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December 2025

Dear friends of NPC,

As the newest member of the growing NPC team—and as someone who has spent my career in nonprofit arts and education—I thought I understood the power of a connector organization. Then, last month, I sat in a North Adams conference room hosting a convening of nonprofit leaders—people running food pantries, farms, yoga centers, small businesses, a state representative—all brainstorming solutions together. Despite the difficulty of this moment in time, they were leaning in, sharing ideas, building something bigger than any one of them could do alone. I tasted that familiar mix of comradery and hope that only comes when possibility is in the air.

**That's when it hit me: nonprofits are the safety net for our community,
and NPC is the safety net for them.**

And that's what your support makes possible.

When you support NPC, you're strengthening more than 1,200 Berkshire County nonprofits—the people and programs that keep our community thriving.

At that North County convening, Matt Alcombright shared how the **Berkshire Food Project** served a record number of free meals in one day and shared ideas on sustainability, while Kristen Tool of **Heart & Soil Collective** connected with Morgan Ovitsky of **Berkshire Bounty** to explore new partnerships. Kristen later told us:

***"These opportunities to get together—especially in challenging times—
are a lifeline."***

That lifeline exists because of you.

Thanks to your generosity last year, NPC expanded our programming, advocacy, and services countywide. We've met with members in every corner of the Berkshires, hosted convenings and provided resources, creating spaces for collaboration and hope.

As we look ahead, our nonprofits continue to face extraordinary challenges—from funding cuts to rising community needs. We can't let up now. Your gift to NPC provides free and low-cost training, essential resources, and connections that help hundreds of organizations stay strong and adaptable.

So many people wonder – *how can I make a difference?* Here's how: **by supporting NPC.** In doing this, you're helping one in four Berkshire workers in the nonprofit sector, and directly improving the lives of your neighbors.

Enclosed you'll find photos and stories showing the impact your generosity makes every day. Please join us again this year—let's keep building a stronger, more resilient Berkshire community together.

With gratitude,

McCaela Donovan
Associate Director

P.S. New tax law permanently authorizes a tax deduction of \$1,000 single/\$2,000 joint filers for charitable contributions for non-itemizers. NPC is a registered 501(c)3 EIN#81-2027063



MA Nonprofit Network Lifetime Award winner Janis Martison of The Mahaiwe and NPC's McCaela Donovan chat with MA Attorney General Andrea Campbell at the MNN conference.

NPC Supporters Helped Us D



We know how to support orgs that do a lot with a little, because we are one of them. With the support of donors like you, we staffed up to meet the unique challenges of 2025. *In 2024 we held 9 events with 600 attendees. In 2025, we more than doubled our offerings with 25 events attended by 1259 people.*

NPC staff McCaela Donovan, Elizabeth Stone and Liana Toscanini, along with board member Brian Berkel welcome guests at the Nonprofit Resource Fair in October.

CONNECTIONS THAT STRENGTHEN

We're celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Giving Back guide, made possible by our generous sponsors and advertisers. **The most comprehensive source of information for donors and volunteers**, it helps nonprofits get noticed, especially newer nonprofits like Berkshire Bird Observatory and all volunteer groups like Focus is Our Children. **Check out the new Food Pantry directory on p. 71.**



Our thanks go to: Berkshire Bank, Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, Blackrock Foundation & Donald C. McGraw Foundation, Canna Provisions, Feigenbaum Foundation, Red Lion Inn, NBT Bank, Dr. Robert C. & Tina Sohn Foundation, Warrior Trading and Liz & Mark Williams.

A FUN DAY CONNECTING NONPROFITS TO BUSINESSES AND FUNDERS

Thank you to sponsors Lamar Advertising, CORE401K and Berkshire Funding Focus for supporting the types of connections that lead to collaboration, a stronger sector, and a thriving community.

“It was one of the most effective events I've been to in years — the panelists and the vendors were all wonderful and the space you created was really thoughtful and impactful. Our team came away with greater knowledge, several connections, and a lot of things to follow up on with people we spoke to at the event. Keep up the amazing work — we are so appreciative of all that you do to help BNF!”

— Julia Keosaian/Berkshire Nursing Families



KNOWLEDGE THAT SUSTAINS



NPC partnered with André Lynch and the Berkshire Equity Association for a six-part workshop and certification series 'Agents of Change Equity Academy' —helping teams sharpen their work through the lens of equity. Special thanks to Barr Foundation, Berkshire Bank, Greylock Federal Credit Union, Guardian Life and Milltown Foundation for supporting this training.

“I have great confidence in the next phase of NPC. Thanks for doing all that you do and especially for the Agents of Change workshop series- our team is getting a lot out of it.”

—Will Conklin, Greenagers

Double Our Impact In 2025!

CHAMPIONING THE NONPROFIT SECTOR



Every year we welcome the MA Nonprofit Network team to the Berkshires, shown here at Chesterwood on a hot summer day. Berkshire Nonprofit leaders enjoy networking and learning about state and federal policy directly impacting the sector.

“My associates from Crescendo, Inc, and I were so glad we attended. Having the opportunity to hear from brilliantly knowledgeable people regarding updates to policy and funding was perfect timing as we continue the joy of bringing art to life through music, while navigating the complexities of the nonprofit sector. Thank you for offering this event, executing it beautifully, and for providing us inspiration!”

—Amy Eisen/Production & Chorus Manager, Crescendo

HEARING WHAT MATTERS

With a larger staff, NPC can better cover the breadth of Berkshire County from Sheffield to Williamstown. Hearing about our members' challenges and seeing the work in action is a direct result of more financial support for NPC. We're grateful to our donors for this opportunity to serve the entire Berkshire region.



A convening of Northern Berkshire County nonprofit leaders helped forge connections across organizations, generating ideas and facilitating regional collaborations with organizations from Southern and Central Berkshire County. Board member Hari Kumar noted a “palpable buzz” and deep networking. Thanks to Rep. John Barrett for legislative updates as well.



NPC visits with Williamstown Rural Lands on the beautiful ancestral homelands of the Mohican people to hear more about their strategic plan “We All Belong in Nature.”

Doing More with More!

NPC'S LATEST COST-SAVING PROGRAMS FOR BERKSHIRE NONPROFITS!

The topic of nonprofits **sharing resources** comes up often as a way to mitigate challenges nonprofits face in funding their missions. If nonprofits can reduce their costs and increase their efficiency, then they can maximize their impact. But someone has to organize these initiatives across our very broad region of the Berkshires, home to one of the highest concentrations of nonprofits in the Commonwealth. NPC is grateful for the folks who invest in our mission and proud to be tackling solutions to high healthcare costs, scarcity of back office supports, staffing challenges and more.

COMMONWEALTH BENEFITS COLLABORATIVE

(A new health insurance plan for nonprofits)

We learned from a convening of Berkshire nonprofit leaders that rising healthcare costs are a top concern. After years of research, NPC has partnered with Acrisure to offer accessible health insurance plans that offer flexibility, more predictability, and easy administration. Acrisure is an independent financial technology and insurance company with local representation in Lee (formerly Toole Insurance Company). The initiative includes 8 competitively-priced health insurance plans through Cigna's national PPO network.

The timing couldn't be better as eligibility for subsidies (including Enhanced Premium Tax Credits which lowered monthly health insurance bills for many people) are set to expire on December 31 unless Congress extends them.

SHARED SERVICES PROGRAM

The Nonprofit Center of the Berkshires is partnering with Third Sector New England (TSNE) to give Berkshire nonprofits access to their Shared Services program for small to mid-sized organizations. With a focus on providing equity-centered front and back-office services such as administrative, financial and operations, TSNE offers accounting, bookkeeping, payroll and HR. Their services are open to all local nonprofits.

DISCOUNTS FOR NPC MEMBERS VIA AFFILIATE RELATIONSHIPS

- The More than Giving Company provides **fractional staffing and virtual assistants** to help with everything from strategic planning to fundraising consulting to administrative support.
- CORE 401K Program, run by the Treasurer's Office of the Commonwealth, provides nonprofits with 100 or fewer employees with an easy-to-administer **retirement savings plan**
- GrantStation **offer NPC members access to their grant database for just \$139, a substantial saving off the regular price of \$699.**

“The Nonprofit Center of the Berkshires has been a steady, genuine force for good. As the founder of Embrace & Empower, Inc., I've witnessed firsthand how NPC uplifts small and emerging organizations with real tools—not just talk. What sets NPC apart is their heart. They meet you where you are and create a true sense of community among nonprofits. Their team's commitment to collaboration and authenticity continues to inspire my work and remind me that we grow stronger together.”
— Natale Monroe, Founder & Executive Director, Embrace & Empower, Inc.

