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Capacity-Building News to Use for Wiregrass Organizations



HOT TOPIC **Leading From The Board Room**

A dear friend of mine received "The Call" last week. An organization she was passionate about had asked her to join their Board. She was thrilled and honored. But then she began to ask herself exactly what it means to be a nonprofit Director. Great Question!

My friend's excitement over being named a director may have been a bit misguided. She could not wait to join the Board so that she could have a role in "running things." Her plan was to roll up her sleeves and fix all the problems she had been observing from the sidelines. But when she started researching best-practice for Board members, she gained a different perspective.

The main responsibilities of nonprofit Directors are generally accepted to be these:

- Determine the organizational mission and engage in strategic planning.
- Select, develop, and evaluate the CEO.
- Exercise financial responsibility through oversight of the immediate budgets and long-term fiscal planning.
- Determine the needed composition for the Board, identify new directors, and develop the skills and abilities of the Board.
- Adopt, review, endorse and support legal and ethical policies and practices.
- Promote the nonprofit's positive reputation.

A Board comprised of skilled, committed leaders who are eager to learn and work together absolutely can lead an organization to greatness. However, there is a difference between leading and micromanaging. That is why Boards are charged with finding the right CEO. The relationship between the Board and the CEO must be well defined, clearly understood, regularly assessed, and carefully guarded. A strong Board and a strong CEO will complement each other and move an organization forward.

My friend will be joining her Board, but with a new plan of how to apply her many strengths and talents to leadership as a Director.

GRANTS UPDATE

Our *Annual Report* for 2017 will be released soon. Copies will be on our website, as always. But as an early copy for our local grantees, below is a summary of the grant funds paid-out last year.

Program Grant Awards	\$ 576,869
Capital Grant Awards	\$1,206,650
Micro-Grants	\$ 88,040
Other Grants	\$ 252,580
Direct Charitables*	\$1,866,388
TOTAL	\$3,990,527

*These are programs that are supported directly by WF like CapCONNECT, Bright Key, and others.



CONSIDER MICRO-GRANTS

Area nonprofit managers work hard to develop their annual budgets, including applications to potential partners who may assist with big projects beyond normal resources.

But big applications require planning, dialogue, and time. And sometimes, the unexpected just happens after a budget has been created and approved. For these situations, a Micro-Grant application to WF may be an option to consider. Micro-Grants are intended to assist with unexpected, unplanned, or unbudgeted challenges and opportunities such as: unexpected equipment upgrades or facility repairs, new professional development opportunities, unforeseen program start-ups, et al. Organizations are limited to \$5,000 in Micro-Grant funding each year, and grants are not intended to be repetitive. Applying for a Micro-Grant is easy. Instructions are on our website and the application narrative is only a paragraph. Post-award reporting also is kept to a minimum. However, WF tries to use Micro-Grants as a key step in building relationships with a nonprofit.

Micro-Grants are competitive and approval is not automatic. As with all applications to WF, approval is determined by our Board. However, if you are considering a Micro-Grant and have any questions, please do not hesitate to give us a call.