



Responses to MANP Questionnaire
Charlie Summers, candidate for U.S. Congress, Maine's First District

1. Please describe your personal and professional experiences with nonprofit organizations.

In my personal life and professional experiences, I have been a part of, and interacted with, many nonprofit organizations. As a veteran, I am a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and the American Legion. Both of these organizations are so instrumental in supporting veterans and their families, as well as fostering civic pride and education through community service and outreach. I am also a strong supporter of the Salvation Army for the work it does in helping the most needy in our society. Additionally, my wife, Ruth, is the Executive Director of the Education Management Corporation's Education Foundation, a nonprofit organization that raises scholarship funds for students to attend post-secondary institutions in states throughout the America.

As State Director for Senator Olympia Snowe for nine years, I have worked closely with dozens of Maine's outstanding nonprofits. I represented the Senator at these groups' annual meetings, events, and community service projects, and met with their leaders so that I could bring their ideas back to the Senator for her consideration in Washington. Previously, in the State Senate, I worked with many nonprofit housing groups while serving on the Legal Affairs Committee. From the Laudholm Trust in Wells to Coastal Enterprises, Inc., in Wiscasset, from Spurwink to Sweetser, the nonprofits of Maine's First District are leaders in providing effective results in making Maine a better state.

2. Please provide specific ways in which, if elected, you would partner with and strengthen the nonprofit sector to achieve the goals of your campaign.

Nonprofits are so effective at making a difference in people's lives because they are on the ground, doing good work everyday. At every opportunity, government should partner with nonprofits and leverage services so as not to be duplicative in helping people. Specifically, I have a plan for the United States to truly get on the road to energy independence by producing more energy here in our country, from new drilling for gas and oil to the development of water, wind, hydro, solar, and a host of alternative forms of energy. Nonprofits are critical in fueling the research, ideas, and creative thinking for how we get to our energy future, and I would team with them to enact a cohesive strategy to move us forward.

We must always be looking for high-skill, high-wage jobs for Mainers. Also, as the oldest state in the nation, we need more of our young adults to return to Maine after

college, and we need to keep those who come to Maine for higher education here after graduation. Many nonprofits dedicate their efforts to creating jobs, like Opportunity Maine and Jobs and Maine's Graduates. In Congress, I will seek to work with groups like these to bring more jobs to Maine, and to make sure that our children don't leave Maine because they cannot find a decent job.

Finally, I will work with nonprofits like the VFW, American Legion, and Disabled American Veterans (DAV) to help those who served our state and country so honorably. As a nation, we owe more than just a debt of gratitude to our veterans, and government, nonprofits, and private industries must work together to make sure these brave Mainers have the services they need. Whether it is providing housing for our homeless veterans or making sure they have the medical care and mental health services they need, working together can produce tremendous results. I look forward to working with nonprofits to do good in the communities of Maine's First District and beyond.