GDNRC NEWS

Strong Organizations Solid Impact

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Beating the Odds in an Economic Downturn

In this time of economic hardship and uncertainty, nonprofits increasingly are looking for solutions to improve efficiency and resiliency. On January 15th, strategy consultant and author Heather Gowdy will present re-structuring options and their potential benefits at the Danbury Library Farioly Program Room.

The workshop, an Overview of Strategic Restructuring for Nonprofit Organizations, will address:

- What is strategic restructuring?
- What is the range of partnerships available to nonprofits, and
- what are organizations around the country doing to counter the weak economy?

In this workshop, Heather Gowdy will explain: the different partnership options for nonprofits – such as mergers, joint ventures, and administrative consolidations; the motivations that typically lead nonprofits to look at these options; how to assess each organization's readiness for strategic restructuring; the "key success factors" in mergers and other alliances; and the typical roadblocks and challenges.

Heather Gowdy, Senior Associate of LaPiana Associates, has worked with nonprofits as a volunteer, staff member, consultant, trainer, and board member. Heather played a lead role in designing and implementing the Strategic Solutions Project, a foundation-funded initiative aimed at increasing the awareness of the nonprofit sector of the potential value of strategic restructuring activities. She co-authored *The Nonprofit Mergers Workbook, Part II: Unifying the Organization after a Merger* (2004).

Heather Gowdy, of LaPiana Associates

Strategic Restructuring Workshop:

When: **January 15th, 2008 (snow date January 29th)**

Where: **Farioly Program Room of the Danbury Public Library**

Who Should Attend: **Executive Directors, Board Members and Key Staff**

Time: **12:30 - 3:30**

For more information and to register go to www.gdnrc.org

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Peer Networking and Learning Opportunities: *Two Professional Roundtables*

Executive Directors and Nonprofit Staff are meeting regularly in Danbury. *How can you get involved?*

If you're an Executive Director...

Greater Danbury Nonprofit Executive Directors will gather for a quarterly roundtable on February 10th at 8:30 a.m. at the Midwestern Connecticut Council on Alcoholism after a successful kickoff in November.

At a meeting on November 17th, Executive Directors met to share lunch, network and discuss what future meetings might accomplish.

This group of 30 directors decided that there is great value in meeting on a regular basis to share information and learn from each-other.

For more information about these meetings please contact Elaine Mintz at gdresourcecenter@sbcglobal.net.

If you're a Nonprofit Staff Member...

Greater Danbury Nonprofit staff will meet next on January 14th at the recently re-launched CARO meeting in Danbury.

Nonprofit staff have the opportunity to share information with other nonprofits at CARO meetings. CARO stands for Community Agencies Reaching Out.

CARO meetings occur every other month in Danbury. They are sponsored by the CT United Way and are facilitated by Angie Medina, Regional Director.

The January 14th meeting is being held at the Early Care and Education Training Institute on Main Street in Danbury.

For more information about these meetings please contact Angie Medina at Angie.Medina@ctunitedway.org.

Next Executive Director Meeting:

February 10th from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. at MCCA, 38 Old Ridgebury Road, Danbury

Next CARO Meeting:

January 14th from 9:00 to 11:00 at ECETI, 30 Main Street, Danbury

Their Support makes it Possible for the GDNRC to Offer Affordable Programs

The Greater Danbury Funder's Group
Boehringer Ingleheim
City of Danbury - CDBG
Danbury Hospital
Fairfield County Bank Corp.
Fairfield County Community Foundation
GE Capital Solutions
Greater Danbury Fund
JP Morgan Chase Foundation
Meserve Memorial Fund
Newtown Savings Bank
Patrick Foundation
Pepsi Bottling Group Foundation
Perrin Family Foundation
Pitney Bowes
Savings Bank of Danbury
The Network Support Company
Union Savings Bank
United Way of Western Connecticut

Upcoming Education and Training Workshops

Our Presenters

Planning Events that Earn $$$$ - February 5th

Events raise millions of dollars per year for nonprofits, but they are not for the faint of heart. On February 5th learn how to plan and execute an event that earns dollars and long term donors. Too often not-for-profit organizations are uncomfortable about raising money at fund-raising events. They call them "friend-raising" events, or "cultivation events" or "awareness building" events. Almost anything except what they are meant to be – events which inspire people to give to your cause. **Sharon Danosky, President of Danosky Associates,** will teach your organization how to turn your "friend-raiser" into a "fund-raiser" by applying sound fund-raising principles, building a strong volunteer committee, focusing on your mission and the people you serve, and asking unabashedly for the funds you need.

Sharon Danosky of Danosky Associates

Successful Web Development that Informs, Moves, Changes and Engages your Constituents - March 19th

Websites are now key to communicating with our funders, clients and partners. Keeping sites current and accessible is essential. What are the top ten things you need to consider when embarking on a new web project.? **Ann-Marie Harrington, President of Embolden,** will discuss how websites can help inform, move, change and engage your constituents. This workshop will cover best practices of web design, layout and marketing to your audience. In addition, you will leave the workshop with a basic understanding of content management systems, Web 2.0, social networking and other new technologies.

Ann-Marie Harrington, of Embolden

Jump Starting New Board Members - April 9th.

Orienting new board members is the key to getting new members of the board off and running. **Mike Burns, of Brody, Weiser, Burns,** will lead a round-table discussion which will cover topics such as: How should you orient your board members? What critical information do they need to know? What processes can you put in place to ensure that new board members have the information they need to be effective? We will also discuss what current practices you are employing at your organization. What's effective and what's not?

Mike Burns, of Brody, Weiser, Burns

In the works.....

Developing Effective Surveys to Get the Information you Need
Another Great Funders Panel

If you have a suggestion for a workshop, please contact the Resource Center. We welcome your ideas!

For more information www.gdnrc.org

GDNRC Volunteer Creates Commemorative Video for Event

Debbie Luongo and volunteer Donald Leonard show off the New Milford VNA's new video.

The GDNRC matched Donald Leonard of Masterpiece Video with the New Milford VNA to create a historical video of the agency for their 90th Anniversary celebration and fundraising event.

The final product was a 12 minute video with historical footage, still photos, music and interviews that provided remembrances of the VNA's beginnings, past and a look toward the future.

The agency was very impressed with Don's creative direction and extreme professionalism and found working with him a pleasure. ***"Because of the GDNRC's volunteer program we were able to produce a historical record of the New Milford Visiting Nurse Association for our 90th Anniversary. Donating over 80 hours of time, Don Leonard interviewed, filmed and produced a video shown at our anniversary dinner to honor our donors, clients, employees, volunteers and neighbors."***, said Debbie Luongo of the New Milford VNA.

To request a GDNRC volunteer, go to www.gdnrc.org and fill out an agency application or please contact Casey Levene at casey@gdnrc.org

How GDNRC volunteers are helping the community

- **Bruce Moore** is building a database for a local healthcare organization.
- **Aleta Stephen** is creating a brochure and community presentation for an organization that advocates for children with disabilities.
- **Jack Warner** is providing HR assistance to an anti poverty agency.
- **Liz Hofer** is creating a brochure for a literacy organization.
- **WCSU marketing students** are developing a marketing plan for an arts organization.

New Resources on www.gdnrc.org

The Alliance for Nonprofit Growth and Opportunity (TANGO)

A first-of-its-kind purchasing cooperative, draws strength from bringing non-profits together. Members have access to discounted employee benefit plans, professional services, and other resources that renew their energy and leave more money for their mission.

The Collaborative Alliance

The Collaborative Alliance is an association of nonprofit organizations serving a wide range of needs throughout Fairfield County. Its goal is to provide a common voice for the non-profit sector, and be a catalyst for organization collaboration and improvement.