

Recent Workshops

Building Relationships to Advance Your Organization

Kathy Schaeffer, President, Kathy Schaeffer and Associates, Inc.

We'll cover how to identify prospective organizations and individuals for collaboration, initiate and nurture relationships, and build lasting, high-value connections. You will learn how to map your organization's relationship tree and engage your leadership in the process.

Public Affairs for Nonprofit Groups: Working Smarter in the Age of Economic Belt-Tightening

Avis LaVelle, President, A. LaVelle Consulting, LLC

Come reflect on the lessons learned and opportunities that exist in the current economic downturn and focus on how to create more agile organizations. We'll discuss how to employ the three components of public affairs—community relations, public relations, and government relations—to amplify the nonprofit's voice and increase the base of support.

After the Strategic Plan

Nancy Kim Phillips, M.B.A., President, NKP Consulting

What can you do to ensure that your strategic planning process was worth the effort, and the goals you developed come to fruition? This workshop will cover developing an implementation plan, including key performance indicators; accountability for the plan and structural implications; and change management.

Developing a Communications Plan

Ann Pinkney, Marketing Communications Director, Metropolitan Family Services

Setting your organization apart from the others are vital to your success. In an age where communications channels grow at breakneck speed—spanning the web, TV, radio, print, outdoor and more—developing and using a communications plan is essential to establishing a strong brand identity among audiences, from donors to the general public.

Unlock the Potential of a Career Map

Nurys Harrigan, PHR, CSP, President, Careers In Nonprofits

If you are in a place of transition in your career, the next steps you take can make all the difference.

Achieving at Both Work and Life: An Interactive Workshop

Robert B. Acton, J.D., Executive Director, Cabrini Green Legal Aid

A life well-lived is predicated on a life lived in balance, yet nonprofit professionals are infamously guilty of taking care of others and neglecting themselves. This interactive session will help you develop strategies for operating at peak performance while minding the relationships that matter most to you.

How to Save Money and Get More Done Using High-Level Volunteers

Kelly Kleiman, Principal, NFP Consulting

Gain a fresh perspective on the potential for volunteer contributions, as well as concrete ideas about how to attract, train, and retain the very best help.

Board Leadership Series: Welcome to the Board

William Braden, CEO (retired), American Red Cross of Greater Chicago

After providing a brief history of the sector, this workshop will explore the framework of legal and ethical issues facing boards in today's operating environment, as well as an overview of the roles and responsibilities of boards and their members. A must for all nonprofit board members and CEOs, any two people from the same organization may attend this training for a special

Your Case for Support: Translating your Strategic Plan into Donor Values

Doug Diefenbach, Vice President of Campaign Strategy and Communications, Advocate Charitable Foundation

Discover and practice the rational, stepwise process for dissecting your organization and breaking down its programs to the underlying values they represent—values your donors will recognize readily and support generously.

The Development Officer as Leader

Tekla A. Syers, Owner and Principal Consultant, Ideation First

Guest Speaker: Amina Dickerson, Senior Director (retired), Corporate Community Involvement, Kraft Foods, Inc.

This highly strategic workshop is designed for the seasoned development professional (five plus years experience) to explore strategies and tactics to inspire confidence and make the most of your leadership role in the community. Participants will leave armed with a personalized 90-day action plan, and many trade secrets from our industry's best.

Learning to Lead and Leading to Learn

Peter York, Senior Vice President and Director of Research, TCC Group

Chantell Johnson, M.A., Director of Evaluation, TCC Group

Join TCC Group senior staff for an interactive discussion about evaluation use, and how to turn dry data into powerful messages that bring mission to life. We'll also examine the crucial role that group learning plays in program effectiveness; organizational and operational effectiveness; and community engagement.

Miracle Major Gifts

Jimmie R. Alford, LL.D., LH.D., Founder and Chair, The Alford Group

Designed for development officers, senior staff, and board volunteers, this all day seminar will explore the key elements necessary to achieve transformational gifts from individual donors. In this seminar you will also learn to formulate philanthropic value propositions and develop skills to prepare you for asking for major gifts.

Succession Planning

Amy Wishnick, Principal, Wishnick and Associates, LLC

Address many questions related to succession planning throughout all levels of the organization, including successful recruiting and hiring practices, competing in the marketplace for good candidates, and the board's role in planning.

How can I get my board excited about fundraising?

Mary F. Morten, President, Morten Group

Demystify the fundraising process and receive practical tips on how to build a culture of fundraising throughout your organization.

Writing for the Web-A Free Session!

Caleb Gardner, Marketing and Public Relations Manager, North Park University

This workshop will cover the basic tenants of writing strategic online content. We will cover the important dos and don'ts that will make both your website and your social media initiatives more compelling and effective.

Foundation Fundraising and Program Development

Lisa Moultrie, M.A., Founder and Principal, Ace Strategies, Inc.

Learn how to describe your programs effectively, develop outcomes measures, and collect data for reports in order to cultivate the most receptive foundation funders.

Strategic Management: Critical Choices in an Uncertain Environment

Jimmie R. Alford, LL.D., L.H.D., Founder and Chair, The Alford Group

Explore the latest planning techniques, emerging issues and the process of arriving at critical decisions in a highly uncertain environment. Addresses the most effective leadership styles and processes to maximize success in the environment of change.

Financial Management for Churches

Examine the sometimes difficult area of professionally managing the finances of the local church. We will discuss the theological, scriptural, and practical applications of stewardship.

The Financial Health of Chicago's Human Service Agencies

The Axelson Center for Nonprofit Management invites you to participate in a dynamic discussion at North Park University about the financial health of human service organizations in the Chicago area.

Financial Modeling: A Roadmap to Fiscal Health

Tim O'Brien, Ph.D., School of Business and Nonprofit Management, North Park University

Exploring how financial modeling can be used to improve organizational effectiveness.

Online Communications 101: What You Need to Know About Social Media 2.0

Christine Cupaiuolo, Founder and Editor, PopPolitics.com

Blogs. Facebook. Twitter. Del.icio.us. What are these tools, and why do they matter to nonprofits?

Social Entrepreneurship

Cren McMath, MBA, School of Business and Nonprofit Management, North Park University

Presenting the basics of social entrepreneurship, demonstrating its utility as a means for expanding opportunities and generating revenue streams.

Winning Grants to Strengthen Your Ministry

Joy Skjegstad, Faith Communities Project

Learn how to find potential corporate and foundation funders, gain an understanding of how funders think, and begin to build a case statement for ministry.

Starting a Nonprofit at Your Church

Joy Skjegstad, Faith Communities Project

Assess the advantages and risks of establishing church-based nonprofits, review possible board-governance models, and briefly review the legal process.

Advanced Prospect Research

Christina Pulawski, Christina Pulawski Consulting

Create and maintain rating systems for segmentation and prioritization; prospect identification ideas to ensure that your pipeline is well-stocked with potential donors.