



FRONT PAGE

Capacity-Building News to Use for Wiregrass Organizations



HOT TOPIC **Tax Reform**

With the holiday season in full-swing, Wiregrass area nonprofits are busier than ever. Not only are you involved in year-end fundraising efforts, but your agencies also are responding to the needs of area citizens that always multiply during these colder, more difficult months. Probably the last thing on the mind of any nonprofit leader right now is “tax reform.” But there is a lot going on in DC that could warrant your attention.

As this newsletter goes to press, the House and Senate are working on bills to extend some tax legislation that may be important to your organization. If passed, some of these extensions will be permanent. But most will be up for re-consideration again next year. They include:

- *IRA Charitable Rollover that allows individuals age 70 ½ or older to donate up to \$100,000 from their IRA to an eligible charity without tax penalty.
- *An enhanced deduction for donating food to qualified agencies, potentially giving them access to an estimated \$6 billion pounds of additional food in the USA.
- *An enhanced deduction for individuals who relinquish development rights to land so that it can be used for conservation and preservation.
- *An extension to April 15th for donors to claim charitable deductions from the previous year—a benefit well understood by fundraising professionals.
- *A flat 1% excise tax for private foundations, versus the more complex tax calculation currently in use.

Tax proposals also are circulating to create AGI floors for donations to be eligible for tax deductions; ceilings on donations of cash and equities; new rules for distributions from donor-advised funds; and more.

As nonprofit leaders, you know all too well that anything impacting the discretionary dollars and giving capacity of donors can alter your revenue. And while the WF is not dependent upon donations, we are keenly interested in anything that impacts the financial resources of local nonprofits. So we plan to stay current on this issue throughout 2015. Once the holiday rush is over, we encourage you to contact your national organizations to get connected to timely, relevant information.

In the meantime, a Happy Holiday Season to you all!

GRANTS RECENTLY AWARDED **(October 2014)**

- IMPACT Alabama—Focus First
\$15,000
- Sight Savers America—Children’s Network
\$25,000
- Medical AIDS Outreach—Transportation
\$49,170
- SACAC—VOCA Match
\$63,075
- Girls Inc. of Dothan—Mgmt. Info System
\$12,148

\$106,000 in Micro-grants, discretionary and matching grants



GRANTEE HIGHLIGHT **Non-Profit Capacity Building**

Our “highlight” this quarter is on all 60+ of our area grantees.

When you responded to our 2012 grantee perception survey, you told us that WF was not doing enough to assist with capacity building. We heard you. For the last few months, WF has worked with a small group of local nonprofit leaders to identify the valuable professional development offered at national seminars and conferences that is just not accessible here at home. That is going to change. In early 2015, all WF grantees will be invited to an *Orientation Session* to learn more about an exciting new opportunity for nonprofit capacity building being developed right here. You will meet the TCC Group who will outline the services they have been contracted to provide. *“TCC Group’s mission is to develop strategies and programs that enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of nonprofit organizations, philanthropies, and corporate citizenship programs to achieve social impact.”*

WF will absorb all the costs, but the commitment to participate will come from you. The first “commitment” is a simple one---attend the orientation (with a Board member), listen, reflect, and consider. WF believes in the power and potential of our area nonprofits. We hope you will attend the Orientation, and if this experience is right for your organization, say “YES” to capacity building.