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Get to Know Maine’s Vibrant Nonprofit Sector

The Maine Association of Nonprofits (MANP) is proud to partner with the Maine Sunday Telegram to highlight an often overlooked part of Maine’s economy, the nonprofit sector. Maine’s nonprofit sector is large and diverse. Our state’s social impact sector is one of the most robust and vibrant in the country and reinforces the state’s reputation as a great place to live, raise a family and do business. In every county in Maine there are organizations working to protect Maine’s environment, care for our most vulnerable residents, support arts and culture and educate our children, all while investing significant financial and human resources in communities statewide.

Nonprofits are stimulating economic development, spending $10 billion dollars each year, serving as the foundation of Maine’s creative economy, and conserving and protecting the natural resources that are a cornerstone of Maine’s economy and quality of life. Mission-driven organizations employ 1 in 7 Maine workers, and pay over $3.6 billion in wages, which translates into an estimated $206 million of personal income tax revenue for Maine’s state and local governments and over $411 million in federal tax revenues.

These organizations are building our communities and cultivating civil society. They create unique opportunities for Mainers to come together to address community challenges and develop leadership skills. Nonprofits mobilize approximately 350,000 volunteers each year who donate over $1 billion in time and talent to their communities. They partner with government to build and preserve local public structures such as libraries, clinics, open space, affordable housing and emergency shelters.

Nonprofits are weaving strong social fabric, caring for the mental and physical well-being of Mainers of all ages, and partnering with government to provide a safety net for our most vulnerable residents. We are so proud to work with the groups that are defining, shaping and improving the quality of life in local communities. Maine would be a far different place to live without the myriad of community-based organizations that generate employment and mobilize thousands of volunteers. We appreciate the continuing support of the many organizations, businesses and foundations that recognize the important role nonprofits play in building a prosperous state that reflects our highest ideals.

These few pages provide just a glimpse into the far-reaching and diverse work of Maine’s nonprofit sector. We hope you’ll take some time to really get to know the many organizations, businesses and foundations that support your community, your life, and the lives of those you care about. Maine’s nonprofits are all around you, helping to protect and improve the quality of life in Maine.
The History of Nonprofits

“The [nonprofit] sector enhances our creativity, enlivens our communities, nurtures individual responsibility, stirs life at the grassroots and reminds us that we were born free.” — John W. Gardner, Former U.S. Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare

Nonprofits educate our children, help maintain a sustainable environment, nurture our culture, improve government policies, create jobs and drive our economy. They are absolutely integral to every facet of our communities. And they make Maine a better place to live.

Where did this nonprofit sector come from and why is it so prominent in Maine? And what is the sector’s relationship to government? What’s the real reason they receive special tax status?

The development of nonprofits in Maine is closely related to our historical and cultural view of government emerging from colonial times. New England values governance that is close to the people, hence the emergence of villages and towns as the central units of government. We have a long tradition of “local control” when it comes to our municipalities.

Contrast this with much larger colonies, such as Virginia or the Carolinas. Those states adopted the English concept of the county - a unit of government organized to span broad distances. Later, as even larger western states were added to the United States, the importance of strong county structures grew.

Over time, county governments evolved in scope, from early roles in police protection, jails and courts to complex functions such as public health, welfare, highways, sewage, garbage and regional planning. Maine’s county structure had more limited functions and the dominance of municipal government remained.

However, our small villages and towns did not have the resources to provide many services. That’s where nonprofits came in. Since colonial times, churches, universities, hospitals, granges and private schools in New England have provided needed educational, social and health services in small communities. The 20th century saw further growth in the nonprofit landscape with the appearance of YMCAs, Boys and Girls Clubs, Goodwill, and Community Chests.

Fast forward to the 1960s, when we saw tremendous growth in nonprofits nationally and in Maine. The War on Poverty provided large grants to states and local governments that contracted with nonprofits for services. Eventually, grants went directly to local nonprofits and the numbers of organizations grew.

Simultaneously, there was a huge shift in the mental health system. Many states followed California’s lead and closed large, often antiquated psychiatric institutions, sending the residents out to communities for care. Community-based nonprofits established mental health centers, but there were never enough to meet the need. Eventually, many county governments stepped in to provide care and some even opened hospitals.

Maine saw a similar process. In 1990, the Augusta Mental Health Institute became legally accountable for setting up a community-based system of care. Pineland closed in 1996, moving residents with developmental disabilities out into the community. Many agencies and residential homes sprung up following those decrees to enable former institutional residents to live productive lives in their communities.

The theme that emerges is that many nonprofit organizations were formed to perform the work of government, especially in New England, where county government is not prominent. In fact, three New England states appear in the top 10 for proportional numbers of nonprofits.

The nonprofit sector has largely emerged from Maine’s propensity for smallness. By consciously choosing to restrain government, we have encouraged a broad system of nonprofits to fill gaps. Maine should therefore facilitate, rather than constrain, their work on our behalf.

Submitted by Lisa Miller, of Somerville, a former legislator who served on the Health and Human Services Appropriations and Financial Affairs committees.

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Edward Lovely
Cathance River Education

I’m involved because
I have always been interested in ecology and natural history. The CREA Ecology Center seemed like a good fit for me to get involved in an excellent mission.

The best parts
When involved with a small nonprofit board, one has to be a “working member.” Members need to jump right in and provide leadership in areas where they can be most effective. Members also must be involved in development and fundraising.

I would recommend this work to anyone who has both an interest in ecology and natural history. The CREA Ecology Center is willing to appreciate for the value of the skills they have in working to improve things.

Kim Lane
Crisis & Counseling Centers

I’m involved because
I have been a social worker for over 35 years working in the mental health and substance abuse field, so when I decided I wanted a different role I sought out board involvement.

The best parts
Board members complement the organization in unique ways, adding specific skill sets to expand on the management. The experience has been only positive and rewarding beyond my imagination. The amount of energy one needs to expend is varying but most often dependent on the board member. I would recommend looking into board work to get involved with your community and to be exposed to a different side of engagement.

Polly Smith
Freeport Conservation Trust

I’m involved because
I believe in preserving special places, including productive farms, for generations to come; and I love using my professional skills with people I enjoy for purposes I embrace.

The best parts
I was surprised how versatile the board is, not only in the range of professional skills, but also the perspectives different people bring. I would definitely recommend this work! There are outlets for creativity, physical labor, and interacting with others in the community. It is very rewarding to be contributing to the benefit of others.

Jason Judd
Maine School of Science and Mathematics

I’m involved because
I graduated from MSSM, and I wanted to give back to the school which was such a large part of my success after high school.

The best parts
I have been surprised about the significant commitment of board members. It is wonderful to be part of such a great group. I would recommend serving on a board because you are able to interact with a wide variety of people motivated to give back. You learn a new set of skills and tackle worthwhile challenges to enhance and sustain the organization.

Brenda Peluso
The Locker Project

I’m involved because
I was so impressed with the organic nature of the growth of the organization and the community support that I mentioned that I wouldn’t mind serving on the board.

The best parts
If a group whose work you admire has a board seat available, I would jump on board. There is so much to do that everyone can feel like they are contributing positively to the progress of the organization just by bringing their strengths and attention to the organization. In our work lives, that doesn’t always happen. Sometimes you have to do things that are not a great match for your natural abilities, but when you are volunteering, you have more flexibility to jump in where the fit is best.
Strengthening Maine’s Small Communities Leads to Economic Growth

It was once thought that historic preservation was an opposing force when it came to economic development. Yet through the work of the Maine Downtown Center (MDC), a project of the Maine Development Foundation, we’ve learned that Maine’s historic downtowns are an irreplaceable part of the Maine way of life. Vibrant downtowns mean a stronger Maine economy, more opportunities for entrepreneurial and small business growth, and a better quality of life for Maine people. As MDC has proven, the results are much more sustainable and far-reaching when historic preservation and economic development work in concert with one another.

So what is MDC and what do we do? We are a nonprofit that empowers Maine’s historic downtowns to revitalize and invigorate their community, cultural and commercial assets through programs focused on historic preservation, economic development, public health and green practices. Set in Statute by the Maine Legislature, MDC has been working in communities since 1999 through the support of public and private funding to encourage downtown revitalization in the state of Maine.

At the heart of MDC is Main Street Maine, part of a national downtown revitalization and economic development program led by the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s National Main Street Center, Inc. In every corner of Maine, MDC is helping downtowns grow through partnerships with nonprofits and municipalities. Perhaps you’ve visited one of the participating communities and seen the change. We’ve been working systematically in Augusta, Bath, Belfast, Biddleford, Brunswick, Gardiner, Rockland, Saco, Skowhegan and Waterville. Some are hidden treasures just beginning the process, while others are established visitor destinations and centers of commerce working to sustain and strengthen their offerings.

We partner with these downtowns at the grassroots level to improve their assets. Bath’s City Manager, Bill Giroux said “The Main Street program through MDF’s Maine Downtown Center has been the driving force behind the economic success of our downtown. The return on investment consistently demonstrates that this nationally proven, place-based economic development program is working in Bath and statewide, bringing needed resources, optimism and leadership to the heart of our communities.”

Across Maine from 2002-2014, 10 Main Street Maine communities have reported that over 1,000 full-time jobs have been created and 300 new part-time jobs, with a net creation of 325 new businesses. During this time period, 368 new housing units were also built, along with 21 new construction projects, and 832 building rehabilitations. The total reinvestment of this is well over $220 million. This economic development has also instigated a surge in volunteerism. More than 260,000 volunteer hours have been logged within these MDC communities.

MDC partners on other community-building programs. Making Headway in Your Community, a collaboration between the MDC and the nonprofit, GrowSmart Maine, helps targeted towns create community-driven outcomes and build capacity on what they value the most. Grants to Green Maine (GtGM) is a partnership between Maine Community Foundation, Maine Development Foundation, MDC and Efficiency Maine. GtGM provides funding to nonprofit organizations located in historic buildings in Maine downtowns for energy audits and energy efficiency upgrades.

MDC’s mission is simple. Finely preserved historic downtowns are an irreplaceable part of the Maine way of life. Vibrant downtowns bring people together. They support economic growth and community development while protecting their architectural elements, cultural heritage and natural features. There is much that is unique and worth strengthening in Maine and we’re proud to be a part of it.

Submitted by Lorain Francis, Senior Program Director of the Maine Downtown Center

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Mainers have a strong sense of community. We serve on boards, donate our time and money to organizations we care about, and are quick to help our neighbors. In fact, one in every seven Mainers is employed by a nonprofit. These organizations are making a significant social and economic impact across our State every day. But, there is one more critical piece of the social impact puzzle that all Mainers concerned with making our State a better place to live should keep at the top of their minds: Advocacy.

Advocacy is a broad term covering a range of activities that seek to bring about systemic social change. Advocacy is a need too great to ignore. The needs of our State and the nonprofits that serve our communities are both too important to sit by and wait for policy changes to advance – or too often, threaten – our ability to create better outcomes for the lives of all Mainers. The boards that many of us sit on and the countless organizations that make Mainers such a special place to live and run our businesses are extremely susceptible to shifts in public funding priorities. We have to make sure that policymakers understand the impact of their decisions before the damage is already done.

Mainers are served by a citizen legislature. Our lawmakers donate their time and energy for a job that is advertised as part-time and low-pay. Our elected officials are farmers, teachers, doctors, small business owners and more, all serving to move Maine forward in a positive direction. Most importantly, they are our neighbors. Legislators are also ‘term-limited’ to four consecutive terms in office. All of this means that our policymakers are extremely accessible and hungry for information and education from community leaders and constituents. When you make that effort and take that time to speak with them about an issue of community importance, they pay attention. Remember, you are the expert they need to hear from in order to be able to make an informed decision.

Here are few quick tips to start advocating effectively and legally:

- Introduce yourself to your local State Representative and Senator.
- Track legislation that is important to your community and testify at a public hearing.
- Get trained! The Maine Association of Nonprofits offers countless resources for education and awareness on how individuals can advocate legally and effectively.

We must care enough to stand up for our State and our neighbors. Relationships and networks matter, and only you have the connections needed to help policymakers align their decisions with community needs. We need to ensure the voices of everyday Mainers are at the table and unleash the potential to create positive change through advocacy.

Advocacy is a broad term covering a range of activities that seek to bring about systemic social change. Including Community Foundations, have every right to advocate on behalf of policies they believe in. And they should.

At a time when there is often too much to do and not enough time to do it, adding one more responsibility can seem overwhelming. But, the need is too great to ignore. The needs of our State and the nonprofits that serve our communities are both too important to sit by and wait for policy changes to advance – or too often, threaten – our ability to create better outcomes for the lives of all Mainers. The boards that many of us sit on and the countless organizations that make Mainers such a special place to live and run our businesses are extremely susceptible to shifts in public funding priorities. We have to make sure that policymakers understand the impact of their decisions before the damage is already done.

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Opportunities in Leadership Transitions

The biggest resource of mission-driven organizations? People. And as we are often reminded, Maine is the oldest state, so as the wave of baby boomers starts to retire—retirements that have sometimes been delayed by the recession—many of our current community leaders are passing the metaphorical baton to the next generation. This is not a crisis; it is a challenge and it is an opportunity.

Stephanie LeBlanc, Executive Director of Oxford County Mental Health Services since 2014, reflects, "A transition in leadership offers fresh perspective that encourages out-of-the-box thinking and provides opportunity to reenergize an organization. Leadership transitions, if successfully implemented, engage employees in refocusing the organization on strengths and opportunities, clearly defining priorities and stimulating common vision."

New leaders are eager to step up to the challenge. Each year, twenty executive directors who have been on the job for fewer than three years come together as part of MANP’s Leadership Institute designed to set goals for professional growth and exploring shared leadership models will better prepare organizations in all sectors for inevitable, and often unpredictable, change. Most leaders report they developed their skills over years on the job and from mentors and peers. Those in power must foster opportunities for others to do the same. Mike Mitchell, promoted to Executive Director of Crisis & Counseling Centers in 2014, offers this advice to others growing into new roles, "Listen and watch the people you are leading, don't be afraid to seek guidance and support. Be okay with not knowing and assume a constant state of learning."

Maine’s future generations of leaders bring new skills, expectations and urgency for creativity and collaboration that are already shaping their workplaces. These millennials are building their own career-advancing social groups through activities such as the popular Green Drinks and communities such as the newly forming Young Nonprofit Professionals Network of Maine (YNPMPA). They are also reinventing how offices look at shared co-working spaces like ThinkTank and Peloton Labs. As an aging state, Maine must recognize nonprofits as crucial partners in attracting and retaining these younger leaders. Workers in the millennial generation seek out innovative organizations that contribute to the greater good. "The work of nonprofits encapsulates the compassion of my generation," says Lydia Swann, 26, of Portland. "We want to be connected to each other and to contribute to solutions." Organizations that embrace this rising generation’s assets will be rewarded with new ways to advance their missions.

And let’s not count the retiring leaders out, either. These mission-driven individuals, sometimes the founders of organizations that are now cornerstones of their communities, are pivoting to contribute in their communities in other ways. According to data from the Corporation for National and Community Service, 30% of older adults volunteer. Regional Retired and Senior Volunteer Programs (RSVP), Encore Leadership Corps, and other networks connect older volunteers with a variety of programs. Retired senior leaders provide valuable guidance to organizations by serving on governing boards: Leading with Intent, a 2015 report by BoardSource, shows that almost 30% of nonprofit board members are over 65.

Merging old and new leadership styles is one part of addressing the changes in Maine’s complex economic landscape. The challenges we face require that we not only pass down experience, but actively recruit, develop and learn from those who will be leading our communities into the future. There is risk in transition, but there is also enormous opportunity for nonprofits to find new ways to continue their essential work in contributing to a vibrant and healthy Maine.

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Imagine you reached into your pocket and found $5. How could you get the most out of that money? Would you keep it for yourself or give it away? Surprisingly, researchers are finding that giving it away gets us the biggest bang for our $5 bucks. It's easy to think of philanthropy as something for rich people. But “philanthropy” at its core means the desire to promote the welfare of others. When we donate cans of food to a food drive, volunteer at the elementary school, or contribute to our church, we enrich our families. Giving can be a powerful way to enrich our families.

Giving enriches our own lives
For improving our happiness, how we spend our money is as important as the amount we have. Across a variety of cultures and ages, researchers have found that giving to others makes us happier than spending money on ourselves. Interested in getting the most happiness bang for your buck? Think about giving throughout the year: giving in February or March means just as much as November or December. Research also suggests giving makes us happiest when it helps us connect with other people, we can see the positive impact of our donation, and are in control of whether and how much to give.

Giving can be a powerful way to enrich our families
Think of all the different ways people donate their time or money. One person may give to the hospice organization that cared for a relative. A child might donate to UNICEF after learning about the impact of hunger on kids around the world. Our values, our experiences, and the way we think about our communities all play a part in the decisions we make about our giving. Talking about your giving can be a powerful way to strengthen bonds and connect with your family members. Ask your spouse, child, sibling, or parent what gifts have been the most meaningful to them. What values do you both share?

As parents or grandparents, involving children in the what, why, and how of giving can help them become charitable adults themselves. A recent article argued that to teach your children to give, you should talk about what your family has been given. Invite children into conversations about family history: what struggles have you faced and how has it shaped you?

Giving enriches our communities
Nonprofits in Maine do incredible work year-round to support education, health care, human services, the arts, the environment, and more. They provide tens of thousands of jobs, employing 1 in 7 Mainers. They contribute approximately $10 billion to the economy. When we give in our communities, we're helping to make Maine a better place for all of us to live, work, and play.

The Maine Philanthropy Center's mission is to provide leadership to promote philanthropy and increase its impact in Maine. MPC is a regional association of grantmakers who share a commitment to increasing the visibility and vitality of Maine's philanthropy community. To learn more about giving in Maine, visit us at www.mainephilanthropy.org.

Submitted by Vrylena Olney, Program and Communications Director of the Maine Philanthropy Center
The Creative Economy: Arts and Culture Nonprofits that Stimulate Economic Development

Whether it’s a free outdoor concert on the Bangor Waterfront or an Art Walk in Biddeford/Saco Portland, we have all benefited from the creative talents, skills and dedication of Maine’s nonprofit cultural community. With over 2,000 cultural nonprofits from Kittery to Fort Kent, the arts are critical contributors to our community’s vitality as great places to work, live and do business. In addition to being highly visible components of Maine’s enviable quality of life, these organizations support competitive jobs for creative professionals and attract visitors to Maine’s towns and cities, who then spend money at local restaurants, hotels and shops.

In a 2011 report by the New England Foundation for the Arts, researchers found that “…every $1.00 spent by a Maine nonprofit arts and cultural organization was $525 million, supporting 7,547 jobs in Maine businesses. As a participant in a 2011 national study by Americans for the Arts, the City of Portland, Maine, found that its arts and culture nonprofits contribute over $49 million to the local economy annually. The study also found that, in Portland, audience members spent an average of $28 per person above the ticket price in the local economy—$3.00 higher than the national average. This means that First Friday Art Walk, Maine’s largest free monthly cultural event, which is attended by thousands of visitors to Portland’s Arts District every month, contributes $1 million to the local economy each year.

As a nonprofit, the Art Walk’s mission is to provide free access to and promotion of the remarkable talent and inspiration of Portland’s arts scene. These studies have also found that this industry is remarkably resilient to economic fluctuations, as the numbers following the 2008 world economic crisis remained relatively strong throughout the crisis. In 2016, Creative Portland, the local arts agency for the City of Portland, will participate in the update to the national economic impact survey and determine how the arts industry has fared as the economy recovered in the last 5 years.

Since 2004, when Governor John Baldacci hosted a Blaine House Conference on the Creative Economy, cultural nonprofits in towns across the state have been working to build their communities’ creative assets as a way to build economic vitality. In Biddeford, Engine is building a creative community from the ground up and generating new economic activity in the city’s downtown by providing a fun, attractive place where residents, students, families and visitors can experience community-based arts programming and education. In Eastport, the Tides Institute (an artist-in-residency program) and the Eastport Arts Center are attracting people to a growing new industry, the arts, and fueling a local economy that, for years, has been challenged by the changing nature of Maine’s economy.

For more examples of the impact and activities of Maine’s cultural nonprofits, visit the Creative Ground database on the New England Foundation for the Arts website, nefa.org. They have collected profiles of over 2000 cultural nonprofits in Maine that are contributing to community vitality—both in terms of economic growth and quality of life. Submitted by Jennifer Hutchins, Executive Director of Creative Portland

Charlotte White Center’s mission is to provide quality community health and social services for adults, children and families affected by intellectual or developmental disabilities, behavioral or mental health challenges, domestic violence, cerebral palsy or acquired brain injuries.

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Corporate Volunteerism: Give It Forward. Get It Back

Local businesses have supported the community through philanthropic dollars for years, but lately corporate volunteerism has been gathering steam. Why? Because it’s a mutually beneficial and sustainable option for companies, nonprofit organizations, individual employees and, most importantly, those in need. And it’s fun.

In 2012, according to the Committee Encouraging Corporate Philanthropy, 70% of companies enabled employees to volunteer with nonprofit organizations during paid working hours. This represents a 17% increase since 2007.

Employee volunteers are perhaps the greatest resource small and large-sized companies can leverage when trying to positively impact the communities where they operate and do business. Volunteerism is an effective way for companies to get involved; while building relationships within the community and across departments within an organization. Additionally, corporate volunteerism strengthens internal culture, supports recruitment and retention, and contributes to good physical and mental health and overall happiness.

According to a study from Net Impact and Rutgers University, employees who say they have an opportunity to make a direct social and environmental impact at work report higher satisfaction levels than those who do not, by a two-to-one ratio.

Volunteerism is an effective way for companies to get involved

In addition to traditional one-time, team building projects, skills-based volunteerism can provide additional value by functioning as a professional development mechanism, giving employees learning and leadership opportunities that may not be immediately available in the workplace. Working with nonprofits and new teams - under new constraints and with limited resources - gives employees a fresh perspective and stimulates their creativity.

According to True Impact, skills-based volunteers are more likely than traditional volunteers to report gains in recruiting, skill development, stakeholder relationships, sales, social value, and satisfaction. For nonprofits with limited resources, the value of skilled support in general operations, technology, and professional services cannot be overstated.

Here are some best practices for companies considering launching an employee volunteer program (EVP):

• Develop specific societal, employee, and business goals with clear strategies.
• Leverage employee skills and corporate assets, enhance corporate operations, and adopt structures and policies that allow them to scale and deepen engagement.
• Ensure vocal and continual support from company leadership.
• Understand the importance of strategic partnerships and collaboration.
• Generate broad-based employee enthusiasm, support, and stewardship for the EVP.
• Measure the degree to which they are accomplishing their plan and share the results internally and externally.
• Recognize, communicate, and celebrate success internally and externally.

For more information about these best practices, go to: http://www.pointsoflight.org/corporate-institute/resources

United Way is a valuable resource for businesses, large and small, that want to engage their employees in volunteerism. We can help connect your company with quality opportunities that build capacity for local nonprofits and strengthen employee/employer relationships. To learn more, visit www.unitedwaysofmaine.org.

Submitted by Karen Stephenson, Director of Volunteer Engagement of United Way of Greater Portland
MANP: Helping Nonprofits Help Maine

The Maine Association of Nonprofits (MANP) was established in 1994 to “strengthen the leadership, voice and organizational effectiveness of Maine nonprofits so they can better enrich the quality of community and personal life in the state.” In its 21 year history, MANP has developed an extensive array of management training and leadership development programs, capacity building and advocacy resources, and member services to help Maine nonprofit leaders expand their mission impact. MANP has grown to include 750 nonprofit members and 140 annual corporate supporters. Our programs and services help nonprofit leaders learn, connect and advocate. Here’s how:

**Learn**

Management and Leadership Training:
- SkillBuilders: Half and full day trainings on Fundraising, Marketing, Board Governance, Human Resources, Finance and Strategic Planning
- Board Boot Camps and Nonprofit Finance Conference: Full day programs that build skills, awareness and knowledge in board governance and finance
- Leadership Institute for New Executive Directors: Six month leadership development program for new executive directors that builds skills, leadership capacity and a supportive peer network
- Executive Leadership Forums: Twice a year programming that highlights important trends impacting the nonprofit sector
- Webinars: Through national partnerships with Nonprofit Finance Fund, Nonprofit Risk Management Center, Idealware, NTEN and MindEdge

**Resources:**
- Guiding Principles & Practices for Nonprofit Excellence in Maine: Best practices framework designed to create stronger, more successful nonprofits. The tools help nonprofits evaluate and improve all aspects of organizational performance and includes assessments and is supported by an online resource library
- Board Assessment Tool: Offers nonprofits a practical way to assess their boards’ strengths and weaknesses and improve their board engagement
- Nonprofit Help Desk: Answers to nonprofit management questions and referrals to organizations with resources to assist members

**Publications:**
- Adding Up Impact: Nonprofits at Work: MANP’s biennial social and economic impact report
- Report on Nonprofit Wages and Benefits: The only report in Maine covering detailed nonprofit wage & benefit information
- Financial Management Guide: A broad based overview of the key concepts necessary for effectively managing and reporting nonprofit financial transactions
- Board Handbooks: Enhancing knowledge regarding the role of board members and how to effectively recruit new members

**Advocate**

- Nonprofit Day at the Statehouse: Promoting awareness regarding the economic and social impact of nonprofits to Maine legislators
- Legislative Advocacy: Advocating on issues that impact the entire Maine nonprofit sector
- Training: Teaching organizations and individuals how to advocate legally and effectively
- Legislative Alerts: News bulletins on state & federal legislation affecting nonprofits

**Connect**

- MANP Job Board: The only nonprofit specific resource in Maine to help organizations find the best talent to meet their needs
- Yellow Pages: Online directory of vendors and consultants who provide professional services for nonprofits
- Grant Station: A searchable database of more than 7,000 active funding sources
- Insurance and Retirement Programs: Health, Dental, and Retirement programs
- Pro Bono Legal and Accounting Services: Free consultations on nonprofit specific legal and accounting topics

Nonprofit organizations are critically important to supporting Maine’s economy and high quality of life. MANP is proud to help nonprofits help Maine.
10 Ways to Help Build Your Community

1) Volunteer
Pick an organization, any organization. You can lend a hand once a week, once a month, or on a one-time-only project. Not sure where to begin? Give www.VolunteerMaine.org a try and see what catches your eye.

2) Make a donation
Nonprofits develop business models with diverse income streams that include contributions from individuals and businesses that recognize the value of their work. Consider supporting organizations whose work you value.

3) Make a wish come true
Donations can be about more than money. Call or check out the website of a nonprofit that’s providing services to the community to find a wish list of items they could use. You might make it a family project. Consider adopting a nonprofit and providing them with just one ongoing wish from their list for an entire year. You might even find this to be a great way to get involved on a long-term basis with an organization.

4) Serve on a nonprofit committee
Maybe you’re good at planning events, or reading spreadsheets. Nonprofits rely on the efforts of many people to share their workload, and committee members are a vital force.

5) Serve on a board
Nonprofits are governed by volunteer boards of directors, all charged with the role of acting in the best interests of the organization. The work is rewarding, and will give you a stronger commitment to an organization and to the community it serves.

6) Take time to learn about the crucial role nonprofits play in our communities
Did you know that one in every seven workers in Maine works for a nonprofit? Learn about the history of Maine’s nonprofits, and why they are a crucial part of Maine’s business community. www.NonprofitMaine.org is a great place to start.

7) Advocate
Anyone can lobby for the good work of nonprofits. Write a letter to your legislator. Speak to your neighbors and coworkers. Nonprofits appreciate and rely on you to take on an active role as a member of the community.

8) Engage with your community
The nonprofits you care about are tied into their communities as part of a strong network. But your personal relationships could make a much needed difference. See a connection you could help make? Your efforts to make those connections can help strengthen the fabric of the community you call home.

9) Share your talents
Consider sharing your skills with a nonprofit. Access to graphic designers, writers, event planners and many other professionals can be hard to budget. Offering pro-bono professional services is another way to make a difference. Smaller nonprofit organizations often have limited resources, so if you’ve got the time, a nonprofit will most certainly have the need.

10) Thank a nonprofit
If an organization has reached out to you this past year, or does great work in your community, take the time to say thank you. That is without a doubt an essential gift you can make.

Every single person you know in Maine benefits from the work of Maine’s nonprofits. Here are 10 ways you can support the important work of the organizations you’ve come to count on, the ones that make Maine the place we all choose to live.

Sky Lodge
The Non-Profit’s Retreat

Built in 1929 on 200 acres now restored to its former glory. Used only for non-profit organizations to gather with all meals included. Available for use by non-profit organizations to gather for meetings, retreats, team building exercises or senior getaways. Accommodations include all home cooked meals.

207-668-2171
Moose River, ME
skyloge.wix.com/skylodge

Riding To The Top
Therapeutic Riding Center
14 Lilac Drive
Windham, Maine 04062
207- 892-2813
ridingtothetop.org

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Leslie, Parent of rider at RTT

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www.yorkhousing.info/neighborhoodnetwork