KCR

Monthly Bulletin – June 2015

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Skills for Success Employment Program

Start date: Monday, June 22nd

Do you self-identify as having a disability, permanent injury, or chronic health issue that is a barrier to employment?

Are you:
- Unemployed and looking for work?
- Between the ages of 19 and 64 years of age?
- Legally entitled to work in Canada?
- Have not been on EI or Medical EI in the last 3 years?
- Have not been on Maternity EI in the last 5 years?

WE CAN HELP!

Program Includes:
- 3 weeks of classroom training in job search preparation
- Short term certificate training ie: First Aid, Food Safe, WHMIS
- Up to 13 weeks of paid work experience placement or wage subsidy

For more information please contact:
Christine Hawkins, Manager, Employment Services
250.763.8008 ext 134, ac.rck@enitsirhc
Kelowna Community Resources, #120-1735 Dolphin Ave, Kelowna, BC V1Y 8A6

Funded by the Government of Canada's Opportunities Fund Program

-Source: Christine Hawkins, Manager, Employment Services, KCR, May 2015

Adoption – Summer Newsletter

Here is our exciting Summer Newsletter for you to read and enjoy.

Updates on Haiti, South Africa, online adoption profiles, adoption fees and more!

[Download the Adoption Summer 2015 Newsletter] today.

-Source: Jennifer Wall, Manager, Adoption Services, KCR, May 2015

Urban Older Worker Program – New Session

Next Intake Date: Monday, July 20th
Contact: Christine Hawkins, 250.763.8008 ext 134 or christine@kcr.ca

The primary objective of the Grey Power Employment Program is to assist individuals who are 55 years of age and over with finding employment. Job Options BC is a Job Supports Initiative for unemployed individuals and is funded through the Canada/BC Labour Market Agreement.

Eligibility Criteria
In order to be eligible for the Grey Power Job Options Urban Older Workers Program, Participants will be individuals who are 55 years of age or over, and who are:

- Unemployed and seeking employment, must
- Have not established Employment Insurance in the last 3 years or a
- Maternity/Parental claim in the last 5 years
- Reside in the Okanagan
- Legally entitled to work in Canada
- Not be a student
- Not participating in another LMA funded program

-Source: Christine Hawkins, Manger, Employment Services, KCR, June 2015

KCR's Mailing List

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-Source: Kelsey Chmilar, IT Coordinator, KCR, June 2014

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Awards

- PRIME MINISTER'S VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Prime Minister's Volunteer Awards

Thank you for your interest in the Prime Minister's Volunteer Awards. The new call for nominations is now open. If you know an individual, a business or a forward thinking not-for-profit organization that makes a difference in their community and deserves a Prime Minister's Volunteer Award, you can nominate them until June 30, 2015.

On March 18, 2015, 17 Prime Minister's Volunteer Awards recipients were honoured by the Prime Minister at a ceremony held in Toronto. Meet the recipients of the Prime Minister's Volunteer Awards.

During their visit to Toronto, these exceptional award recipients participated in a session in which they shared their achievements and the exemplary practices in community leadership that have enabled them to contribute to their communities and succeed.

The best solutions to the challenges facing Canada's communities are often found locally. For this reason, the Prime Minister announced the creation of the Prime Minister's Volunteer Awards to recognize the enormous contribution volunteers make to Canada. The Government of Canada also expressed its interest in looking to innovative charities and forward-thinking private-sector companies to partner on new approaches to many social challenges.

The Prime Minister's Volunteer Awards recognize the enormous contributions volunteers, innovative not-for-profit organizations and forward-thinking businesses make to their communities through voluntary contributions and innovative ideas and approaches to address social challenges. Volunteering, charitable donations and philanthropy all play a key role in helping communities to address these challenges, and these prestigious awards are an opportunity to recognize the tremendous contributions of many Canadians who work together to improve the well-being of families and communities across the country.

The Prime Minister's Volunteer Awards program consists of 17 awards in total, two at the national level and 15 at the regional level. The awards highlight best practices in community leadership and encourage partnerships across sectors. The goal of the awards is to inspire Canadians from all walks of life to find new ways of making a difference in their communities.

Nominate Today! *-Source: Imagine Canada, Newsletter, 26 May 2015*

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- THE GREAT CANADIAN GIVING CHALLENGE
- NEW RESOURCE – TAX BENEFITS FOR FAMILIES
- GOVERNMENT'S TFSA ANALYSIS DOES A NUMBER ON CANADIANS
- LORNE FRASER EDUCATIONAL FUND
- GRANTS: CITY OF KELOWNA STRONG NEIGHBOURHOODS

Information Sessions for the New Horizons for Seniors Program are Available In-person & via Teleconference

The NEW HORIZONS FOR SENIORS PROGRAM offers grants of up to $25,000 for projects led or inspired by seniors that make a difference in communities and in the lives of others.

Information Session locations and dates can be found below. We highly recommend that those individuals in your organization who will be completing this year's application attend one of these sessions.

To register for an IN PERSON SESSION please email or call 1.866.717.5842 and provide the following information:

Information Session Location & Date:
Your Name:
Your Organization Name:
Your Phone Number:
Your Email:
Requested Number of Seats*:
*Seating may be limited

To register for a TELECONFERENCE SESSION please email or call 1.866.717.5842 and provide the following information:

Teleconference Date:
Your Name:
Your Organization Name:
Your Phone Number:
Your Email:

TELECONFERENCE SESSION DETAILS

Date: June 9, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Conference Call Number: 1.877.413.4792
Conference Call ID Number: 1487716#

Date: June 10, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Conference Call Number: 1.877.413.4792
Conference Call ID Number: 1487716#

Date: June 23, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Conference Call Number: 1.877.413.4792
Conference Call ID Number: 1487716#

IN-PERSON SESSION DETAILS

Mackenzie
Program information available by drop-in only, no registration necessary
Date/time: Tuesdays 1:15 pm – 4:30pm; Wednesdays 8:30 am – 12:00 pm
Address: Service Canada 64 Centennial Dr.

Trail
Date: June 9, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Address: Service Canada Centre, 101-1101 Dewdney Ave.

Merritt
Date: June 9, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Address: Merritt Civic Centre Rm#2 1950 Mamette Ave.

Prince George
Date: June 9, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Address: Service Canada Centre, 1363 – 4th Ave

Vanderhoof
Date: June 9, 9:00 am – 11:00 am
Address: WorkBC – Progressive Employment Services Ltd, 139 – 1st St. E.

Penticton
Date: June 10, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Address: Service Canada Centre, 101-386 Ellis Street

Nelson
Date: June 10, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Address: Service Canada Centre, Chahko Mika Mall, 1125 Lakeside Dr.

Kelowna
Date: June 11, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Address: Service Canada Centre, Room 100 – 471 Queensway Ave

Grand Forks
Date: June 11, 1:30 pm – 3:30pm
Address: Community Futures Development Corporation of Boundary Area, 1647 Central Ave.

Castlegar
Date: June 11, 9:30 am – 11:30 am
Address: Kootenay Career Development, Suite B – 1020 Columbia Ave.

100 Mile House

Program information available by drop-in only, no registration necessary
Date: June 15, 9:30 am – 3:30 pm
Address: ServiceBC 300 HWY 97S

Vernon
Date: June 16, 9:00 am – 11:00 am OR 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Address: Service Canada Centre, 3202 – 31st Street

Salmon Arm
Date: June 17, 9:30 am – 11:30 am
Address: Service Canada Centre, 191 Shuswap St NW

Prince Rupert
Date: June 18, 9:00 am – 11:00 am
Address: Service Canada, 100-215 – 3rd St.

Burns Lake
Program information available by drop-in only
Date: June 18, 9:30 am – 4:00 pm(Closed 12:30 – 1:45)

-Source: Government of Canada, Newsletter, 29 May 2015

CAIF Capacity Building/Technical Assistance Grants: Letters of Inquiry due June 12

The Canadian Alternative Investment Foundation (CAIF) is pleased to announce their second Call for Letters of Inquiry in 2015.

CAIF builds on CAIC's (Canadian Alternative Investment Cooperative's) three decades of experience as a social lender. We recognize that it takes more than capital to strengthen the charitable sector. There is also a need for expertise and capacity building grants to ensure that capital is used for the maximum benefit of the borrower.

Deadline for Submission: Friday, June 12th, 2015.

The foundation will provide grants in the $5,000 to $15,000 range in three granting streams:

Stream I: Project Feasibility Study
This stream provides a preliminary level of support meant to help charitable organizations scope out need and do some analysis around it to better understand the issues and potential solutions.

Read More

-Source: Canadian CED Network, Newsletter, 21 May 2015

Over $200,000 to be won in the 2015 Social EnterPrize Awards

Created by the Trico Charitable Foundation in 2011, the biennial Social EnterPrize Awards celebrate Canadian social enterprises that demonstrate best practices, impact and innovation. Social enterprises are organizations, for-profit or not-for-profit, that blend financial success and social impact by using markets to solve social problems.

“The Social EnterPrize celebrates Canada’s best and brightest in what may well be the most powerful idea of our time, that we can use markets to directly solve the biggest social problems facing the world,” said Dan Overall, Director of Collaboration and Innovation at the Trico Charitable Foundation.

The 2015 edition of the Social EnterPrize will honour four of Canada’s leading social enterprises. Each of the recipients will receive:

- $25,000 prize money
- $5,000 in consulting services from the Business Development Bank of Canada
- A video profile
- In-depth profile in a case-study done by a Canadian post-secondary institution
- Travel, accommodation and registration for Canada’s leading social finance gathering, the Social Finance Forum, in Toronto November 12-13, 2015
- Participation in a 2015 Social Enterprize recipients’ dinner with four of Canada’s leading social finance experts (the private dinner will be held at the Social Finance Forum, in Toronto November 12-13, 2015).

The awards will be formally presented during a luncheon on November 12, 2015 at the Social Finance Forum in Toronto.

Read More

-Source: Canadian CED Network, Newsletter, 21 May 2015

It’s Official. CanadaHelps has Reduced their Fees

Effective as of 10:00am Monday, May 18, 2015, CanadaHelps reduced its rate for charity partners with a Full Fundraising Account* from 3.9% to 3.5%!

This fee reduction applies to all one-time and monthly donations made through your Custom Donate Now Pages as well as all donations through our direct site www.canadahelps.org. A different fee applies to donations of securities and mutual funds and donations made using our new Peer-to-Peer Social Fundraising platform. Visit our Compare Solutions page for more information on the types of accounts we offer and our fees.

*Not sure if you have a Full Fundraising Account? Simply log into your CanadaHelps Charity Admin account. If you have a Full Fundraising Account, you will have a tab titled Donate Now and P2P Campaigns.

CanadaHelps is a charity helping charities. We work with over 15,000 charities to grow their online fundraising programs using our secure, easy-to-use tools – optimized for impact and provided at affordable, non-commercial rates. We are committed to our low fee model, and are happy to have further reduced fees for our charity partners, who rely on our fundraising solutions.

If you have any questions about our Fee Reduction please contact us.

-Source: CanadaHelps, Newsletter, 19 May 2015

Up to $5,000 in Funding to Help Community Events

The Government of British Columbia is providing one-time funding to eligible non-profit organizations for small community events that strengthen volunteer capacity for event hosting throughout the province.

EventHostBC will provide a total of $250,000, divided among the six provincial tourism regions, to encourage events that are currently ineligible for other provincial government funding. Eligible non-profit organizations may apply for up to $5,000 per event. As long as the broader community can participate, the type of event is fairly open – it could be sports, arts or culture related, or some other creative idea supported by the community.

Applications will only be accepted between May 19th and June 30th, 2015.

Grants will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, so please help get the word out to organizations within your community that might benefit from this funding.
Visit www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/arts_culture/eventhostbc.htm for more information.

-Source: ArtsBC – Assembly of BC Arts Councils, Newsletter, 15 May 2015

The Great Canadian Giving Challenge

Launching for the first time this year, the Great Canadian Giving Challenge encourages Canadians to donate this June and help their favourite charity win $10,000! Let your charity's supporters know the impact your organization could make with the prize and encourage them to participate by donating to your charity.

Every dollar donated to your charity in June via givingchallenge.ca or canadahelps.org earns your organization a chance to win a $10,000 donation.

Learn More

-Source: Volunteer BC, May Connector Newsletter, 26 May 2015

New Resource – Tax Benefits for Families

Many families think that because they are on income assistance or they are a low-income earner, there is no need to file an income tax return. If they are not filing a tax return, they may be missing out on additional income that can improve their financial situation. The How You Can Benefit factsheet provides information about all of the provincial and federal benefits that are available and how to get help with filing a tax return directly from the Canada Revenue Agency and Community Volunteer Tax Clinics.

Child & Family Benefits
Other Deductions & Tax Credits
Savings Plans

To find out more information about child and family tax benefits in BC view the 'How you can benefit BC' Factsheet.

-Source: Beth Flynn, Community Services Manager, Central Okanagan, 27 May 2015

Government's TFSA Analysis does a Number on Canadians

The 2015 federal budget vehemently argued that raising the annual Tax Free Savings Account (TFSA) contribution ceiling would benefit lower- and middle- income Canadians. But is that really the case? Today, we released a report that suggests that those claims are misleading, and that TFSAs actually disproportionately benefit the wealthy. The report offers up an honest analysis of TFSAs, and makes recommendations for moving forward.

Read More

-Source: Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, Newsletter, 28 May 2015

Lorne Fraser Educational Fund

About the bursary
Each year, the Lorne Fraser Educational Fund awards several bursaries to people with a mental illness to help further their pursuit of post-secondary education. Bursary amounts, $700 each, are based on the annual interest of the fund and are awarded for the fall term of each year. In addition to the bursary program, the scholarship program annually awards $1000 or $2000 to two post-secondary students living with mental illness, whose educational and career goals are related to mental health promotion.

Lorne Fraser, the fund's founder and namesake, is committed to increasing opportunities for people with a mental illness. He has lived with bipolar disorder for many years and recognizes the importance of education to personal well-being. Since 1982, the Lorne Fraser Educational Fund has helped more than 150 British Columbians pursue their educational dreams.

Who can apply? Successful applicants for the Lorne Fraser Educational Bursary must meet the eligibility criteria outlined below:

- Experience of a mental illness
- Accessing therapeutic support/mental health services
- An identified job goal
- A demonstrated need for financial assistance
- Will be enrolled at a recognized BC post-secondary institution by December 1, 2015
- At least 19 years of age and a resident of British Columbia

Successful applicants for the Lorne Fraser Scholarship for Mental Health Promotion must meet the eligibility criteria outlined below:

- Experience of a mental illness
- Accessing therapeutic support/mental health services
- A demonstrated need for financial assistance
- At least 19 years of age and a resident of British Columbia
- Entering the second, third or fourth year of an undergraduate or graduate program at a designated British Columbia university or college
- Will be enrolled at a recognized BC post-secondary institution by December 1, 2015
- Educational and vocational goals related to mental health promotion (see instructions for the 500 word statement of intent)

Members of a review panel evaluate applications and recommend who should be selected for the financial awards.

Read More

-Source: Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, Newsletter, 28 May 2015

Grants: City of Kelowna Strong Neighbourhoods

The City of Kelowna has a new community building program in place and they want your ideas. Want to get to know your neighbours but don't know where to start? The coordinators can help with that. Want to create a neighbourhood project? Enhance your neighbourhood with a matching grant of up to $1,000!

- Start a neighbourhood gardening initiative
- Host a workshop
- Develop a program for neighbourhood children
- Build a micro-library

Fill out an application online kelowna.ca/strongneighbourhoods. Summer grant applications due June 1st. Fall grant applications due July 31st. For more information or to discuss an idea: neighbourhoods@kelowna.ca or 250.470.0635 or 250.470.0636

-Source: CATCH, Network Newsletter, 26 May 2015

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Housing

Seniors' Housing Information Session

Date: Thursday, June 11th, 10:00 am – 11:00 am
Location: Seniors Outreach & Resource Centre, #102 – 2055 Benvoulin Court, Kelowna

Seniors Outreach & RESOURCE CENTRE

This free information session will cover the various housing options available to seniors, including Subsidized Housing, Supportive Living, Assisted Living, and Residential Care. An Interior Health representative will also be present to help answer long term care questions. This session is provided monthly.

To register for this free event please call 250.861.6180 or email seniorshousing@telus.net.

-Source: Meghan Derkach, Registered Social Worker, Seniors Outreach & Resource Centre, 20 May 2015

Built to Last: Strengthening the Foundations of Housing in Canada

Access to affordable housing is critical to the health, well-being, and economic prosperity of every community in Canada.

Availability of housing translates into the economic and social benefits of being able to support labour mobility and student populations, increase affordable homeownership, and meet the needs of the aging population as well as middle and low income earners. The housing sector, including rental and construction, makes up 20 per cent of Canada's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Achieving affordability is inextricably linked to all aspects of the housing system — from homeownership, to renting, to social housing, to homelessness. All orders of government must provide purposeful stewardship through economic, social and fiscal policy, to both facilitate an effective system and, in the case of system failure, to help manage any undesirable consequences.

Read More

-Source: Homeless Hub, Newsletter, 21 May 2015

Canadian City on Brink of Becoming Country's First to End Chronic Homelessness

Fulfilling a promise six years in the making, Medicine Hat, Alberta, is expected to become the first city in Canada to end chronic homelessness.

No one living unsheltered is left without permanent housing more than 10 days after the city learns of their circumstances, according to CBC Radio's "As It Happens."

Although the community of roughly 61,000 is successfully keeping pace with that expectation as of now, Mayor Ted Clugston explained to the Calgary Herald he's hesitant to make any sweeping proclamations just yet: "We want to see if it's sustainable before we announce that we've ended homelessness."

In 2009, when the goal was established and Clugston had been an alderman to the city, he was opposed to the strategy Medicine Hat wanted to implement. But the self-proclaimed conservative said that — after learning the hard facts — ensuring residents are housed is the fiscally responsible thing to do.

"I have come around to realize that ultimately this makes financial sense," he explained on "As It Happens."

The Medicine Hat Community Housing Society, the group behind the citywide plan, is taking the "housing first" approach to ending the crisis — prioritizing placing stable roofs over heads before addressing the factors that may have led to their situation, like substance abuse or mental health issues.

Read More

-Source: Imagine Canada, Nonprofit Newswire Newsletter, 26 May 2015

Addressing Homelessness at the National Level: Are Toolkits the Solution?

While implementing programming changes in the homelessness sector at the national level can be a challenge, one way to effectively provide supports to community agencies is through easy-to-use-and-adapt Toolkits. The growing trend of Toolkit development in recent years has both challenged and motivated front-line community agencies working with people experiencing homelessness to make changes to programming that include addressing the needs of different demographics, connecting with the community, and incorporating progressive policies.

In May, three new Toolkits were released, each targeting a specific element of youth homelessness. The first two, released by theHomeless Hub/ Canadian Observatory on Homelessness (COH), focus on two areas to help youth exit homelessness: employment and housing.

The Youth Employment Toolkit is described as a flexible and adaptable model for implementing youth employment programs. Targeting organizations and youth-serving agencies concerned with at-risk or homeless youth, this Toolkit provides a variety of resources, materials, and case studies to assist with implementing effective employment programming for youth. The model shared in the Toolkit is based on the proven 'Train for Trades' program at Choices for Youth in St. John's, Newfoundland.

Transitional housing is a temporary housing situation meant to bridge the gap between homelessness and permanent housing. The Youth Transitional Housing Toolkit acts as a guide, tool, and example for shelters, housing providers, and youth-serving agencies looking to implement transitional housing for at-risk or homeless youth. Similar to the previous Toolkit, it offers a flexible and adaptable model (based on the Foyer model) that can be implemented in a way that best meets the needs of each community. Case studies and resource materials are based on the transitional housing program 'Rights of Passage' used at Covenant House Toronto and Covenant House Vancouver.

An estimated 20-40% of homeless youth identify as LGBTQ2S, yet until recently, very little programming focused on the specific needs of this population. While recent strides have been made in cities like Toronto, where funding for two LGBTQ2S youth shelters has been announced, many communities across the country struggle to provide adequate services to this demographic.

The LGBTQ2S Toolkit for Youth Experiencing Homelessness addresses this gap in services, providing publicly accessible training, tools, programming, policies, and more to community agencies, shelters, and staff working with at-risk youth. This resource, developed by theNational Learning Community on Youth Homelessness, is meant to encourage youth-serving agencies to become LGBTQ2S allies and implement specific programming, services, and policies into their current structure, providing a variety of adaptable models based on the unique needs of each agency or community. Creators of the Toolkit are hopeful it will help put an end to the "erasure" of LGBTQ2S homeless youth in the supports our systems provide to youth in-need.

One important, similar element arises in each of these new Toolkits: that they provide flexible and adaptable models that can be shaped to fit the specific needs of individual communities. Addressing homelessness at the national level requires a buy-in from individual communities. While resources and needs differ from community to community (particularly in rural vs. urban communities), providing proven tools that can work in a variety of unique settings is an effective part of the approach to long-term solutions to homelessness.

-Source: Raising the Roof, Housing Again Bulletin, 1 June 2015

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Local

Small Business Expo

Date: Thursday, June 18th, 4:30 pm – 7:00 pm
Location: Rutland Centennial Hall, 180 Rutland Road N
Table: $75, Entry: $10 (includes appetizer & 2 drinks)

We are pleased to announce a Small Business Expo, a joint venture with the Kelowna Chamber of Commerce and the Uptown Rutland Business Association. This outdoor event features a trade show with over 60 exhibitors as well as food from Oylmpia Greek Taverna and beverages from local wineries and beer and cider from Big Surf Beer.

Register Now

-Source: Uptown Rutland Business Association, Newsletter, 25 May 2015

Peachland Wellness Centre: Spring Wrap-up

Date: Friday, June 19th, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm
Location: Peachland Wellness Centre, 4426 5th Street, Peachland

The Peachland Wellness Centre will be holding its SPRING WRAP-UP LUNCHEON celebrating a successful year of accomplishments, friendships, and a community of wellness!

We invite you to join us and to share your stories as participants, volunteers, civic leaders, and funding partners! While many of the programs will be suspended for the summer months, the PWC will remain open Monday – Friday, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm, and the Sunday Breakfasts will continue through to the month of July.

Please RSVP to the staff at 250.767.0141.

-Source: Peachland Wellness Centre, Newsletter, 22 May 2015

Metro Community – Exciting Announcements about our Metro UP Programs

In order to impact more participants in our community, we have expanded our income eligibility criteria for our matched savings program, effective for the next upcoming program beginning in

July. Qualifying applicants must have an income less than or equal to the following outline (based on household family size):

Family Unit Size – Maximum Income
1 person – 35,471
2 persons – 44,160
3 persons – 54,290
4 persons – 65,913

* Families exceeding 4 persons please contact us for details on Maximum Income considered.

MATCHED SAVINGS
This one-year program (meeting monthly) provides qualifying participants the ability to learn better financial management tools while committing to save $25-$50 each month. At the end of the year, graduates are awarded a Matched Savings Grant from Metro UP for $3 on every $1 saved to be used towards the purchase of an approved asset that will help them build a sustainable livelihood! Application Deadline is Wednesday, June 17th with the program set to start in early July. Please encourage any interested candidates to submit their applications as space will fill up quickly!

Questions about the Program? Contact Leanne Hammond, Program Coordinator, at info@metroup.ca or 250.300.6061

Learn More & Apply Online

DOLLARS & SENSE
This free financial literacy course is offered over 9 weeks beginning this Fall at the Okananan College-Kelowna Campus! This course includes financial training materials and training on topics such as budgeting, credit, saving and spending. Each week also includes a free meal prepared and served by the Okanagan Culinary Arts Students! Dinner is served at 6pm with the financial literacy training starting after dinner until 8:30pm each week!

Learn More & Register Online

-Source: Metro Community, Metro UP Newsletter, 28 May 2015

Okanagan Suicide Awareness Society – Lunch & Learn

Date: Thursday, June 11th, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
Location: 1633 Richter St, Kelowna (Boys & Girls Club)

OSAS would like to invite you to premier the society's newly developed stigma reduction resources that deliver our message: "Suicide can be prevented. Help is available. Be a helping hand."

OSAS
Okanagan Suicide Awareness Society

We value your feedback and suggestions.
- Discuss and clarify participants' beliefs about suicide and mental health issues
- Support development of community-wide preparedness to reach out to those in need
- Develop awareness of local resources available to refer those who need help

Light refreshments will be served

To confirm your attendance, please contact Jenn at 250.300.7990
or jpaquette@suicideawareness.ca.

-Source: Jenn Paquette, Okanagan Suicide Awareness Society, 2 June 2015

2nd Annual Creative Aging Day

A day-long Celebration of Your Creative Life

Date: Friday, June 19th, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
Locations: Rotary Centre for the Arts, Kelowna Art Gallery & The Factory

Find out about the positive impact that arts participation can have. See how creative expression can promote engagement, healing and wellness. Meet those actively engaged or interested in creative expression and aging programs. And try something new! Bring your friends.

"Creative aging is about possibilities, freeing ourselves of limiting beliefs about aging and embracing the reality that individuals continue to grow, learn and contribute to their communities throughout the life journey." – Pat Spadafora, Sheriden Elder Research Centre

Displays & Demos
Calligraphers, Quilters, Painters, Weavers, Potters, Theatre, Wood Carvers and more

Performances (including participatory)
Tai Chi, A Cappella Chorus, Drumming, Theatre, Recorder Orchestra and more

Learn More

-Source: Rotary Centre for the Arts, Newsletter, 31 May 2015

Adoptive Families Association of BC – June Events

If you find yourself wishing to talk with someone about being an adoptive parent, I can provide you with resources, connections, and educational opportunities that may help you through every stage of the adoption journey. As an adoptive father of three children, I have gained first-hand experience in attachment issues, transracial adoption, trauma, eating disorders, mental health challenges, older child and teen adoption, ADHD and autism. I lead a facebook group for adoptive dads so men can have a private place to discuss topics with other men who "get it" when talking about being an adoptive parent.

There are 11 different facebook groups created by the members of the Adoptive Families Association of BC. So check them out and feel free to join an online support community where you can connect with other adoptive parents.

In many of our communities throughout the interior we have adoptive parent support groups which are led solely by volunteers.

Kelowna Adoptive Parents Support Group

We are in the process of arranging for a weekend summer camp for adoptive familes this August 14 – 16th at Camp Arrowflight in Armstrong. This will be an all-inclusive event where parents and children will have a chance to camp together, engage in outdoor activities, and have all their meals prepared for them. Watch for details to be released in June.

-Source: Brent Kisilevich, Adoption Support Coordinator, Adoptive Families Association of BC, 30 May 2015

Syilx Language & Traditional Practices – June Schedule

Making Beaded Feathers
Date: Monday, June 8, 5:00 pm – 7:30 pm
Location: Siya room, WFN Health Bldg, 1900 Quail Lane, Westbank

Language Revitalization
Date: Monday, June 15th, 5:00 pm – 7:30 pm
Location: Siya room, WFN Health Bldg, 1900 Quail Lane, Westbank

Making Beaded Feathers
Date: Monday, June 22nd, 5:00 pm – 7:30 pm
Location: Siya room, WFN Health Bldg, 1900 Quail Lane, Westbank

To register for any of these events, contact Pamela at pbarnes@shaw.ca or 250.768.7051.

-Source: Pamela Barnes, 26 May 2015

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- [HOW TO TAKE THE BLIND DATE OUT OF GRANT WRITING]
- [TRADE SHOW BOOTH ACTIVATION]

Extreme Makeover: Monitor Edition

After more than two decades, the Monitor is rebooting to seize new political opportunities and adapt to technological challenges. To reach that audience, in a post–Web 2.0 age, the Monitor needed to be much more than a bulletin, so we're giving it a little pop.

We will continue to cover inequality, climate change, trade and investment agreements, technology, labour and other issues, but with a much higher quotient of CCPA research and original feature articles you won't find anywhere else. And though we will publish six issues per year compared to the previous 10, they will be longer and easier to read (and in colour!), giving us more time to prepare, and you more time to read, each one. This is more than a facelift. It's a chance to really show off what the CCPA has to offer in a format that we hope appeals to both current and new readers.

Read More

-Source: Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, Newsletter, 12 May 2015

How to say No at Work

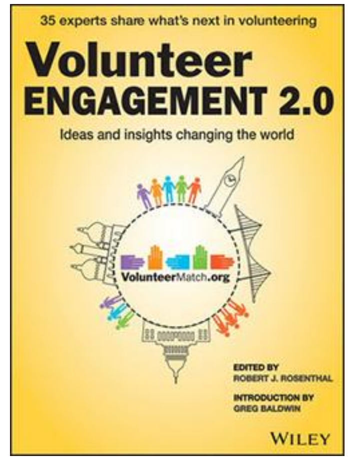
When Beth Cronin started out as an associate at the law firm Trenam Kemker, she never once told a partner that she was too busy to do a project. Instead, she learned the right way to say no. "First, I developed a reputation as being earnest and hardworking," says Cronin. "Then I made sure to understand what the project entailed, when my manager needed it and whether I could realistically deliver high-quality work in the allotted amount of time. The way to handle a request is never just to say 'I'm too busy.'" Today she's co-chair of the commercial litigation practice group at the firm, which has offices in St. Petersburg and Tampa, FL.

Nowadays many companies expect their employees to do more work in less time. From interns to managing partners, people say yes to these demands because they want to be team players, look eager or simply be nice. But saying no can sometimes be an asset to your career. "People need to change their mindset about agreeing to everything," says Susan Newman, Ph.D., a social psychologist and the author of The Book of No. "By saying no, you can focus on your goals." Saying yes to everything can damage your reputation and hurt your career. "The expectation of assigning partners is that you will do a project thoroughly, and on time," says Cronin. "If you don't, you will get the reputation that you can't be trusted."

Read More

-Source: Charity Village, Village Vibes, Newsletter, 25 May 2015

Volunteer Engagement 2.0: Ideas and Insights Changing the World



Volunteers can be your best donors, advocates, and champions. Yet, the world of volunteer engagement is changing. How will your organization's volunteer program not only keep up, but grow and thrive?

Thirty-Five Experts. One Book.

Volunteer Engagement 2.0: Ideas and Insights Changing the World explores the innovative volunteer engagement approaches that are reshaping nonprofits and their communities, and shows how you can bring these approaches to your own organization. Curated and edited by VolunteerMatch, the transformative strategies found in this book represent the future trends in volunteerism.

This insightful collection contains actionable advice on strengthening volunteer programs, as well as broader explorations on the nature of volunteer engagement. Contributors include 35 experts in the volunteer engagement field, from organizations such as DoSomething.org, NTEN, Realized Worth, LinkedIn and the Corporation for National Community Service.

The world of volunteerism is changing. How will your volunteer program grow and thrive? Volunteer Engagement 2.0: Ideas and Insights Changing the World gives you the innovation and inspiration – you just need to supply the action. Release date is May 26, 2015. Order your copy today.

-Source: Caryn Stein, Network for Good, Newsletter, 25 May 2015

Half of Your Email Subscribers are Ignoring You

New research from the 2015 M+R Benchmarks Study tells us that, on average, almost half (45%) of small nonprofits' email subscribers are inactive. Yikes!

Inactive could mean different things to different organizations. Many organizations define inactive subscribers as those who've gone one year with no activity. (These don't necessarily include lapsed or inactive donors. We're simply talking about people in your database who haven't opened an email in a really long time—donors and nondonors.) However you define your inactive subscriber base, I think we can all agree that you need a plan of action to reengage with people who were, at one point, interested in your organization.

Why do anything with inactive email addresses?
You're probably thinking, "My list is really small as it is! Why would I want to make it even smaller by choice?" I hear you! I've worked with organizations that have email lists of around 1,000 names, and they are hesitant to do any deleting or suppressions. However, this dead weight is hurting your open rates, and if you continue to send emails to people who aren't engaging with you, it will affect your deliverability rate.

Trimming and suppressing parts of your email list will boost your confidence the next time you're testing subject lines. And it will more accurately reflect—and improve!—your open and click rate.

What should I do to reengage with inactive email addresses?
First, segment your list. I recommend pulling a list of people who haven't opened any email in the past 12 months. Send them an email to let them know you miss them. Make the subject line snappy. Be sure to have a clear call to action in the email that asks people to confirm that they still want to hear from you.

You can even go a few steps further and send a drip campaign with the goal of getting this group to reengage. Karla Capers wrote a guest post on the blog Getting Attention! about how she reactivated $13,000 worth of inactive names with a simple three-email drip approach. I love the subject lines she chose and the careful approach she took to reengage with these subscribers.

Read More

-Source: Imagine Canada, Nonprofit Newswire Newsletter, 26 May 2015

How to Take the Blind Date Out of Grant Writing

Rejection stinks.

Right when you think you have a perfect match, the other party lets you know they don't think so.

It might take a few attempts at first, but with enough practice you will learn how to say the right things, make sure you have all the right qualifications and eventually you'll live happily ever after.

We are, of course, talking about grant writing.

Grant writing is not an easy venture. Foundations and companies want to know all about your company and you want to put your best foot forward. However, it shouldn't be a blind date. If you can work to make sure your first contact with the grantor does not happen when they are reading your grant application, your chances improve.

Here are some ways to improve the odds of getting that grant going your way and fending off rejection.

The Backstory
Before we get into the tips and takeaways, let's start with a story. A couple years ago when I was Executive Director of a leadership development nonprofit, we started applying for a grant to help provide funding for a full-time position. Along with our nonprofit's foundation chair, we identified several local foundations whose giving plans matched our missions.

First, we set up a meeting with one of the board members who knew the foundation chair to explain who we were and why we were looking for financial assistance. The meeting went great and we had a good feeling. Soon thereafter, the granting foundation invited us to apply and we were off. However, after the entire foundation board met, our application was denied.

A short while later, our foundation chair was working at a golf event where he ran into the grant foundation chair. They talked briefly about our organization and it was clear that he didn't fully grasp the scope and reach of our nonprofit. After having his questions answered and hearing more about what we accomplish, he gained a much more favorable opinion of our organization and said we should try again when our waiting period was up.

So what can you learn from this story?

Shop Locally
When working to find the perfect grant, start locally. This will benefit you in many ways—mainly the grantors will be more likely to know of your nonprofit and the work it does in the community. Traditionally, grantors are more willing to invest in their community because they see the direct benefits. Because they are based in the same place as you are, the grantor is invested in the community and more willing to invest in your organization.

Also, some foundations and companies might have location restrictions on who they hand money out to, so this could work to your advantage and restrict the pool of potential applicants. This advice is not to discourage you from applying for large, national grants, but instead to know that your odds increase with a smaller geographic scope.

Read More

-Source: Imagine Canada, Nonprofit Newswire Newsletter, 1 June 2015

Trade Show Booth Activation

With so much activity at trade shows, how can those sponsoring or those who have booths get better ROI for their investments? How can they "do better?" Several of the sessions I have delivered recently have focused on this. Let me share six steps to success at conferences and trade shows.

1. It is critical to know your audience. Are the people visiting your trade show booth buyers or champions /influencers? Often, the folks at trade shows don't have the power or authority to buy. They are influencers. They might be more powerful than the buyers (such as elected officials who don't buy goods and services for their constituents, but influence the administration and departmental staff regarding purchasing opportunities) but they are not going to buy your product from the booth or sign a big deal. It is critical to know who is at the show (influencers or buyers) before you set sales expectations.

2. Often, the best relationship building takes place, and serious buyers and influencers stick around, during sessions or while the open bar is underway. These are the people who come and chat when it is "quiet." They know they will have your attention and get the information they need without you looking at the next lead walking past. In my world, some of the best interactions take place when everyone else is at the "open bar and free food" function or attending sessions.

3. Know your objective. Is it to sell and close product (go back to step one) or start building a relationship? If it is to close a product sale, know the timelines and pricing, and be prepared to negotiate. If the goal is to book meetings (which is what most B2B trade shows are versus consumer shows), then know the steps to get there. Work toward a meeting versus selling the product. We did some work for a software company that was forever handing out our test programs of their product on CDs and flash drives. Hey, not even the biggest software geek is going to take that home and review it-let alone go to the office and do so.

When we transferred their objective to “booking meetings,” their ultimate sales cycle was shortened, and they had success they could measure and attribute to the trade show.

4. Know that, typically, people are walking the aisles for one of four reasons. Those in the first group are doing research on a product they think they may buy in the future. These are the folks you need to help and support. The second group includes those who know they need a certain product and are comparison shopping . They are there to find the right supplier with the right product. They are closer to the end of the buying cycle and you need to differentiate yourself from the others at the show. Group three includes people who are already using the product-yours or a competitor’s-and looking to switch vendors. They are spending this time to find the right supplier and product. The fourth group includes the strollers and trollers. They are not sure what they need or want and may or may not have a budget for your product. You need to be cautious with these folks and ask specific questions to determine if they are worth the time to chat with.

5. Differentiate yourself. Your booth needs to stand out from all the others. This can be done by having a WOW display or a catchy sign (Need more money on the bottom line? Talk to us. Profits guaranteed). Or it can be by having great giveaways and promotional branded products that make you stand out such as we use at conferences and events that we have supplied from Promotion Resource Group (PRG) in Oakville. At one recent conference we sponsored, we promoted people taking selfies and tweeting them out. We gave away a prize worth over $1500 for the best selfie. PRG helped us with this activation. They came up with the selfie idea (that ran a ton of traffic through our Twitter handle and hashtag) and we handed out branded selfie sticks to every delegate to make it even easier for them to take selfies. Another differentiator is having a 30-second elevator pitch. Say something conveying that you are there to help them and how you are different from your competition.

6. Follow up. For every business card or lead …follow up. Go back to your hotel room that night and email them. Say how nice it was to meet them and that you look forward to the meeting you set (if you did) or you hope to see them again tomorrow at the show… or ask when you can get together for as meeting (if you did not close one at the booth). Try to follow up within 24 hours. Make an impression. Make an impact. As in step 5, differentiate yourself because none of your competition will be getting back to them that quickly!

There are many other tips and ideas shared in the sessions, but hopefully these six will get you started toward making more money and better ROI on your investment at your next conference trade show. If you have some tips or success stories, please share on LinkedIn, Twitter, or our blog.

-Source: Brent Barootes, Tuesday Morning Commentary Newsletter, 26 May 2015

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Social Media

Instagram, Pinterest, & even Tinder: How Small Nonprofits are going beyond Facebook & Twitter

It doesn't seem very long ago that nonprofit professionals were being told that having a presence on Facebook was vital to their organization's success.

The advice was heeded, and as sector professionals became Facebook-literate (one recent survey found that an incredible 98% of North American nonprofits surveyed are now on Facebook), they also began to develop an understanding of why a social media presence is necessary: it is a pivotal and cost-efficient part of branding and marketing efforts, a driver of fundraising, and a useful tool for keeping donors informed. With the rise of Facebook, social media activity cemented itself as part of a nonprofit's everyday life.

Just as nonprofit social media coordinators were beginning to grow comfortable with Facebook, the next social media platform trumpeted as being "too big for nonprofits to ignore" arrived – Twitter.

Again, joining Twitter made sense for nonprofits. The micro-blogging tool became a platform to humanize a nonprofit's brand; by using 140-character tweets, nonprofits were able to show their communities how their organization was making a difference from a brand-new, individually-focused perspective. Twitter became a tool used to strengthen relationships with supporters and attract new backers, all the while sharing successes, asking questions, and drumming up interest in events and fundraising activities.

Facebook and Twitter are now firmly entrenched within communication strategies of nonprofits of all sizes, with one survey reporting close to 70% of North American organizations using both social media tools.

Fast-forward to today – a climate where a reported 95% of nonprofits recognize the full value of having a sustained presence on social media – and the next crop of social media tools are staking their claim to inherit a must-have title.

Read More

-Source: Imagine Canada, Nonprofit Newswire, Newsletter, 12 May 2015

Web Conferencing 101 for Nonprofits

Web conferencing is a great, cost-effective way for nonprofits to connect with fellow colleagues, Board members, supporters and prospects without the need for you or your participants to travel.

In this article, we'll cover everything your nonprofit needs to know about virtual meetings, including what they are, how to get started, and choosing the right tool that suits your needs.

What is a web conference?
A web conference is essentially an online/virtual "meeting room" that you create using a web conferencing tool and invite participants to join via the Internet.

There are over a dozen web conferencing tools available, and they range from "free to use" to "pay to use" (e.g., one-time purchase, pay per use, annual or monthly subscriptions). Each tool has its own set of features and functionalities, however, all web conferencing tools can perform the following basic functions:

- Desktop/Screen Sharing
  This basic feature lets participants see exactly what's on the presenter's screen—everything from computer programs to PowerPoint presentations to simple Word documents.
- Video Conferencing/Webcam Sharing
  Assuming that you have the appropriate hardware, this feature allows you (and sometimes your participants) broadcast a video of yourself during an online meeting.
- Text Chat
  Send chat messages via instant messaging. Some tools allow all participants to see the messages, while others allow for private one-on-one messaging among participants.
- Voice Chat
  This feature allows you to speak with meeting participants using your phone or a computer microphone.

Read More

-Source: Tech Soup Canada, By the Cup Newsletter, 21 May 2015

Photoshop for Nonprofits: Part 2

Welcome back! This guide will walk you through the first steps of how to create the poster from Intro to Photoshop for Nonprofits: Part 1. We've included screenshots for each step, too.

For some steps, there are also Bonus sections. These are a little extra information in case you're really curious about Photoshop. You can definitely skip these without missing any of the process, though.

Read More

-Source: Tech Soup Canada, By the Cup Newsletter, 21 May 2015

10 Social Media Goals to Become a Rock Star Nonprofit

Those in the nonprofit sector do what we do because we want to make a difference in the world. We're not looking for accolades or awards, but we recognize that in order to be effective we need to catch the attention of others who share our vision, care about our cause, and can make meaningful contributions to move our efforts forward.

To that end, social media is a nonprofit's best friend. There isn't a better vehicle to drive your organization's exposure and engagement, bringing those cause partners into the fold. But you can’t use social media haphazardly and expect results. If you want your nonprofit to rule social, you need to have a plan.

Here are ten goals that when nurtured will raise your nonprofit’s social presence to rock-star status:

1. Increase your blog presence.
The key to blogging success is consistency. Nothing is worse than a blog that starts strong with five or six posts in a row, and then dies. Unfortunately, there’s also nothing more common.

Part of the problem is that too few people plan for their blog’s success. You need to spend time on a regular basis brainstorming topics and scheduling when you’ll post them. Plan for a minimum of one post per week – enough to create a presence, but not so much that you’re overwhelmed and keep putting it off.

If you don’t have time to write yourself on a weekly basis, reach out to influencers in your space and arrange for guest posters to share their thoughts.

And at least once a month write about an area of your nonprofit’s expertise – shining a light on what makes you special, and giving your readers something that stands out from your regular posts.

Read More

-Source: Social Media for Nonprofits, 14 May 2015

Activating Volunteers through Social Media

Social Media channels such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest and others can be seen as large gathering places where people are showing up to discuss what they like and don’t like, want to experience and want to change, and who they are and who they want to be. With each status update, reply, like, favorite, and share, a potential new connection is being forged. People are finding opportunities to make their mark on the world.

A nonprofit who would like to connect with like-minded individuals and get them involved can reach a much larger and more targeted group of people through these social media channels than through any other communication channel that has ever existed. However, social media channels are just the places where people gather, and just showing up will not help you achieve your goal. You have to show up with a compelling story, a vision that can be shared, and call to action, and a sense of community.

A gift of time, expertise and labor. An investment made in exchange for making the world a better place. That is how volunteers see themselves when they sign up to work with their favorite cause.

Read More

-Source: Social Media for Nonprofits, 5 May 2015

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Training

- FREE INFORMATION NIGHT: HOW TO BECOME A CHILD CARE PROVIDER
- WEBINAR: INCREASING EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT THROUGH STORYTELLING
- PINWHEEL EDUCATION SERIES: NAVIGATING THE MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM FROM THE FAMILY PERSPECTIVE
- TRAINING: MOTHER'S MENTAL HEALTH TOOLKIT

FREE Information Night: How to Become a Child Care Provider

Date: Tuesday, June 30th, 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Location: Lake View Heights Community Centre, 860 Anders Road, West Kelowna

Come to our information night to learn more about the benefits of becoming a Registered License not Required (RLNR). Some of the benefits and services are listed below.

CCRR Services:
- Onsite email/telephone consultation
- Start-up support
- Training in:
  - Child development
  - Behaviour strategies
  - Health, safety and nutrition
  - Working with families

Benefits of becoming a RLNR:
- Increased Child Care Subsidy Rates
- Free Child Care Referrals to your program
- Low cost training
- CCRR support
- Child Care Operations Templates
- Quality & Safe Child Care in your own home

Pre-registration Required:
Alicia Larson
250.762.3536, resource@kelownachildcare.com
www.kelownachildcare.com
View CCRR Services Youtube Channel

Funded by the Province of British Columbia

-Source: Alicia Larson, CCRR Program Coordinator, Kelowna Child Care Society, 15 May 2015

Webinar: Increasing Employee Engagement through Storytelling

Do you want your employees to be more excited about coming to work? Do you want to communicate more effectively as a team about your mission, your activities and your outcomes? In organizations, it's very easy to stay focused on 'what' you are doing but great employee engagement involves creating a shared understanding of your 'why' and 'how' you are making a difference.

Storytelling is a key organizational tool that can help leaders and employees to better understand each other and the impact of the great work that you do. In this session, Lianne Picot, Story Coach and previous Executive Director of nonprofits in the UK and Canada, will be helping participants to find out more about how to find and tell great stories as well as providing ideas for integrating story into your team building and HR processes.

Read More

-Source: Charity Village, Village Vibes Newsletter, 1 June 2015

Pinwheel Education Series: Navigating the Mental Health System from the Family Perspective

Date: Thursday, June 18th, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
Cost: Free

When a child or youth is experiencing a mental health challenge, it can be frightening and overwhelming. It can be difficult to know where to get help or who to talk to. Navigating the mental health system can be challenging, and although there is lots of support, it is often hard to know the best place to go, or how to access the resources you need.

In this Pinwheel, we will learn how to better understand the mental health care system, how to connect to useful resources, and how to navigate through the process.

Speakers:
Dr. Connie Coniglio, Provincial Executive Director, Children and Women's Mental Health & Substance Use Programs
Meredith de Freitas, Project Manager, BC Children's Hospital
Julie Colette, F.O.R.C.E. Parent in Residence

In person: BC Children's Hospital, Mental Health Building, 4555 Heather Street (Heather St. and 29th Ave.) Vancouver, Entrance #85, Third floor room P3-306. You can drop in or register here.
Telephone: Dial 1-877-291-3022 and enter the access code 4611577#
Telehealth: Contact your local Telehealth coordinator to book a videoconference room and get them to forward your location name, room number and the ISDN/IP Address/Alias of your site to keltycentre@bcmhs.bc.ca. For questions, please contact Aazadeh Madani, Project Coordinator at aazadeh.madani@bcmhs.bc.ca.

-Source: Kelty Centre, Newsletter, 4 June 2015

Webinar: Changing Corporate Perspectives in Workplace Giving Programs

Date: Thursday, June 11th, 11:00 am – 11:45 am
Register Now

It's not news that corporate volunteering is on the rise and that the business world is learning to measure the benefits. RW's Corey Diamond posted the following stats, among others, in a recent article:

- 87% of employees who volunteered with their companies reported an improved perception of their employer.
- 64% of employees who actively volunteer said that volunteering with colleagues has strengthened their work relationships.
- Millennials who frequently participate in their company's volunteer activities are twice as likely to rate their corporate culture as very positive.
- Among employees who volunteered in the past year, 74% say that volunteering makes them feel healthier, 94% say that volunteering improves their mood, and 78% say that volunteering lowers their stress levels.

It may be news to some that while corporations are learning to appreciate the value of volunteering, nonprofit organizations are quickly becoming savvier partners. Even Harvard Business Review is posting articles about it: Profits for Nonprofits: Find a Corporate Partner.

-Source: Realized Worth, Newsletter, 4 June 2015

Training: Mother's Mental Health Toolkit

Date: Friday, June 26th, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
Location: KGH (Kelowna General Hospital) CAC (Clinical Academic Campus) Meeting Room 1
Cost: $75.00

Sign in or Sign up as a professional to register for this training.

Training Details
The toolkit was developed as a knowledge-sharing and capacity-building resource for staff from community-based organizations. It is not a treatment manual and is not meant to substitute mental health assessments and interventions. Please see an introduction to the toolkit on YouTube.

The toolkit and workshop will:

- Enhance mental health literacy
- Provide a guide for promoting mental wellness for mothers
- Promote practices that could help to prevent mental health issues
- Recognize the risks and signs of possible mental illness
- Guide women and their supports to understand and access assessment and treatment
- Support the community responses that encourage recovery and decrease stigma

The toolkit was developed by Colleen Flynn and Joanne MacDonald from Reproductive Mental Health Services at the IWK Health Centre in Halifax, Nova Scotia, with collaboration and advice from CAPC and CPNP programs across Canada. This project was funded by the Mental Health Foundation of Nova Scotia, the IWK Mental Health and Addictions Program, the CDHA Mental Health Program, and the Public Health Agency of Canada.

This training is sponsored by the Nobody's Perfect Parenting Program, and is funded by FRP Canada. For further information, please contact Ruby Banga, the Nobody's Perfect Parenting Program Provincial Coordinator, at 604.678.8884 ext 104 or rubyb@bccf.ca.

-Source: CATCH, Network Newsletter, 26 May 2015

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Volunteerism

“Help, I Can’t Get Up!” Volunteering from your Desk

A question I’m asked all the time is: “How can I involve my on-site employees in the volunteer experience?”

Maybe these employees work at a call center. Maybe they’re warehouse employees. Maybe they’re front-line employees in the field who just can’t leave their stations.

So what do you do? Write them off as lost causes for participating in your causes?

Of course not; talk about a recipe for employee disengagement.

Instead of giving up on your “trapped” employees, you’ve got to get innovative about ways to include them in your company’s corporate philanthropy.

How? Try these volunteer delivery options:

On-Site Volunteering Parties
A range of organizations now specialize in packaging volunteering opportunities as a fun party for on-site employees. For example, The Pack Shack offers “Feed the Funnel” parties that help supply provisions and opportunities for underserved communities. Meals packed at Feed the Funnel parties are donated free of charge to local organizations, such as food banks and food pantries, for them to distribute to people and/or other organizations in their area.

Read More

-Source: Volunteer Canada, Media Monitoring Newsletter, 21 May 2015

How Nonprofit Organizations can Effectively Engage Volunteers

“Volunteers are the heart of our organization. Thanks in large part to our engaged volunteers, Braille Institute San Diego services remain free for all students and clients. That means our classes, our technology instruction, orientation and mobility training, transportation, library, and more are all free,” said Rosie Rascon, Braille Institute San Diego’s Volunteer Services Manager.

With a 12:1 volunteer to staff ratio, Braille Institute employs a structure that strategically engages volunteers to help the organization with essential functions, while also allowing volunteers to give back to the community. While many nonprofit organizations benefit from volunteers, Braille Institute is particularly intentional in its placement, training, and retention program to find and keep strong volunteers to strengthen the organization.

This emphasis on volunteer engagement has played a central role in Braille Institute's legacy. "Volunteerism is a core part of our organization's identity, and has been since our founding in 1919," says Peter Mindnich, President of Braille Institute. "Without our volunteers, we simply could not fulfill our mission. Collectively, volunteers contribute more than 150,000 hours of assistance annually, and this enables us to continue serving our clients free of charge."

Read More

-Source: Volunteer Canada, Media Monitoring Newsletter, 21 May 2015

5 Ways to Attract Young People to Your Nonprofit

The Urban Institute reported that 1.44 million nonprofits were registered with the Internal Revenue Service in 2012. Many of those organizations struggle to attract young people – a group that typically has both the strength and endurance to face difficult and challenging tasks. Whether you are trying to attract young donors or bring in new volunteers, you have to employ the right strategy. Here's an overview of five effective methods to reach out to young people and get them involved.

Get vocal about your organization
Consistent promotional strategy requires clear vision, mission, and professional branding. Successful charitable organizations that range from giants like Greenpeace and Doctors Without Borders, to smaller nonprofits, such as Defenders of Wildlife or Alley Cat Allies have been implementing these rules for years.

Read More

-Source: Volunteer Canada, Media Monitoring, 22 May 2015

Should the Government Mandate Corporate Volunteering?

You may not have heard, but there's a controversy brewing across the pond, as the re-elected Conservative UK government has mandated that all companies must provide at least 3 days of paid time off (PTO) to their employees to volunteer. UK Prime Minister David Cameron said during the campaign: "What I want to do here is help people who want to do more to help their communities, to help others to volunteer, to build a stronger society."

The policy, which applies to both public and private sector companies with more than 250 people, is part of a broader conversation playing out in many countries around the world.

You Can't Make Volunteering Mandatory
On the surface, it would seem as if the policy is another example of the heavy hand of government forcing the private sector to become more benevolent. When you juxtapose the words volunteer and mandatory, the knee-jerk reaction is to scoff at the concept. You may even sing a few lines from an Alanis Morrissette song. But if you stop what you're doing, put down your phone and think for 10 seconds, you realize that there is nothing mandatory about the policy. In fact, it could not be more voluntary – if you give enough space for people to get

involved in the community, then you're increasing the chance that they will voluntarily do something prosocial.

A well designed PTO policy sends a strong signal to employees that the company cares about the many causes those employees care about. It also helps to build what Mary Kunnenkeril of Three Hands (a leading UK company specializing in skills based volunteering) calls "a culture of volunteerism". According to her, "getting business to a point where they acknowledge the key role they play in society is an important first step. Leveraging the policy to drive business is the next logical step." In other words, without the key structural conditions, volunteer programs can't succeed to their full potential.

Read More

-Source: Realized Worth, Newsletter, 21 May 2015

Engaging the Next Generation: Attracting Millennials to Work in the Nonprofit Sector

In 1980, at the same time that the identity of Luke Skywalker's father was revealed to the world, the first of what would be called the millennial generation was born. This generation has now grown to adulthood and accounts for nearly half the employees in the world — but the question now is whether this group will choose to work in the nonprofit sector rather than going over to the dark side.

All jokes and movie references aside, the impending sea change of leadership in the nonprofit sector requires an influx of talent from younger generations. David Hutchinson, president and CEO of search firm The Hutchinson Group notes that, "The younger boomer and Generation Xers weren't directed into the charitable space the way some older, senior leaders were. Many were directed to the private sector, leaving the nonprofit sector with half the talent pool to choose from." This means that the sector needs the emerging millennial generation to fill the gap.

But is the nonprofit sector attracting — and attractive to — a younger generation? CharityVillage talked with a number of people whose organizations are addressing this recruitment challenge, as well as with young professionals themselves, about how the sector can better engage students and new graduates.

Read More

-Source: Charity Village, Village Vibes Newsletter, 1 June 2015

Mixed Messages to Volunteers Whom We've Asked to Be Friendly

Last month I used this space to talk about the consequences of the lack of knowledge about volunteer involvement by relatively thoughtless executives. This month I want to focus on conflicting messages and unclear boundaries common to many of the most traditional volunteer roles:

- Any assignment labeled some variation of "friendly visitor" or "buddy," in which the volunteer agrees to spend several hours weekly with a client – often a homebound senior or someone with latestage AIDS. These visits are usually in the client's home, one-to-one, with little structure other than the goals of providing welcome company, forming a supportive relationship, and being helpful in small, practical ways.

- Youth "mentoring" programs including, but not limited to Big Brothers Big Sisters, in which children of various ages are matched individually with an adult who is willing to spend time with the youngster as a caring friend (and often as a role model) – not as a babysitter, parent, probation officer, or therapist. The pair meet in the community to do things together and, ideally, form a close bond.
- "Coaching" an adult, also one-to-one, to succeed at an important life goal. The types of people needing help include recovering addicts learning how to spend weekends without drugs or alcohol, parolees re-entering the community, public assistance recipients in their first full-time job, refugees and immigrants tackling life in a new country, or adults wanting to improve literacy skills.

Consider the implication of these "friendship" assignments from the three perspectives of those involved:

The volunteer responds to the idea that this service is important and that caring attention will make a difference to the assigned person in need.

The client generally does not want another formal, professional expert, but a friend. Someone who offers respite from daily problems, cares on a personal level, and provides some help in daily, practical matters.

The agency and paid staff want to serve clients as an extension of their professional services. They see the client as their responsibility and the volunteer as their agent. Both are true, but neither account for the intangible quality of individualized, personal attention called friendship.

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-Source: Energize, Volunteer Management Update Newsletter, 3 June 2015

3 Things Churches Can Teach Nonprofits about Volunteers

Both nonprofits and churches struggle consistently with recruiting and effectively utilizing volunteers. People are increasingly more and more busy and too consumed with work and family to volunteer multiple places these days.

Studies show that most Americans support a very small number of causes annually (with one typically being their church), so nonprofits have to manage their donors carefully and volunteers carefully.

Many churches solely rely on the internal support of their members. Their structural makeup requires it, and if churches don't master the art of maintaining volunteers, they might have to shut their doors – while nonprofits can hobble along for awhile without volunteers, but will rarely thrive.

Here are three things nonprofits can learn from churches about volunteers:

1. Have some influential ask.

We're all a little vain, aren't we? I hate to say it, but when my pastor calls me and asks me for my help selecting a new church database management system, it's a lot harder for me to say no than it would be to just about anyone else.

If you're struggling to line up volunteers, get your ED to make a phone call. Ask the CEO to go visit someone with you. You will be amazed at how people's availability changes when they are made to feel more important. In much the same way that Tom Ahern tells us to make the donors the star of the show in your acknowledgment letters, I'm urging you to make your volunteers the stars!

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-Source: Volunteer Canada, Media Monitoring, 4 June 2015

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