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...
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

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

**PROJECT LEADERS**

- Availability to spend 3-5 hours/week from October to May 2021 leading a team of 9 volunteers on a consulting project for a local nonprofit
- 3-5+ years of consulting/project management experience preferred
- MBA preferred but not required

**TEAM MEMBERS**

- Availability to spend 2-3 hours/week from November to May 2021 on a consulting project for a local nonprofit
- Professionals at all stages of career with expertise in consulting, strategy, law, finance, marketing, technology, data analytics, nonprofit management, organizational design, communications/PR, entrepreneurship, and more

We are excited to share the short descriptions of our new clients with you. These descriptions 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.

**Albany Park Community Center**
Chicago, IL | [https://www.apccchgo.org](https://www.apccchgo.org)

Empowers immigrant children and families to succeed by providing education services ranging from preschool to small business support.

**Chicago Lights**
Chicago, IL | [https://chicagolights.org](https://chicagolights.org)
Builds futures for youth and adults through mentoring, supportive services, academic enrichment, career development, and arts education.

**Claretian Associates**
Chicago, IL | [https://www.claretianassociates.org](https://www.claretianassociates.org)

Provides affordable housing and services that benefit South Chicago families, including the Safe Passage Program so children can get to and from school.

**Compass to Care**
Chicago, IL | [https://www.compasstocare.org](https://www.compasstocare.org)

Provides free travel to ensure children whose families are in need of financial assistance can access life-saving cancer treatment.

** Crushers Club**
Chicago, IL | [https://www.crushersclub.org](https://www.crushersclub.org)

As an alternative to gangs, provides boys and young men support using boxing, music and peer mentoring techniques, along with paid jobs.

**Dare2tri**
Chicago, IL | [https://dare2tri.org](https://dare2tri.org)

Builds confidence, community, health and wellness for individuals with physical disabilities, including injured veterans.

**Lawyers' Committee for Better Housing**
Chicago, IL | [https://lcbh.org](https://lcbh.org)

Provides free legal services and advocates for the rights of renters to improve housing stability for lower income renters.

**Little City Foundation**
Palatine, IL | [https://littlecity.org](https://littlecity.org)

Provides programs for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

**Merit School of Music**
Chicago, IL | [https://meritmusic.org](https://meritmusic.org)

Works to transform youths by removing barriers to high-quality music education, including tuition-free lessons for those who cannot afford them.

**North Side Housing and Supportive Services**
Chicago, IL | [https://www.northsidehousing.org](https://www.northsidehousing.org)

Aims to end homelessness by providing housing and supportive services through temporary and permanent housing, healthcare, mental health services and meals.

**Reading in Motion**
Chicago, IL | [https://readinginmotion.org](https://readinginmotion.org)
Helps Pre-K through first grade students read at or above grade level, focusing on learners in greater need.

**Recipe for Change**  
Winnetka, IL | [https://recipeforchangeproject.org](https://recipeforchangeproject.org)

Provides culinary instruction, job skills, and fine arts enrichment to detainees in the Cook County Jail to improve chances of employment upon reentry to society.

**Red Clay Dance Company**  
Chicago, IL | [https://redclaydance.com](https://redclaydance.com)

Awakens change through creating, performing and teaching dances of the African Diaspora to transform cultural and socio-economic inequities.

**Share our Spare**  
Chicago, IL | [https://shareourspare.org](https://shareourspare.org)

Collects and distributes new and gently used baby items to ensure children ages 0-5 have the essentials to thrive.

**Spark Program Chicago**  
Chicago, IL | [https://sparkprogram.org/](https://sparkprogram.org/)

Engages communities, companies, and volunteer mentors to provide career exploration and self-discovery for middle school students.

**Tech Corps**  
Chicago, IL | [http://techcorps.org](http://techcorps.org)

Educates kids by bringing computer science programming to underserved schools to increase exposure to technology careers.

---

**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](https://register.com)

What does it mean to be effective allies in our work for racial equity? Guest speaker [Whitney Parnell](https://www.whitneyparnell.com) 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!

ANNOUNCEMENT

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.

WE COULDN’T DO IT WITHOUT

We appreciate volunteer recruiting support from the following corporations:

Accenture
A.T. Kearney
Bain & Company
Boston Consulting Group
Business Talent Group
Capital One
Deloitte
Ex-Consultants Agency
Holland & Knight
Korn Ferry
Liberty Advisory Group
Mayer Brown
Mesirow Financial
Point B Consulting
PwC
Savills
Sidley Austin
West Monroe Partners
William Blair
Thank you to our Partner MBA Clubs:

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
University of Texas McCombs 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 nonprofits sector, and other relevant news.

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