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 - Facing Forward
 - Gary Comer Youth Center

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

This Could Be Your Year for Compass

When my children were young, one of our favorite books was *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day*. The book tells the story of a young boy going through a day when everything goes wrong. As a result, throughout the day, he keeps thinking that he should move to Australia. At the end of this tough day, Alexander's mother tells him kindly that some days are like this, even in Australia. I've always loved the message of the book, because everyone faces challenging times. Sometimes it's a day; sometimes it's longer. What I've seen in the nonprofit sector is that we sometimes find ourselves in the middle of a year we weren't expecting. It's not even necessarily all bad. It may just be a lot to navigate at once. We often hear about the excitement, worry and surprises that can be part of a typical year for nonprofits.

As a nonprofit myself, we understand the unique challenges of the sector. Nonprofits have to manage, and be prepared for, the good and the bad. We know when donors change funding priorities, for instance, nonprofits must adjust to new financial realities. At the same time, reporting to a board of five, 10 or 20 people brings its own challenges as Executive Directors adjust to changing board chairs and board members. And even in the nonprofit sector, the competitive landscape can change. Nonprofits have to be ready to adapt their strategies when the external environment moves around them.

One inclination when things heat up is to hunker down and pull in. Another option is to find the support you need to weather the storm or take advantage of new opportunities. No matter what kind of year a nonprofit is having, our goal is to make every one of your years easier, so you can more easily serve the people who need you.

I am always excited this time of year to announce that our Client Application has just opened (see details below). Because we know that strong boards, diversified funding, and considered strategies are the foundations for any nonprofit, we offer pro bono consulting projects in Board Development, Funding Strategies, and Strategic Alignment. In addition, we offer projects around Partnerships & Collaborations as well as Strategic Marketing projects. We will also pilot Strategic Technology projects in 2019-20.

Every year is a good year to consider a Compass project. Sometimes when all the stars have aligned, nonprofits come to Compass to explore new ideas or test out items on a wish list. In more challenging times, nonprofits turn to Compass for an

HANA Center
SAGA Innovations
Victory Gardens Theater

Greater Washington

Arc of Northern Virginia
Arlington Arts Center
Beacon House
Child & Family Network Centers
Community Lodgings
Dance Place
Echo
Encore Stage & Studio
The Fishing School
Girls on the Run of Montgomery County
Hero Dogs
Hope for Henry
House of Ruth
Housing Unlimited
Identity
Junior League of Washington
Kid Power
Rosemount Center
SEED SPOT
Tudor Place
Two Rivers Public Charter School

Greater Philadelphia

African-American Chamber of Commerce
Art-Reach
After School Activities Partnerships
Campus Philly
Commonwealth Youthchoirs

outside perspective on how to shore up operations and manage through the bumps. With Compass, nonprofit leaders don't have to wait for the perfect year to do that very important project. Because truthfully, in the nonprofit sector, there is rarely a perfect year.

Although still in the middle of an unexpected year myself, the spring makes me optimistic. Maybe it's the graduations around the corner that have me thinking about new beginnings. While things may not be better in Australia, they may be better next year. Give us a call to talk about how we can help your nonprofit. We're here for you. Next year could be a great year to work with Compass.

Warmest regards, and happy spring!

Suzanne Laporte
President, Compass

CLIENT APPLICATION FOR 2019-20 PROJECTS

Compass' Client Application for 2019-20 is now available for Chicago nonprofits. The deadline for applications is Friday, June 7 at 5:00 p.m. Clients will be selected in August and projects will begin in September.

Compass Clients must meet the following criteria:

- Have 501(c)(3) status
- Have a minimum of three full-time paid staff members and a minimum budget of \$750,000
- Provide services that specifically benefit the Chicago community
- Not promote a specific religious or political view
- Have an active board of directors

Compass offers pro bono consulting in the following service lines: Board Development, Funding Strategies, Strategic Alignment, Strategic Marketing, and Strategic Partnerships and Collaborations. See descriptions below.

If you have any questions about which project would be most useful for your organization or about the application process, visit our [website](#) or contact Natalie Tessler, Executive Director, (ntessler@compasschicago.org; 773-848-1706) to discuss.

Or plan to attend our Prospective Client Information session on May 3. See details below.

JOIN US FOR A PROSPECTIVE CLIENT INFO SESSION - MAY 3

If you are considering applying for a Compass pro bono consulting project, please join us on May 3 to hear about Compass' client application process. At this optional

Congreso de Latinos Unidos

Council of Spanish Speaking Organizations (Concilio)

Face to Face

Families Forward Philadelphia

Fred's Footsteps

Hopeworks 'N Camden

Philadelphia Education Fund

Philadelphia VIP

Senior Adult Activities Center of Montgomery County

Greater Washington Micro Clients

4615 Theatre Company

Abramson Scholarship Foundation

The Actors' Center

Aid Association for the Blind of DC

Alliance for New Music-Theatre

City Kids Wilderness Project

Common Good City Farm

Compass

Congressional Chorus

The Family Place

GALA

Horizons Greater Washington

Information Session, you'll find out:

- How the Compass program works
- What kind of project would be best for your organization
- How to apply for a Compass project and get selected

Date: Friday, May 3

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Location: Forefront, 208 South LaSalle, Suite 1540 Chicago, IL 60604

[**RSVP HERE**](#)

If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact Natalie Tessler, Executive Director, at ntessler@compasschicago.org or Melissa Lapica, Program Manager, at mlapica@compasschicago.org.

2019-20 SERVICE LINES

Nonprofits can choose from the following types of projects.

Board Development - Board Development projects aim to improve the effectiveness, engagement, and sustainability of nonprofit boards.

Funding Strategies - Compass can assess traditional revenue sources and revenue-generation methods, or support Earned Income Ventures.

Partnerships & Collaborations - Compass will help nonprofits assess the value and appropriateness of strategic partnerships or collaborations.

Strategic Alignment - Strategic Alignment projects make recommendations for operations based on alignment of mission, programs and resources.

Strategic Marketing - Compass will help the client create an overarching marketing strategy to take advantage of new opportunities.

WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT...

We couldn't put together our talented consulting teams without skilled volunteers. We couldn't recruit the amazing volunteers without the support of the local business school clubs and corporate partners.

Thank you to the following alumni clubs that help spread the word about Compass:

- Haas School of Business at the University of California at

Kiwanis Foundation of DC

Live It Learn It

McLean Project for the Arts

Shout Mouse Press

Synetic Theater

Theatre Prometheus

Washington Area Performing Arts Video Archive

WINNERS Lacrosse

Washington Literacy Center

The Welders

Greater Philadelphia Micro Clients

The Center For Returning Citizens

Frontline Dads

Our Closet

Peter's Place

Philadelphia Auto and Parole Inc. Reentry

Why Not Prosper

- Berkeley
- The University of Chicago Booth School of Business
- Columbia Business School
- Johnson Graduate School of Management at Cornell
- Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth
- Fuqua School of Business at Duke
- Georgetown University McDonough School of Business
- Harvard Business School
- Michigan Ross School of Business
- MIT Sloan School of Management
- University of North Carolina Kenan-Flagler Business School
- Northwestern Kellogg School of Management
- NYU Stern School of Business
- The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania
- Stanford Graduate School of Business
- The University of Texas McCombs School of Business
- University of Virginia Darden School of Business
- Yale School of Management

Thank you to these Corporate Partners for assistance recruiting volunteers:

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- Mayer Brown
- Mesirow Financial
- Oliver Wyman
- Point B Consulting
- PwC
- Sidley Austin
- William Blair
- Winston & Strawn
- ZS Associates

DONATE

This year, Compass is connecting over 90 business professionals with 11 nonprofit organizations through our pro bono consulting projects in Chicago. Like our nonprofit clients, Compass is a nonprofit that relies on contributions to ensure we can continue bringing business talent to the nonprofit sector to help individual nonprofits.

Every \$1 donated to Compass provides \$10 of services back to local nonprofits. Compass doesn't charge nonprofits for services, so we rely on funding from generous supporters. If you haven't donated to Compass during this 2018-19 project year, please [donate now](#).

DONATE NOW

