

December 2017



You belong to a community that cares. Berkshire County has over 1,000 nonprofit organizations making a difference for children and elders, animals and wetlands, classrooms and performance spaces, and so much more.

Berkshires nonprofits are a passionate, hard-working, and unwieldy bunch. We want to do so much good. We have our fingers in a lot of pies. Although we are separated geographically, and often logistically, we share a common goal of making the Berkshires the best it can be for all of us. As a nonprofit supporter, you are part of that mission too. Thank you!

You can play a role in a crucial process of assessing how we can help our nonprofit community thrive. Conversations with donors like you have shown that more clarity and coordination within our sector can help you choose how, when and where to give your resources for maximum impact.

Feedback from local nonprofit leaders has revealed their craving for information, training and connection. Conversations like these encouraged me to found the Nonprofit Center of the Berkshires (NPC). Now a year later, I'm honored to say that NPC has established itself as the go-to source for nonprofits and donors for information, referrals, advice, connections, and support.

In just a year, we've built many resources to help nonprofits learn, connect and grow. These include a listserv to foster online networking across the county; hosting a networking event for Executive Directors; conducting county-wide site visits and holding satellite office hours in North Adams; publishing *Connections* Magazine as a forum for nonprofit organizations and topics; and developing the *Giving Back* nonprofit directory to help donors understand the breadth of our community's work and how to help.

These resources are available to ALL nonprofits. We strive to keep programs free or as low-cost as possible, so that nonprofits of all sizes and resources can have equitable access. To keep our fees affordable and our services available, we need your support.

Will you please consider making a gift to NPC today? **Here's what your donation will provide:**

- **Time** - for nonprofit leaders to focus on what matters most. NPC is the only one-stop clearinghouse for information that keeps nonprofits running. From vendors and consultants to research reports and best practices, we can quickly supply answers when called on.
- **Skills** - for young idealists and seasoned professionals. Our seminars and workshops on fundraising, leadership, social media tools, etc. keep our nonprofits up to date with trends and help staff maximize their impact.
- **Capacity** - by connecting nonprofits to training, consultants, volunteers, and donors, they can efficiently build their fundraising programs and nonprofit management strategy.
- **Connections** - for nonprofit professionals throughout the county who need structured settings for information sharing and collaboration. Our unique events and online forum are designed to bring down barriers and boost learning opportunities and organizational growth.

And there's so much more that we can offer together. With sufficient funding in 2018, NPC will create:

- A resource guide for nonprofits to find the services they need
- A one-day intensive training, "Bootcamp for Emerging Nonprofits"
- An awards breakfast to recognize and thank nonprofit professionals who work tirelessly to serve the Berkshire community
- A philanthropy curriculum for schools to help raise the next generation of philanthropists

I know you care deeply about seeing Berkshires nonprofits grow in valuable and efficient ways. And you know that organizations function best when they have opportunities to collaborate, when resources are centralized, and when they feel supported by the community around them.

That's what makes a gift to NPC unique--a gift to us is truly a gift that supports the whole sector. I hope you will consider making a tax-deductible donation to our 501(c)3 nonprofit today.

A healthy nonprofit sector benefits us all. It creates jobs and better quality of life, from providing meals to the elderly, to building parks, to preventing public health crises, to bringing us wonderful art and music. The stronger our nonprofit community is, the more our beautiful Berkshires region will thrive.

Many thanks for considering this request for support, and best wishes for the holiday season.



Liana Toscanini
Executive Director

P.S. Please champion the Berkshires nonprofit sector, and help our local organizations maximize the good they can do. Make a gift to the Nonprofit Center today. Thank you!

40 Railroad Street, Suite 10, Great Barrington, MA 01230 (413) 645-3151 npcberkshires.org