

### Strategic Guidance. Stronger Nonprofits.

In This Issue

**Client Application** 

Prospective Client
Information Session

**Service Lines** 

**Supporters** 

**Donate** 

Partner Business
Schools

Join Our List

Join Our Mailing List!

### 2018-19 Clients

### Greater Philadelphia Classic Clients

African-American
Chamber of Commerce

Art-Reach

After School Activities
Partnerships

Campus Philly

Commonwealth Youthchoirs

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

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**April 2019** 

### 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 ourself, 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 Strategy, and Strategic Alignment. In addition, we offer projects around Partnerships & Collaborations and Strategic Marketing.

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 outside perspective on how to shore up operations and manage

Senior Adult Activities Center of Montgomery County

### Greater Philadelphia Micro Clients

The Center for Returning Citizens (TCRC)

Frontline Dads, Inc.

Our Closet

Peter's Place

Philadelphia Auto and Parole Inc. Reentry

Why Not Prosper

## **Greater Washington Classic Clients**

Arc of Northern Virginia

Arlington Arts Center

Beacon House

Child & Family Network Centers (CFNC)

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

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

### **CLIENT APPLICATION FOR 2019-20 CLASSIC PROJECTS**

Compass' <u>Classic Client Application for 2019-20</u> is now available for Greater Philadelphia nonprofits. The deadline for applications is 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 Greater Philadelphia community
- Not promote a specific religious or political view
- Have an active board of directors

If you have any questions about which project would be most useful for your organization or about the application process, visit our <u>website</u> or contact Beth Dahle to discuss at <u>bdahle@compassphilly.org</u>.

Or, plan to attend our Prospective Client Information Session on May 1. See details below.

# JOIN US FOR A PROSPECTIVE CLIENT INFO SESSION - MAY 1

If you are considering applying for a Compass pro bono consulting project, please join us on May 1 to hear about Compass' client application process. At this optional Information Session for prospective clients, 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: Wednesday, May 1 Time: 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Location: Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce,

The Bellevue Philadelphia, 200 South Broad Street, Suite #700,

Philadelphia, PA 19102

Two Rivers Public Charter School

### Greater Washington Micro Clients

4615 Theatre Company

Abramson Scholarship Foundation

The Actors' Center

Aid Association for the Blind of the District of Columbia

Alliance for New Music-Theatre

City Kids Wilderness Project

Common Good City Farm

Compass

Congressional Chorus

The Family Place

GALA, Grupo de Artistas Latinoamericanos

> Horizons Greater Washington

Kiwanis Foundation of the District of Columbia

Live It Learn It

McLean Project for the Arts

**Shout Mouse Press** 

Synetic Theatre

Theatre Prometheus

Washington Inner City Lacrosse Foundation (WINNERS Lacrosse)

Washington Literacy Center

Washington Area Performing Arts Video Archive (WAPAVA)

The Welders

Chicago

Center for Conflict

### **RSVP HERE**

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 Strategy** - 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 are grateful to these Foundations and Corporate Sponsors:

Connelly Foundation
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The Alfred and Mary Douty Foundation
Hassel Foundation
MKM Foundation
Neubauer Family Foundation
The Philadelphia Foundation













**Morgan Lewis** 



Resolution

Enrich Chicago

Northwest Side Housing Center

Perspectives Charter Schools

The Renaissance Collaborative

St. Martin de Porres House of Hope

University of Chicago Crime Lab

Volunteers of America of Illinois

Youth Outreach Services

This year, Compass is connecting 148 business professionals with 20 nonprofit organizations through our pro bono consulting projects in Greater Philadelphia. 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** 

### **PARTNER BUSINESS SCHOOLS**

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. Thank you to the following clubs that help spread the word about Compass. We are grateful for their support:

Haas School of Business at the University of California at 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

### STAY IN TOUCH WITH COMPASS

Please join one or all of these online communities and share your reflections and experiences.

Flease "like" us on Facebook.

Follow us on Twitter.

in Compass has a company page on <u>LinkedIn</u> called "Compass Pro Bono."