



Center for Nonprofit Leadership

Engage. Learn. Transform.

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2009/2010

Thank you for the opportunity to submit additional information highlighting the impact of our work on nonprofit organizations and nonprofit leaders in Ventura County. Each of the areas highlighted below is supported directly by letters and emails from our constituents served in the past two years and are available in entirety upon request.

Center for Nonprofit Leadership programs are at the forefront of issues facing the nonprofit sector.

“After about 30 years in the nonprofit sector, it feels to me that there is an entirely different current of energy running through it now. I can’t quite put my finger on what it is, but it seems like there is more awareness and conscientiousness about this sphere now than I’ve experienced before. It looks like you at VCCF are either feeling the energy – or creating it!” *Academic institutional partner*

“Because of the Center for Nonprofit Leadership, I am not afraid for the future of nonprofits. Even in this scary economy, they give the tools, the know-how and the confidence to keep going and not give up. They “have my back” and that of every nonprofit in Ventura County, and that is a good feeling.” *Executive Director of local nonprofit organization*

Center for Nonprofit Leadership programs like the Strategic Planning Institute are preparing the current and next generation of nonprofit leaders.

“You have truly given me an invaluable experience and knowledge about nonprofit organizations that I could have gained from no one else.” *Recent undergraduate student participating in the Strategic Planning Institute*

“I have recently been hired at a wonderful private high school to run their annual fund and to begin to lay the groundwork for a planned giving program. I can honestly say that the Strategic Planning Institute and the other extraordinary workshops I have taken at VCCF are the fundamental reason I was prepared when this amazing opportunity presented itself. I have a confidence in and understanding of the development process because of your investment in me.” *Recent nonprofit partner participating in the Strategic Planning Institute*

“These workshops and learning opportunities have exposed me to longtime and emerging best practices and grown my management skill set as a ‘Jill-of-All-Trades’ executive director.” *Executive Director of local nonprofit organization*

“The Center for Nonprofit Leadership has become my anchor and the place which helps me re-fuel, gather my resources and guide the organization to the next level.” *Executive Director of local nonprofit organization*

Center for Nonprofit Leadership programs like the Board Leadership Institute are creating and supporting better board leaders.

“When we first came to the Center, our Board was passion-driven with little, if any practical experience in the governance of a nonprofit corporation. There was a lack of consistency and information with regard to nonprofit structure and accountability. Most of our board members have attended the Board Leadership Institute and other workshop opportunities which have greatly contributed to their competence as savvy, informed and accountable board members.” *Executive Director of local nonprofit organization*

“I have especially benefited from attending the Board Leadership Institute and have learned from the expert speakers as well as the practicing leaders in attendance. There has not been a month where I did not take lessons learned back to my organization to share with others and to implement.” *Current Board Leadership Institute participant*

“Our leadership team’s participation in the Board Leadership Institute provided them with the motivation and tools to engage, refocus and revitalize the board of directors in a major revisioning effort. CNL workshops exploring board roles and responsibilities and effective board / CEO partnerships led the board to re-examine its mission and core values, to reach consensus on several formerly fractious issues, and commit to more active and cohesive governance.” *Past Board Leadership Institute participant*

“The Center continues to guide me and our organization toward healthy and powerful change. Our organization is getting clearer about roles and responsibilities. Committees are becoming more active, and our board members from around the world report they feel a shift. There is more hope, clarity and productivity. We have a new mission statement and our Board is taking a fresh look at our patterns of governance.” *Past Board Leadership Institute participant*

Center for Nonprofit Leadership programs like Technology Works for Nonprofits, the Strategic Planning Institute and our management and leadership workshops are practical, applicable and support efficient and effective nonprofit organizations and increased collaboration.

“Faculty’s professionalism and willingness to discuss ways to improve our technical functionality both within our office and using our website were most appreciated and we are excited to implement more of these recommendations in the coming months. The availability of this program is critical to our ability to carry out our mission.” *Recent participant of the Technology Circuit Rider Program*

“We are a small nonprofit organization with limited funds available for staff training. These workshops are providing the computer knowledge staff will need to upgrade our donor records and perform their jobs with greater efficiency. Staff has been very impressed with the teaching provided and they are excited about what they are learning.” *Recent technology workshop participants*

“The classes are structured in a supportive and comfortable way that facilitates participants sharing, connecting and collaboration. Our participation facilitated two new partnerships and significant program expansion. This has been a long time desire for our organization and it is exciting to see it realized.” *Past workshop attendee*

“Through the efforts of VCCF, I have built collaborations and partnerships which, ultimately, benefit the populations we serve.” *Executive Director of local nonprofit organization*

“The tools we learned through the Strategic Planning Institute and the way the information was communicated enabled us to take a step back and look at what we loved, what was working in our organization (which turned out to be significantly more than what wasn’t working), and to chart a management course for our future.” *Recent nonprofit partner participating in the Strategic Planning Institute*

“I believe that our affiliate is healthier and stronger because of the support we’ve received from the Center for Nonprofit Leadership...both as an organization, and as individual leaders.” *Executive Director of local nonprofit organization*

“We had wanted to develop a strategic plan for several years as our last one was outdated. Given our current budget realities, we just couldn’t afford to make it happen. The Strategic Planning Institute allowed us to conduct a professional planning process at a fraction of the cost. Most importantly, the student consultants and the professional coaches worked with us to customize the process in ways that helped us develop an inclusive process that really embodied our values and culture as an organization. This allowed us to engage all of our stakeholders in a process that truly gave them voice into the future of our organization. In doing so, we were able to produce a plan that is concrete, specific, and relevant and will help make us a stronger organization.” *Executive Director of local nonprofit organization*

Center for Nonprofit Leadership programs like the Board Leadership Institute and the Strategic Planning Institute involve leaders across the organization including nonprofit staff, board members and volunteers.

“I just wanted to tell you what a valuable training this was! We had four people from the board of directors and advisory committee attend and they learned so much – which is good since I retire in December!” *Past workshop attendee*

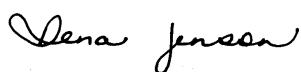
“We are a three-year old group, started by myself and three colleagues to help women work their way out of poverty through micro loans. My co-founders and I are primarily human resources professionals with only limited experience in the nonprofit world and therefore have had a steep learning curve. Our learning has been greatly facilitated by the many classes, seminars and roundtable available at very reasonable or no cost – education that would have been hard for us to obtain had it been more expensive.” *Past workshop attendee*

Center for Nonprofit Leadership programs such as the Planning Giving Institute take advantage of existing strengths and opportunities to transform the organization and our impact continues after the life of the program.

“While planned giving expertise was available to us at the national level, we knew it was important for us to develop our own local program and strategies. We turned to VCCF’s Center for Nonprofit Leadership for guidance on developing a planned giving program and were selected to participate in the Center’s 10-month Planned Giving Institute in January, 2008. We were extremely pleased with our accomplishments by the conclusion of the PGI, which included the creation and adoption of gift acceptance policies, development of marketing strategies, expansion of our capacity for charitable gift annuities and so much more! We have since created our very first charitable gift annuity, grown the membership in our Heritage Fund (for those who have named us in their estate plans) and established significant relationships with numerous professional advisors. Our planned giving program is well on track, and we take great pride in the fact that our efforts today will ensure that our services are around for the children of the future. Thank you!” *Recent participant of the Planned Giving Institute*

As you have heard me mention time and time again, we are a reflection of the tremendous individuals and organizations that we are entrusted to serve. We thank you once again for the opportunity to share these thoughts with you and should you have any questions, please feel free to let me know.

With warm regard,



Dena Jenson, Vice-President & Director
Center for Nonprofit Leadership