

NPC NEWS

NONPROFIT CENTER OF THE BERKSHIRES

This year, more than ever, we are fulfilling our mission to ensure nonprofits feel supported. And YOU have supported NPC, making an extraordinary number of programs possible for our many beloved organizations. Thanks to our donors, there is something for every type and size of organization. The best way we know how to **SHOW YOUR IMPACT**, is to share with you the testimonials from those we serve.



"Thanks for the info! You're making our jobs much easier, which we appreciate."

— Marvin Purry/West Side Legends

As an Executive Director, I continue to be pulled between creating new programs, meeting with various stakeholders, coaching, and collaborating, and the need to fundraise to sustain our own organization. Ultimately, your support allows me to do more of what is needed by our community – things like volunteer fairs, the Giving Back guide, advocacy and board trainings.

With your support, we are helping nonprofit leaders at every turn – from start-up to succession planning. We are totally unique and supremely effective with you as our partner. We hope you'll continue to support our work if you are able.

Liana

Putting On Our Oxygen Mask

In addition to supporting many local nonprofits, we know that taking care of our own organization is of paramount importance. This year we hired a new accountant and a payroll company, set up a Vanguard account to accept stock gifts, voted in three new board members, including our first Latinx representation, held an annual board retreat, and recently hired a highly skilled Director of Operations. **Your support** made all of this organizational "self-care" possible. Thank you!

Money, Miracles and Milestones

We are grateful to our supporters for helping us achieve a few milestones including receiving a \$35,000 earmark from the Commonwealth (Thank you Rep. Pignatelli and the Berkshire Delegation). At last we have saved 6 months of operating reserves to get us through whatever crisis comes next. We also implemented a modest salary of \$25,000 for NPC founder and Executive Director (to increase each year as funding allows). Particularly moving were surprise donations from Greylock Federal Credit Union and the Big Y Paul & Gerald D'Amour Memorial Golf Outing in recognition of our critical work serving Berkshire nonprofits.

WINTER 2022



Liana Toscanini with Marvin Purry (left) and Tony Jackson of West Side Legends at an Open House for a newly rehabbed home on Daniels Avenue in Pittsfield. Westside Legends looks to improve the quality of life and provide a better future for the West Side section of Pittsfield by implementing uplifting projects.

Photo: Kim Baker/Toole Insurance

JANUARY

Legislative Town Hall spurred creation of Berkshire Funding Focus, a cross-sector collaboration to bring more state and federal funding into Berkshire County

FEBRUARY

Piloted a Development Associate Certificate Program in partnership with Berkshire Community College.

MARCH

Created "Intro to Board Service" training videos with grants from Mass Service Alliance & Berkshire Film and Media Collaborative

APRIL

NPC is the fiscal sponsor for 6 projects (Busk, Du Bois Sculpture Project, Love of T, Stewards of Hope, Story Sanctuary, and Latinas413)

MAY

Presented the 5th annual Berkshire Non-profit Awards with Emcee Rep. Smitty Pignatelli and featured speaker Lt. Gov Karyn Polito

JUNE

NPC is Invited by the *Berkshire Business Journal* to write a monthly column focused on nonprofits.



photo: Karrie Buratto



We found the event (Volunteer Fair) incredibly useful in helping us pull together a great mix of volunteer opportunities for our associates. This event supports our mission to engage all of our Dalton associates with our local community needs. Well done!
— Tracy L. Bassette/Crane Business Systems Manager/Crane Currency



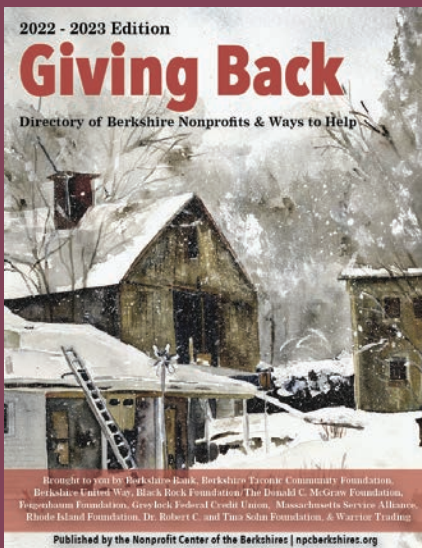
Nonprofit Center of the Berkshires has been an incredible resource and mentor for our fledgling not for profit. We at Roots & Dreams and Mustard Seeds are approaching our fifth year since instatement and we're looking for resources and insight to grow our organization from a volunteer start-up to a more foundational not for profit with paid staff. **We are so thankful for the ways Nonprofit Center of the Berkshires has come alongside us to support us in reaching pinnacle goals that will help us have more impact in creating equity and justice here in the Berkshires!** If your not for profit needs guidance, direction, and/or resources, Nonprofit Center of the Berkshires is your perfect match. Give them a call!
— Board Member, Roots & Dreams



Photo courtesy of the James Weldon Johnson Foundation. James Weldon Johnson, standing behind his writing cabin in Great Barrington at "Five Acres," his summer property off Alford Road.



As a small nonprofit, I was referred to the Nonprofit Center of the Berkshires initially to get a referral for a local accountant. And after making a connection, I realized that I also needed help researching local grant-makers interested in the James Weldon Johnson Foundation's mission. **Due to good timing and good fit and strategic advice from the Nonprofit Center of the Berkshires, the James Weldon Johnson Foundation was awarded a grant by a funder interested in supporting projects in the Berkshires.**
— Rufus E. Jones, Jr., President



15,000 Giving Back guides were distributed free through *The Berkshire Eagle* and public spaces such as coffee shops and retail outlets.

"The guide is a handy resource. We flipped through it on our kitchen table for days." Thank you, Kelly Maginnis/Pittsfield



Laura Cabrera and Catheryn Chacon from **Latinas413** and Liana Toscanini at the **Berkshire 25 Awards** event in Williamstown.

Photo: Tricia McCormack Photography



Nonprofit Center of the Berkshires is a valued Pittsfield Public Schools community partner **offering programming to build future philanthropists** among our student population and **consulting on important fundraising matters** for our schools. We look forward to growing with NPC.

— PPSArts Integration



As a new nonprofit Executive Director, the Nonprofit Center of the Berkshires **has been an amazing resource to connect and network, to brainstorm and seek guidance, and to learn how to become the best we can be** through workshops and learning opportunities. We are raising more money and working more efficiently thanks to the Nonprofit Center of the Berkshires.

— Berkshire Bounty



"Meet the Donors" networking event at Barrington Stage's Blatt Center.



"Thank you so much for access to all this great information (LevelUp Workshop Series) and the fun networking at Meet the Donors! I am enjoying them all greatly. Best,
—Jodi Shafiroff/Director Becket Athenaeum

JULY

Hosted the MA Nonprofit Network regional visit at Arrowhead

AUGUST

Produced the 7th annual *Giving Back* guide, with support from local businesses and foundations

SEPTEMBER

NPC partners with Berkshire Regional Planning Commission to offer 29 workshops to build nonprofit resilience: over 300 people attended from over 70 organizations

NOVEMBER

Held an in-person volunteer fair at the Berkshire Innovation Center in partnership with Berkshire United Way and RSVP

OCTOBER

Held our first-ever Business-to-non-profit Resource Fair which will become an annual event

DECEMBER

Results of our Board Composition Survey are being tabulated.

LOOKING AHEAD

Already shaping up into another robust year, 2023 will feature 7 signature events. Almost all of them have volunteer opportunities if you're looking to get involved.

NPC Welcomes New Staff and Board



Sarah Blehrud

Sarah Blehrud of South Egremont joins the NPC in the senior position of Director of Operations. Blehrud will oversee finance, membership, marketing, and administration, and assist with strategy and program development. She reports to founder and Executive Director Liana

Toscanini. Blehrud previously served as Administrative Director at Berkshire Waldorf High School and Communications Specialist at Canyon Ranch.



Katherine Grubbs



Laurie Werner

The Nonprofit Center's board has grown to ten members with the addition of **Laurie Werner**, a development consultant, and **Katherine Grubbs**, attorney in charge of the Berkshire County office of the public defender's division for the Committee for Public Counsel Services (CPCS).

Three entrepreneurial board members are cycling off at the end of their three-year terms including Auric Enchill of Elegant Stitches, PJ Danahey, and Erika Allison. Their contributions to NPC before and during COVID leave lasting improvements to the organization.



I've been meaning to share, because of you, I have been volunteering at LitNet as a tutor for a while. I encountered them at the Volunteer Fair at Saint James Place. I would never have discovered LitNet if not for your hard work.

—Melissa Bye/Sandisfield



I took your Board Training in 2019 and met Bidwell House during your "speed dating" session. I have been serving on their board for several years now, and on other boards as well thanks to you.

—Jane Johnson/Monterey



The NPC is a force multiplier!

— Tim O'Donnell, Guardian Life Insurance Co.



JOIN US

Scan the QR code with your phone's camera OR visit npcberkshires.org to support our work.

STAFF & BOARD

Liana Toscanini (Executive Director)
Sarah Blehrud (Director of Operations)
Dan Stanyon (President)
Marianne Fresia (Treasurer)
Ilene Marcus (Secretary)
Erika Allison
Stephanie Bosley
PJ Danahey
Auric Enchill
Katherine K. Grubbs
Clemente Sajquiy Ramirez
Laurie Werner

2022 NEWSLETTER

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Platinum
Transparency
2022

Candid.



Helping nonprofits connect, learn & grow since 2016