

THE NONPROFIT CONNECTION

News from *HandsOn Northwest North Carolina*



Connection OPPORTUNITIES

August 2009- Vol 2, Issue 8

We're happy to share these items of interest from around our local network. Please e-mail us any opportunities you would like to be featured in future editions! (*The Nonprofit Connection* usually goes out during the first ten days of the month.)

Training OPPORTUNITIES

+ "Fundraising Fitness", Thursday, September 24th, 9am - 4:30pm, NC Museum of Natural Sciences, Raleigh, \$120. This is a Capital Development Services-sponsored workshop offering fundraising training to nonprofit staff and board leadership. Details and registration are available on their [website](#) or by contacting [Clare Altmann](#) directly. Space is limited.

+ **Special Deal Offered by the NC Center for Nonprofits to members of the HandsOn NWNC network!** [Registration](#) is now open for the Center's statewide conference, "Hope in Chaotic Times," which is being held **September 9th-11th in Concord, NC**. The Center has generously offered a **\$20 discount** to the first ten nonprofits associated with HandsOn NWNC! In recognition of the financial challenges nonprofits face, the Center has dropped prices for their Members by \$100 from last year. Please contact me for the code that you'll need during registration. **Deadline for regular registration is August 11th!**

+ **Can't Go to the Full Conference? You Can Still**

Dear Amy,

I hope this finds you all staying cool as we head into the dog days of summer! It's been as busy as ever here at HandsOn, as we continue to expand our network and our programming offerings.

Last month, we announced the first of our quarterly "**Best Practice Breakfasts**," which will highlight a speaker sharing their thoughts on a best practice within our sector. "**Social Networking with a Cause**" is scheduled for **August 31st at 8 am**. We've already gotten a great response, so please [register](#) today if you're planning on attending! (You'll find more details below.)

This month, we're excited to launch our **Helping Hands Scholarship Program**. This program provides partial scholarships (half of the tuition) to nonprofit staff and board members who are interested in taking classes through **Duke University's Certificate Program in Nonprofit Management**. Scholarships are limited and will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information about the Duke University Nonprofit Management Certificate, visit their [website](#). Learn more about the scholarship program [here](#), and download an [application form](#). (Limit one scholarship per person per year.) Please don't hesitate to contact us if you've got any questions.

Even with all of this going on, we might be most excited about bringing on **two new VISTA members** here at our office!

Members of HandsOn Corps, a program of our national network, we'll begin recruiting for these positions later this month, and they'll begin their work in November. One member will be working to expand our network, increase our capacity, and provide training to volunteer coordinators. The other will be reaching out to all of you as we make plans for the **Martin Luther King Day of Service** for which we'll be partnering with Winston-Salem State University and Wake Forest University. These VISTAs will double the size of our staff and we're excited by the possibilities they present. I hope that you'll be able to help us find members with strong ties to our nonprofit and volunteer community. Let us know if you can recommend

Attend Just the Pre-Conference Session: Giving as the Essence of Community," Wednesday, Sept. 9, from 2:00-5:00 in Concord.

Communities also have many more assets than we think. What if you could see - and quantify - all the time, talent, and treasure already given in our communities and build on it through our organizations? What if we could all celebrate, connect, inspire, and grow the giving? Presented in collaboration with **NCGives** and the **Center for Community Action**, this workshop will equip you with the tools to identify, appraise, and quantify the value of both individual and organizational giving. You'll discover ways to increase civic education and engagement around giving and facilitate a transformation in community and organizational attitudes and practices of giving. Space is limited, so [register](#) now. **Cost is \$85 for Center Members.**

+ "Aligning for Impact, Connecting the Dots," NC Philanthropy Conference, August 12th. This conference will bring together fundraising professionals from across the state at the **Four Seasons Sheraton Hotel in Greensboro**. Early bird rates start at **\$109**. Check out the [brochure](#) and register online [here](#).

Funding OPPORTUNITIES

+ Back Your Block with Nike! Nike has announced that its retail division has launched a U.S. based national grant program known as Back Your Block to support community and school groups which aim to unlock the potential of young people through programs that focus on sport. The \$650,000 grant program is now accepting applications through **August 24th**. Each of Nike's 175 U.S. retail locations will participate in this year's program as part of the Company's commitment to giving back to local communities. If your nonprofit involves youth and sports, this could be a fantastic opportunity--even the applicants are highlighted on their website! To learn more, check out their [website](#).

Other OPPORTUNITIES

+ Submit an Action Learning Project to Leadership Winston-Salem and benefit from high-quality pro-bono volunteers! Action Learning projects provide a great opportunity for your non-profit organization by bringing together a

any likely candidates for these full-time, one-year positions!

Stay cool,

Amy Lytle

Executive Director

Quarterly Best Practice Breakfasts: Social Media With A Cause

Monday, August 31st, 8 am to 9:30 am

Location: Salemtowne Community Center

The topic of our first Best Practice Breakfast is **Social Media with a Cause: How to leverage the impact and connectivity of social networks to engage your audience**. **Stephanie Skordas** will show you how to use social media, explain it to your staff and board, and harness its power to further your organization's mission. As both a former marketing director for a local nonprofit, and as an account director for a variety of PR firms, Stephanie has presented on this topic to a wide variety of audiences, including the NC Center for Nonprofits. To learn more about Stephanie, view her [profile](#) on LinkedIn. (Don't know what LinkedIn is? Then you definitely need to come to this breakfast!)

Cost: Free! (But you ***must*** RSVP in advance!)
\$10 if you would like to purchase breakfast
(Breakfast is on the house if you're with a Supporting Organization!)

(Not a Supporting Organization of HandsOn? Click [here](#) to become one today!)

[Register Now!](#)

So, You Want To Start A Nonprofit?

Tuesday, September 22nd, 9 am

Location and Cost: TBD (check our website soon!)

We spend quite a bit of time here at HandsOn speaking to people who have great ideas that they think would help the community. However, starting a nonprofit is not an easy task and transforming ideas into an operating organization can be complex, not to mention overwhelming! While this workshop might not be applicable to many of you, we encourage you to refer any individuals or groups you think this workshop could help. We'll be guiding individuals through the process of starting a nonprofit in NC and will address topics including:

- Legal and governance issues (how to apply for tax exempt status, how to develop a board)
- How to search for grants
- Keys to a successful nonprofit
- Pros and cons of becoming a nonprofit and alternatives worth

diverse team of "untainted" non-experts who can explore a complex dilemma through fresh eyes and craft useful solutions. Teams tackle projects from November to May, averaging 20-25 hours over the course of the project. More details on submitting a project can be found [here](#). Project [applications](#) are due **August 21st**.

+ Got a great tech firm? Let us know! In the next month, we'll be launching a new technology resources page on our website. We want to help nonprofits find reputable technology vendors that have experience working with the unique needs, budget and decision-making processes of nonprofits! Especially for small nonprofits that cannot afford in-house IT help, this list can be a starting place for finding quality help, fast. [E-mail](#) your recommendations to Amy and thank you for helping out your fellow nonprofits!

HandsOn JOIN / GIVE NOW

HandsOn NW NC invites nonprofits to financially support our mission to build the capacity of local nonprofits and increase volunteerism. In exchange, our supporting organizations receive a variety of special benefits and opportunities. [Join HandsOn and Become a Supporter](#)

We welcome financial contributions from businesses and individuals at any level. [Give to HandsOn](#)

considering

This is an all day workshop co hosted by **Wake Forest University's Community and Business Law Clinic**. The cost includes lunch and extensive handouts. (Samples of state and federal forms, as well as Articles of Incorporation and ByLaws, will be provided.) Please keep checking our website for updates on this event, as this workshop is still being developed.

Cost: **\$40 Supporting Organizations**
\$50 All others

(Not a Supporting Organization of HandsOn? Click [here](#) to become one today!)

[Register Now!](#)

*Save the Date:
Nonprofit Awareness Month Breakfast and Workshop!*

Monday, November 16th, 8 am
Location and Cost: TBD

Last November, as part of our yearly celebration of Nonprofit Awareness Month, we organized a breakfast where we launched our new name and brand, heard Scott Weirman of the Winston-Salem Foundation speak about local nonprofit trends, and offered nonprofits a workshop that explored a variety of issues in regards to insurance.

This year, we will again be celebrating Nonprofit Awareness Month--this time, in conjunction with Wake Forest University's emerging Institute for Public Engagement. We're working together on bringing in a nationally-known expert to discuss board trends and issues. This will definitely be one HandsOn event you won't want to miss! Mark the date in your calendar today, and we'll keep you posted as details are finalized.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

NC Center for Nonprofits Represents Our Interests in Washington, DC

In an historic first, staff of the **NC Center for Nonprofits** along with 80 fellow leaders representing more than 20,000 nonprofits from across the country met on July 14th with a senior White House official to explore ways government and nonprofits can best partner to serve local communities.

The White House was represented by Michele Jolin, Senior Advisor in the new **Office of Social Innovation & Civic Participation**. Jolin said, "This Office was created by a President who has an unprecedented commitment to and personal understanding of the vital role nonprofits play in their communities."

On Wednesday, July 15th, the NC Center for Nonprofits leaders also participated in the second annual "Nonprofits Advocate!" Lobby Day. Visits with a variety of members from the NC delegation focused on two core messages: (1) **protecting the funding for the Serve America Act**; and (2) **ensuring that nonprofits** - which employ about 10% of America's workforce - **are not forgotten in health care reform**.

These discussions with Congress and the White House occurred as part of the annual Member Meeting of the **National Council of Nonprofits**, of which the NC Center for Nonprofits is a member.

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