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Chicago

Center for Conflict Resolution

Enrich Chicago

Northwest Side Housing Center

Perspectives Charter Schools

The Renaissance Collaborative

St. Martin de Porres House of Hope

University of Chicago Crime Lab

Volunteers of America of Illinois

Youth Outreach Services

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Starting Anew

On a table in my house sits a small pile of books. These three books are paperbacks with yellowed pages and underlinings and notes in the margins. These are my favorite books from high school - the poems of Emily Dickinson and Robert Frost and the sonnets of Edna St. Vincent Millay. I rarely read them or even open them anymore, but for more years than I like to admit, they have traveled with me wherever I have moved and sit together in a pile wherever I land. They remind me that there are many ways to describe the world that I see, and that there are people who do that much better than I do. When I first read them, the authors' perspectives and gift with words opened up a new world to me. I still remember that feeling of awe. And probably just as important to me now is that they remind me of who I was at 17 - my hopes and dreams and struggles and mainly my optimism.

This is my favorite time of year at Compass. Appropriately, it's almost springtime, when things begin anew. For us, our next program year starts with the opening of our 2018-19 nonprofit application in April. Even as the current consulting projects are still in high gear with final presentations at least two months away, we in the office are looking ahead to next year. This is the time when we get to really talk to nonprofits. It's not required, but many nonprofits take advantage of our offer to talk about project ideas before they submit an application. We offer five services and require nonprofits to select just one. What we hear from many nonprofits is that they need more than one. That's why the calls are so interesting. We get to hear about the issues, challenges and opportunities facing each nonprofit. Often, our outside perspective can shed light on the best first project, or for some repeat clients, the best next Compass project.

Our priority at Compass is to provide support to nonprofits that will help them positively impact our local community. That means strong boards, diversified funding, and a clear strategy. In addition, we offer marketing projects and support for partnerships and collaborations. Compass projects can do the following and more:

- Assess an earned income venture
- Write a business plan for a new program
- Help boards understand how to be most effective
- Evaluate an innovative idea
- Consider expanding into a new market
- Improve communication to support fundraising

Along the way, much more happens with the Compass team of talented business professionals at the side and on the side of

Greater Philadelphia

ACHIEVEability

ArtWell

Bethesda Project

Center for Advocacy for
the Rights and Interests
of the Elderly (CARIE)

Chester County OIC

Community Learning
Center

Family Service
Association of Bucks
County

Interfaith Center of
Greater Philadelphia

Jounce Partners

Living Beyond Breast
Cancer (LBBC)

Lutheran Settlement
House

Montgomery Early
Learning Centers

Philadelphia Higher
Education Network for
Neighborhood
Development (PHENND)

Southeast Asian Mutual
Assistance Associations
Coalition (SEAMAAC)

Steppingstone Scholars

The Women's Center of
Montgomery County

Greater Washington Classic Clients

the nonprofits. Many nonprofits ask Compass team members to join their board at the end of the project. Many Executive Directors appreciate having an advocate in their Project Leader. Most love getting all of this for free!

When the Compass project is finished, nonprofits have a plan to go back to year after year to guide their organization. For many, the Compass plan will reflect their hopes and dreams and struggles and optimism. We'd like to help nonprofits get where they want to be. We're happy to talk about a possible project. Give us a call.

Happy Spring!

Suzanne Laporte
President, Compass

CLIENT APPLICATION FOR 2018-19 PROJECTS

Compass' Client Application for 2018-19 will be available on April 13 for Chicago nonprofits. The deadline for applications is June 8 at 5:00 p.m. Clients will be selected in August, and projects will begin in September.

Compass Clients must meet the following criteria:

- Have 501(c)(3) status
- Have a minimum of three full-time paid staff members and a minimum budget of \$750,000
- Provide services that specifically benefit the Chicago community
- Not promote a specific religious or political view
- Have an active board of directors

Compass offers pro bono consulting in the following service lines: Board Development, Funding Strategies, Strategic Alignment, Strategic Marketing, and Strategic Partnerships and Collaborations. See descriptions below.

If you have any questions about which project would be most useful for your organization or about the application process, visit our [website](#) or contact Natalie Tessler, Executive Director, (ntessler@compasschicago.org; 773-848-1706) to discuss.

Or plan to attend our Prospective Client Information session on May 3. See details below.

JOIN US FOR A PROSPECTIVE CLIENT INFO SESSION - May 3

If you are considering applying for a Compass pro bono consulting project, please join us on May 3 to hear about Compass' client application process. At this optional Information Session, you'll find out:

A-SPAN (Arlington Street People's Assistance Network)

Beacon House

Bright Beginnings

Carpenter's Shelter

DC Greens

DC Jazz Festival

Encore Stage & Studio

Friends of Guest House

Friends of the Library
Montgomery County

Girls on the Run of
Northern Virginia

Greater Prince William
Community Health
Center

Greater Washington
Urban League

Homeless Children's
Playtime Project

House of Ruth

Osher Lifelong Learning
Institute (OLLI at AU)

Playworks DC

Rebuilding Together
Alexandria

Sasha Bruce Youthwork

Studio Theatre

Technology Use in the
Nonprofit Sector

- How the Compass program works
- What kind of project would be best for your organization
- How to apply for a Compass project and get selected

Date: Thursday, May 3

Time: 8:45 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Location: Forefront, 208 South LaSalle, Suite 1540
Chicago, IL 60604

[RSVP HERE](#)

If you have any questions about projects in the meantime, please contact Natalie Tessler at ntessler@compasschicago.org.

If you have any questions about the Information Session, please contact Evelyn Laurencin at elaurencin@compassdc.org

2018-19 SERVICE LINES

Nonprofits can choose from the following types of projects.

Board Development - Board Development projects aim to improve the effectiveness, engagement, and sustainability of nonprofit boards.

Funding Strategies - Compass can assess traditional revenue sources and revenue-generation methods, or support Earned Income Ventures.

Strategic Alignment - Strategic Alignment projects make recommendations for operations based on alignment of mission, programs and resources.

Strategic Marketing - Compass will help the client create an overarching marketing strategy to take advantage of new opportunities.

Strategic Partnerships & Collaborations - Compass will help nonprofits assess the value and appropriateness of strategic partnerships or collaborations.

WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT

We couldn't put together our talented consulting teams without skilled volunteers. We couldn't recruit the amazing volunteers without the support of the local business school clubs. Thank you to the following alumni clubs that help spread the word about Compass. We are grateful for their support:

Haas School of Business at the University of California at Berkeley
The University of Chicago Booth School of Business
Columbia Business School
Johnson Graduate School of Management at Cornell

Two Rivers Public
Charter School

VisArts

The Washington Ballet

Wonders Early Learning
+ Extended Day

**Greater Washington
Micro Clients**

1st Stage

4615 Theatre Company

The Actors' Center

Art Enables

Anacostia Playhouse

Atlas Performing Arts
Center

Dance Place

Family & Youth
Initiative

Girls Inc.

Girls on the Run - DC

Girls Rock! DC

Grassroots DC

Kara Kennedy Fund

KEYS for the Homeless
Foundation

Life Asset

Literacy Volunteers and
Advocates

Mosaic Theater
Company of DC

Pinky Swear
Productions

Sitar Arts Center

Synetic Theater

Theater J

Washington Area

Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth
Fuqua School of Business at Duke
Georgetown University McDonough School of Business
Harvard Business School
Michigan Ross School of Business
MIT Sloan School of Management
University of North Carolina Kenan-Flagler Business School
Northwestern Kellogg School of Management
NYU Stern School of Business
The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania
Stanford Graduate School of Business
The University of Texas McCombs School of Business
University of Virginia Darden School of Business
Yale School of Management

DONATE

This year, Compass is connecting over 70 business professionals with nine nonprofit organizations through our pro bono consulting projects in Chicago. Like our nonprofit clients, Compass is a nonprofit that relies on contributions to ensure we can continue bringing business talent to the nonprofit sector to help individual nonprofits.

Every \$1 donated to Compass provides \$9 of consulting services back to local nonprofits. Compass doesn't charge nonprofits for services, so we rely on funding from generous supporters. If you haven't donated to Compass during this 2017-18 project year, please [donate now](#).

DONATE NOW

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Archive

WINNERS Lacrosse

Washington Literacy
Center

We Happy Few
Productions

YoKid...Stretch Your
Limits