

June 30, 2006



Mr. Paul Botts
Director – Chicago Programs
35 E. Wacker Dr., Suite 2600
Chicago, IL 60601-2102
Re: Boot Camp

Dear Paul,

I don't think I can ever thank you enough for sending me to the New Nonprofit Leader Book Camp at the Axelson Center for Nonprofit Management at North Park University. It was a truly transformative training.

Think of a six-week grad school primer crunched – effectively – into a 3-day hardcore schedule. Wednesday and Thursday went from 7:30 am to 7 pm, Friday 7:30 am to 2 pm – with presenters for every meal and a few 10 minute breaks.

My yardstick for measuring the effectiveness of this training was to think about whether or not it was more beneficial to be there or to be back at my office working on the very long list of “to-dos” that were waiting for me. Every minute was more than worth it.

The really great thing is that I now feel like I actually know the full parameters of my job. I have been introduced to a wide scope of new tools for planning, tracking, and evaluating. We had presentations from the heads of major foundations and very large local non-profits, as well as excellent consultants and others.

Again, it was excellent. Thank you. And be sure to send as many people as possible through this training whenever it is even vaguely appropriate.

I will be taking some more individual one-day trainings at Axelson – such as miracle major gifts led by Jimmie Alford of The Alford Group Consulting Firm. I will also be giving you a call to discuss the possibility of working with a coach that I met at the training.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Benjamin Cox", is written over a white background.

Benjamin Cox
Executive Director

Cc: Morriss-Olson, Axelson
Braden, Axelson