FROM THE PRESIDENT

What Will Your Story Be?

On March 13 on my way to pick up my youngest from spring break, I received a text telling me that his college had cancelled in-person classes due to a fast-spreading virus, COVID-19. Instead of returning to campus, he moved home. At the same time, my oldest son, a teacher in DC, found himself teaching virtually from his apartment. After a few lonely weeks, he moved home as well. Unexpectedly, I went from being an empty nester to having a full house again. What followed were five months of the three of us together watching a crisis unfold in the world around us.

There have been some unforgettable moments like the quiet in Washington, DC during the first weeks of the stay-at-home order. DC is many things, but usually it's not quiet. I heard that people in Seattle could see mountains they couldn't normally see. That image stuck with me as I realized the significant impact of all of us slowing down. I also remember tough moments like opening The New York Times one day to find the front page filled with the names of people who had died from COVID-19. I cried when I watched the footage of George Floyd's death, and felt deeply impacted by John Lewis' last words that were published the day after his funeral.

During this time, I've been reminded how important our work is at Compass. I've been in touch with nonprofit leaders who had to change their program delivery, and others who had to make tough decisions about staffing and sustainability. At the same time, I've seen an incredible outpouring from individuals who want to help. We completed more than 121 On Demand projects between March and August! Amazingly, we didn't even offer On Demand projects six months ago.

Our Classic Consulting Projects are about to kick off and offer another opportunity for individuals to give back. We've excited about our nonprofit clients for 2020-21 (see list below). An unprecedented number of nonprofits applied for assistance - 115 nonprofits across Compass' three cities - so we know our consulting work is needed.

Please consider applying to be a Project Leader or a team member. A Compass project will help nonprofits rethink their operations, make critical decisions during this crisis, deepen their impact, strengthen their boards, and diversify funding - all
at a time when nonprofits are worried about surviving and yet desperately needed by so many. This is a great moment to engage in your community.

I don’t know what the next six months will bring. I’m sure there will be occasional moments of inspiration along with moments of tears as we continue to find our way through this challenging time. I hope you find what you need to get through it. I also hope you’ll consider being a part of the Compass community. We will all have our stories when this ends. Let Compass be part of yours. Please join us.

With my very best wishes,

Suzanne

PROJECT LEADER AND TEAM MEMBER APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

Compass invites business professionals to lead or serve on strategy consulting projects for our 2020-21 nonprofit clients.

PROJECT LEADERS

- MBA, similar advanced degree, and/or significant management consulting experience required
- Able to commit 3-5 hours/week from late September 2020 - May 2021 leading a team of seven volunteers

Apply by Monday, September 14, at 5:00 p.m.

TEAM MEMBERS

- MBAs, consultants, attorneys, and other business professionals with expertise in a wide variety of functional areas and subject matter
- Able to commit approximately 2-3 hours/week from October 2020 - May 2021 on a consulting project

Apply by Friday, October 9, at 5:00 p.m.

COMPASS WELCOMES OUR 2020-21 CLIENTS

Compass carefully selects clients each year for Classic Projects. This year, we reached out more intentionally and broadly to colleagues, contacts and others in the sector, in the region, and in the Black and Brown communities, to offer the opportunity to apply for a project. We are excited at this well-rounded cohort of organizations that are strengthening our community.

Here are short descriptions of our new clients that hardly do justice to their work. For more details about each client and the specific project they have requested, click here.

ADVENTURE THEATRE MTC
Glen Echo, MD | www.adventuretheatre-mtc.org

Educates and inspires generations of theater artists and
Environmental Education
Urban Affairs Coalition
YWCA Tri-County Area
Chicago Clients
Albany Park Community Center
Chicago Lights
Claretian Associates
Compass to Care
Crushers Club
Dare2tri
Lawyers’ Committee for Better Housing
Little City Foundation
Merit School of Music
North Side Housing and Supportive Services
Reading in Motion
Recipe for Change
Red Clay Dance Company
Share our Spare
Spark Program Chicago
Tech Corps

Buddies with theatrical experiences.

BEST BUDDIES INTERNATIONAL: CAPITAL REGION
Falls Church, VA | www.bestbuddies.org/capitalregion
Empowers people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to secure jobs, live independently, and self-advocate.

BRIDGES TO INDEPENDENCE
Arlington, VA | www.bridges2.org
Leads individuals and families out of homelessness and into stable, independent futures.

COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS
Washington, DC | www.dccfh.org
Helps homeless and at-risk individuals and families transition to self-sufficiency.

COMMUNITY BRIDGES
Silver Spring, MD | www.communitybridges-md.org
Empowers girls from diverse backgrounds to become exceptional students, leaders and healthy young women.

DC JAZZ FESTIVAL
Washington, DC | www.dcjazzfest.org
Presents programs that advance music education and unify diverse communities.

DC RAPE CRISIS CENTER
Washington, DC | www.dcrcc.org
Provides survivor-centered advocacy through therapeutic services, education, and public policy initiatives.

EDU-FUTURO
Empowers immigrants and underserved youth and families through mentorship, education, and parent engagement.

GIRLS ON THE RUN - DC, MONTGOMERY COUNTY & NORTHERN VIRGINIA
Rockville, MD | www.girlsontherun.org
Inspires girls to be joyful, healthy, and confident.

GOOD SHEPHERD HOUSING
Alexandria, VA | www.goodhousing.org
Aims to reduce homelessness, increase community support, and promote self-sufficiency.

INSTITUTE FOR MARKET TRANSFORMATION
Washington, DC | www.imt.org
Aims to decarbonize the economy by catalyzing demand for
energy-efficient buildings.

**JUBILEE JOBS**  
Washington, DC | [www.jubileejobs.org](http://www.jubileejobs.org)

Provides job placement for people eager to work who had difficulty navigating the employment process.

**LIFE PIECES TO MASTERPIECES**  
Washington, DC | [www.lifepieces.org](http://www.lifepieces.org)

Uses artistic expression to unlock potential and prepare African American boys and young men to transform their lives and community.

**MI CASA**  
Washington, DC | [www.micasa-inc.org](http://www.micasa-inc.org)

Provides affordable housing to low- and moderate-income households to promote healthy, thriving and diverse neighborhoods.

**NATIONAL CHILD RESEARCH CENTER**  
Washington, DC | [www.ncrcpreschool.org](http://www.ncrcpreschool.org)

Committed to the inclusion of preschool education for children with special needs.

**POTOMAC RIVERKEEPER NETWORK**  
Washington, DC | [www.potomacriverkeepernetwork.org](http://www.potomacriverkeepernetwork.org)

Focus on stopping pollution to enhance safe drinking water, protect river habitats, and enhance public enjoyment.

**SAFESPOT OF FAIRFAX**  
Fairfax, VA | [www.safespotfairfax.org](http://www.safespotfairfax.org)

Provides a culturally sensitive environment for the safety and well-being of child victims of abuse. Facilitates intervention, investigation, prosecution, and treatment.

**SEEC**  
Silver Spring, MD | [www.seeconline.org](http://www.seeconline.org)

Helps people with intellectual and developmental disabilities direct their lives with dignity, choice, and responsibility.

**SCHOOLTALK**  
Washington, DC | [www.schooltalkdc.org](http://www.schooltalkdc.org)

Serves youth with disabilities by supporting school communities, including professional development and assistance for school staff.

**SHAW COMMUNITY CENTER**  
Washington, DC | [www.shawcommunity.org](http://www.shawcommunity.org)

Aims to enhance the lives of and expand opportunities for residents in the Shaw neighborhood.
TOGETHER WE BAKE
Alexandria, VA | www.togetherwebake.org

Provides workforce training to help women gain confidence, skills, and experience to find employment.

WORDS BEATS & LIFE
Washington, DC | www.wblinc.org

Advocates for the power of Hip-Hop culture through arts education, creative employment, cultural diplomacy, and by centering marginalized voices.

SORKIN CENTER AT COMPASS

Compass Connect Conversations

Executive Directors and Nonprofit Board Members, please join us for this upcoming Compass Connect conversation:

Allyship: Become a Bridge-Building Ally in Promoting Social Justice
Friday, October 2
10:00 - 11:30 a.m. ET
Speaker: Whitney Parnell, CEO/Founder, Service Never Sleeps (SNS)
REGISTER HERE

What does it mean to be effective allies in our work for racial equity? Guest speaker Whitney Parnell will lead an intensive, fast-paced presentation designed to explore how to use individual and collective areas of privilege to advance racial justice. Using SNS' CLAIM framework (Care, Learn, Act, Influence, Maintain), this presentation will explore what it means to adopt an Allyship lifestyle.

Broadening Support in the Sector

As Compass has responded to the changing needs of society over the past several months, our Sorkin Center offered the agility to help in numerous ways. We've been bringing together Executive Directors and Board Members for Compass Connect Conversations on important and timely topics. We are also building cohorts of EDs with shared needs and experiences, to grow and nurture networks among nonprofits serving similar constituents. Our first cohort launched this summer for leaders of organizations that serve children and youth. Twenty-four nonprofit leaders are meeting every two weeks for six months to share information and build community. Look for more conversations and cohorts in the future!
Compass' partner iRelaunch is hosting a VIRTUAL Return to Work Conference with tips on joining the workforce. For more information or to sign up, click on the conference page here. iRelaunch helps professionals who are returning from a career break return to work. To receive news on programs and job opportunities, join the mailing list, visit www.irelaunch.com.

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- NYU Stern School of Business
- The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania
- Stanford Graduate School of Business
- UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School
- University of Texas McCombs School of Business
- University of Virginia Darden School of Business
- Yale School of Management

ABOUT US

Compass believes nonprofits are the backbone of strong and vibrant communities and knows many are overstretched and under-resourced. Few can afford top-tier consulting firms. Compass has dedicated staffs in Chicago, Greater Philadelphia, and Greater Washington, and has been providing pro bono professional consulting services to nonprofit organizations since 2001. We have connected more than 3,500 business professionals with nonprofits to complete 875 projects, providing $91+ million in pro bono consulting services. To date, Compass has also placed 163 professionals onto 102 nonprofit boards. For more information, check us out at www.compassprobono.org.

STAY IN TOUCH WITH COMPASS

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

Please "like" us on Facebook and watch for fun announcements, pictures and videos on our page.

Follow us on Twitter, where we tweet messages about our clients and their programs, trends in the nonprofit sector, and other relevant news.

Join the Compass Volunteer Network on LinkedIn called "Compass Pro Bono."