FROM THE PRESIDENT

Just Begin

I was looking forward to my middle son’s college graduation in May, which was truly a great moment for him. However, I received more than I expected from the occasion. The graduation speaker for the Music Department was a young woman who runs a nonprofit. She told a remarkable story of growing up as a musician, destined to perform with major orchestras her whole life. She and her family sacrificed a lot to make her dream a reality. In her twenties as a professional musician, she came to know an organization in Latin America that gives children the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, children who would never have the chance to do so otherwise. The program changes these children’s lives and their futures.

The graduation speaker was so impacted by this program, that she decided to start the program in the United States, instead of continuing her career as a professional musician. She told of calling a former teacher in tears, realizing that she had spent her whole life preparing for one outcome, but now wanted a different one. Her teacher told her that, in fact, her whole life had been preparing her for this outcome - to bring her love of music to children who needed it. She went back to Latin America for guidance on starting the program. She expected to find processes and advice and manuals to follow. Instead, she received the following instruction. "Just begin. Begin now, from here, today. Just begin."

I haven’t been able to get this story out of my mind in the four months that have passed. First, it is perhaps the best story to tell college graduates that I can imagine. But more than that, what an amazing directive. Just begin. How many times do we put off something, because it’s not the right time? Or we’re not ready. Or for another perfectly good reason. But in the end, what are we waiting for?

At Compass, this is the beginning. We selected our nonprofit clients three weeks ago. Our Project Leader and team member applications are open. We are moving ahead with orientations, trainings, info sessions, and all the activities that propel us so quickly through the fall.

Now we just need you. We need people to step up to lead these incredible projects that have been so carefully selected, and to
work with the amazing 23 nonprofits doing so much good in our community. We need volunteers to staff the teams, to bring their time and talent to these causes. I know that re-entry is hard after summer. However, this is also the best time to think about how you want to spend the next few months. Helping a nonprofit that needs your skills and experience is a pretty good option. So while you may see the Compass recruiting email and think "maybe some time...maybe next year," my advice to you is to just begin. Read the project descriptions and find the ones that stir something in you.

There is so much need in our community right now, and you have so much to offer. You can make a difference. Whether music, healthcare, education or something else that speaks to you, Compass is here. This is your year. Just begin.

Suzanne

**PROJECT LEADER APPLICATIONS DUE**
**SEPTEMBER 12 at 5:00 p.m.**

Compass is seeking MBA graduates from our Partner Business Schools to lead pro bono consulting projects for the amazing nonprofits listed below. If you want to have a personal impact on the broader community, Compass offers a substantive, intellectual experience addressing the unique challenges facing a particular nonprofit.

Project Leaders spend, on average, three to five hours per week on the Compass project. Project Leaders work closely with the nonprofit Executive Director and Board Chair, and manage a team of volunteer consultants to execute the work.

The Project Leader application is available here:

[Project Leader Application - Greater Washington](#)

**TEAM MEMBER APPLICATION - NOW OPEN**

Compass is also seeking volunteers to serve on teams. Team members spend, on average, two to three hours per week on the Compass project.

The Team Member application is available here:

[Team Member Application - Greater Washington](#)

**MEET THIS YEAR'S CLIENTS ON OCTOBER 4**

Join us for Compass' annual Project Launch!

**Thursday, October 4**
6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
National Association of Home Builders

Prospective volunteers are invited to meet this year's clients and Project Leaders. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP via Eventbrite [here](#).
COMPASS WELCOMES OUR 2018-19 CLIENTS

The short descriptions that follow hardly do justice to the work of these amazing nonprofits. For more details about each client and the specific project they have requested, click here: Client Roster, and join us at Compass' Project Launch on October 4 to meet the clients in person.

**Arc of Northern Virginia**
Falls Church, VA
www.thearcofnova.org
The Arc of Northern Virginia promotes the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and supports their full inclusion and participation in the community. Funding Strategy

**Arlington Arts Center**
Arlington, VA
www.arlingtonartscenter.org
AAC is a contemporary visual arts center dedicated to presenting and supporting new work by regional artists to increase awareness, appreciation, and involvement in the visual arts. Strategic Alignment

**Audubon Naturalist Society**
Chevy Chase, MD
www.anshome.org
Audubon Naturalist Society inspires residents of the D.C. area to appreciate, understand, and protect their natural environment through outdoor experiences, education, and advocacy. Strategic Alignment

**Beacon House**
Washington, D.C.
www.beaconhousedc.org
Beacon House provides children with a safe, nurturing, and life expanding community to increase their academic achievement, discover their talents, and grow into healthy adults. Strategic Alignment

**Child & Family Network Centers**
Alexandria, VA
www.cfnc-online.org
CFNC's mission is to provide caring, high-quality, free early education and related services to at-risk children and to prepare them for success in school and in life. Strategic Marketing

**Community Lodgings**
Alexandria, VA
www.communitylodgings.org
Community Lodgings' mission is to lift families from homelessness and instability to independence and self-sufficiency. Strategic Alignment

**Dance Place**
Washington, D.C.
www.danceplace.org
Dance Place works to build a community of artists, audiences
and students with high quality performances, commissions, training and educational programs for all ages. **Strategic Alignment**

**Easterseals DC MD VA**
Silver Spring, MD  
[www.eseal.org](http://www.eseal.org)
Easterseals works to ensure that all people with disabilities or special needs have equal opportunities to live, learn, work and play in their communities. **Strategic Alignment**

**ECHO**
Leesburg, VA  
[www.echoworks.org](http://www.echoworks.org)
ECHO seeks to empower individuals with disabilities to achieve their optimal level of personal, social and economic success. **Strategic Alignment**

**Encore Stage & Studio**
Arlington, VA  
[www.encorestageva.org](http://www.encorestageva.org)
Encore Stage & Studio introduces young people to theatre to build teamwork, leadership, creativity, literacy, problem-solving skills and self-confidence. **Board Development**

**The Fishing School**
Washington, D.C.  
[www.fishingschool.org](http://www.fishingschool.org)
The Fishing School prepares elementary and middle school youth for success in high school and life by improving their academic performance and life skills. **Funding Strategy**

**Girls of the Run of Montgomery County**
Rockville, MD  
[www.girlsontherunofmoco.org](http://www.girlsontherunofmoco.org)
Girls on the Run of Montgomery County educates and prepares young girls for a lifetime of self-respect and healthy living. **Funding Strategy**

**Hero Dogs**
Brookeville, MD  
[www.hero-dogs.org](http://www.hero-dogs.org)
Hero Dogs improves quality of life for our nation's veterans by raising, training, and placing service dogs and other highly skilled canines. **Strategic Marketing**

**Hope for Henry**
Washington, D.C.  
[www.hopeforhenry.org](http://www.hopeforhenry.org)
Hope for Henry is reinventing how hospitals care for seriously ill children and their families through innovative programs that entertain, reduce stress, and empower children. **Strategic Marketing**

**House of Ruth**
Washington, DC  
[www.houseofruth.org](http://www.houseofruth.org)
House of Ruth provides women, children, and families suffering from traumatic abuse with resources to build safe, stable lives and achieve their highest potential. **Strategic Planning**
**Housing Unlimited**  
Silver Spring, MD  
[www.housingunlimited.org](http://www.housingunlimited.org)  
Housing Unlimited provides affordable housing for people in mental health recovery who are able to live independently in Montgomery County, MD. **Strategic Alignment**

**Identity**  
Gaithersburg, MD  
[www.identity-youth.org](http://www.identity-youth.org)  
Identity facilitates the successful transition of Latino youth into adulthood by providing skills, guidance, positive role models, and a strong sense of community. **Board Development**

**Junior League of Washington**  
Washington, D.C.  
[www.jlw.org](http://www.jlw.org)  
Junior League of Washington is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving the community. **Strategic Marketing**

**Kid Power**  
Washington, D.C.  
[www.kidpowerdc.org](http://www.kidpowerdc.org)  
Kid Power inspires youth leadership by promoting academic advancement, physical and emotional wellness, and positive civic engagement in underserved communities. **Funding Strategy**

**Rosemount Center**  
Washington, D.C.  
[www.rosemountcenter.com](http://www.rosemountcenter.com)  
Rosemount Center prepares children and families for their future by providing early childhood education and family support programs in a bilingual and multicultural setting. **Funding Strategy**

**SEED SPOT**  
Washington, D.C.  
[www.seedspot.org](http://www.seedspot.org)  
SEED SPOT strives to educate, accelerate, and invest in impact-driven entrepreneurs. **Funding Strategy**

**Tudor Place**  
Washington, D.C.  
[www.tudorplace.org](http://www.tudorplace.org)  
Tudor Place aims to bring people closer to their own stories and the American story by connecting them to history, culture, and domestic life in the nation's capital. **Board Development**

**Two Rivers Public Charter School**  
Washington, D.C.  
[www.tworiverspcs.org](http://www.tworiverspcs.org)  
Two Rivers nurtures a diverse group of students to become lifelong, active participants in their own education and become responsible and compassionate members of society. **Strategic Planning**
LOOKING FOR A BOARD OR BOARD MEMBER?

Applications for the fall cohort of the Compass On Board program will be available on October 1. The On Board program strengthens nonprofit boards by matching business professionals with nonprofits seeking qualified board members, and then training the new board members and the boards of the nonprofits they join. Since the program’s inception in 2014, Compass has placed 118 candidates onto the boards of 82 nonprofits with 24 nonprofit taking more than one candidate.

If you are interested in learning more about participating in the program as either a nonprofit or a board candidate, contact Nalini Rogers, Director of On Board at nrogers@compassdc.org or (202) 450-4312.

VISIT THE NEW COMPASS WEBSITE

We’re excited to re-launch our website. Visit our new site at compassprobono.org.

For specific Greater Washington information, go to: compassprobono.org/washington-dc

INVEST IN YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

Like our clients, Compass is a nonprofit that relies on contributions to ensure we can continue bringing talented business professionals to the nonprofit sector to help individual nonprofits.

Every $1 donated to Compass translates to $9 of consulting services to local nonprofits. Donations from individuals, companies, and foundations make it possible for Compass to bring business professionals into the local nonprofit sector each year. You can donate to Compass to support and expand our impact - and yours - by clicking the Donate Now button below.

DONATE NOW

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- IBM
- Kaiser Associates
- KippsDeSanto
- Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP
- PwC
- Sidley Austin LLP
- World Bank

WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT

Compass' nonprofit clients benefit from the amazing volunteers who give their time, expertise and intellectual energy. We couldn't recruit these amazing volunteers without the support of the local business schools clubs. A huge thank you to the Partner MBA Clubs that help spread the word about Compass.

- Haas School of Business at UC 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
- Northwestern Kellogg School of Management
- NYU Stern School of Business
- The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania
- Stanford Graduate School of Business
- UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School
STAY IN TOUCH WITH COMPASS

Please join one or all of our online communities:

Facebook: "Like" us on Facebook.

Twitter: Follow us @Compassprobono.

LinkedIn: Join the Compass Volunteer Network