FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Experiences We Share

It finally happened. I'm officially finished with high school! My youngest child graduated earlier this month. It was one of those moments that called for reflection and nostalgia. At the school's Senior Dinner, students, parents and teachers had the opportunity to speak at an open mic. Most of them thanked the people who had gotten the students to this point - teachers, parents, coaches, and school advisors. I took it all in, having heard it twice before when my older sons graduated. This time was different though. As I thought about leaving the school that had been part of our lives for 17 years, I didn't know quite how to say thank you or good-bye. Later in a quiet moment driving home, I wished I had thanked the important group of people who made the journey so special for me. Of course, the school had been wonderful, and the teachers along the way made all the difference for my children. However, I found myself thinking most fondly of the other parents who had been along for the ride. These are the people who watched my kids grow up, and whose children I watched grow up. They are the people I called to see if my instincts were on target or if I was way off base. They are the ones who shared the high moments and the low ones. Together we got our kids through school and will watch them launch in the fall when they leave for college. Like many people who come together for an intense time and purpose, I expect our connection to last.

At Compass, each June brings a similar moment. Compass teams that have worked closely together for many months finally finish their consulting project and disband. Volunteers who had their team on speed dial, or who have met weekly since October, or kept an email list called "My Compass Team" now find their work is complete. The nonprofit leaders we serve sometimes find it hardest to say goodbye to their Compass volunteers. After months of check-in meetings, debriefs, confidential conversations and basically a personal cheerleading squad at their side, Compass clients must also watch their team move on.

The good news is that despite all the goodbyes, Compass will be back in September with another cohort of clients and volunteers for the 2019-20 project year. Many of our "new" clients will be repeat clients coming back with a new challenge or opportunity. Many of our volunteers will be experienced volunteers coming back for another year. Some will be looking for a new type of project, while others will be looking to build on the expertise they've already gained. There will be new challenges to address, and new friends to make. Truthfully, it's never really goodbye when a Compass year ends.
Perhaps it's not actually goodbye when any significant experience ends, because the relationships and remarkable moments remain a part of us. Although I haven't been at this particular junction before, I'm assuming it's also not really goodbye when your youngest child graduates and you no longer have built-in opportunities to connect with other parents at Back-to-School night or the band concert. I'm pretty sure the experiences we shared as parents of babies, then school children, then teenagers, and now young adults have bound us together for the long haul. After all, we are still parents, and most likely there will be moments when we will still need to ask for advice or commiserate or celebrate with those who have known us and our children best of all.

I wish you a summer full of memories that last. See you in September.

Warmly,

Suzanne

COMPASS THANKS OUR VOLUNTEERS

Compass would like to thank our 2018-19 volunteers for their hard work and dedication this project year in support of the Greater Washington community. This year, 312 business professionals devoted thousands of pro bono hours resulting in over $4 million of strategy consulting services, helping to strengthen organizations that provide essential services to our community.

Compass is also excited to recognize the following "Super Volunteers" for serving on five or ten projects as a Project Leader, Deputy Project Leader, and/or team member:

Jennifer Blasko, 10 projects
Kaily Yee, 5 projects
Jordan Loeb, 5 projects
Carl Cohen, 5 projects
Char Beales, 5 projects

Here are some pictures from our great volunteers and clients at the 2018-2019 Volunteer Celebration:
The Sorkin Center at Compass has had a busy spring! On May 17th, we held the second annual Sorkin Summit in Washington, DC for over 80 board members from more than 20 nonprofit organizations. Latham & Watkins LLP graciously allowed us to use their conference space for the event.

After an engaging keynote presentation from Tom Monahan, former CEO of CEB, Summit attendees received in-depth trainings from nonprofit leaders and panels on the fundamentals of board governance, finance, and fundraising. Sorkin Center Director Jeffrey Franco also presented the future vision of the Sorkin Center and the new services it will provide to its nonprofit partners. The Sorkin Summit will continue to be an annual event.
annual signature training. New offerings and trainings will be added as the year progresses.

The Sorkin Center at Compass also welcomed its first members to a newly created Advisory Council. The Council is comprised of community leaders that provide guidance and support as we continue to build out this exciting new chapter of the Sorkin Center. We are so grateful to inaugural Council members for their Sorkin service. Stay tuned for updates!

10TH BOARD MATCHING COHORT

This spring, Compass completed the 10th cohort of On Board, Compass' board matching program for nonprofits. Through these cohorts, Compass has placed over 150 business professionals onto almost 100 nonprofit boards in the Washington DC area. In this past year's Fall and Spring Cohorts in Greater Washington, Compass matched 23 professionals with 19 nonprofit boards.

Compass launched On Board in Philadelphia for the first time this year placing seven executives from one company onto local nonprofit boards. For more information about On Board, please contact Nalini Rogers, Director of On Board, at nrogers@compassdc.org.

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INVESTMENT BANKING
We couldn't put together our talented consulting teams without skilled volunteers, and we couldn't recruit many of our 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 your continued 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

SUPPORT COMPASS, SUPPORT LOCAL NONPROFITS

This year, Compass is connecting over 312 business professionals with 46 nonprofit organizations through our pro bono consulting projects in Greater Washington. 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 consulting 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

STAY IN TOUCH WITH COMPASS

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