges.

<http://fccfoundation.org/community-wellbeing-index-page/>



UPCOMING WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

Giving Day: Messaging Your Mission

Date: January 19, 2017
Time: 12:00 pm-1:00 pm

Results-Based Accountability: The Basics

Date: January 24, 2017
Time: 9:30 am-12:30 pm

Giving Day: How to Become Your Donor’s Charity of Choice

Date: February 16, 2017
Time: 9:00 am -12:00 pm

Results-Based Accountability: Performance Measures

Date: March 15, 2017
Time: 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Skills for Challenging Times: Preparing for Collaborative Opportunities

Date: March 21, 2017
Time: 9:00 am -12:30 pm

Purpose Boards, Powerful Fundraising

Date: May 4, 2017
Time: 8:30 am -3:30 pm

For complete workshop descriptions and online registration, please visit: FCCFoundation.org/events/category/nonprofit-excellence/