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**CONTACT:** Mary Erin Casale

207-871-1885

[mecasale@nonprofitmaine.org](mailto:mecasale@nonprofitmaine.org)

**Maine Association of Nonprofits Hosts Storytelling Training in Western Maine**

*Partnership with Bethel Area Nonprofit Collaborative*

**Portland, ME** - Maine Association of Nonprofits (MANP), the largest membership organization in the state dedicated to strengthening Maine's nonprofits, is hosting a communications training this Friday in Newry, Maine. In partnership with the Bethel Area Nonprofit Collaborative (BANC), staff from 15 nonprofits in western Maine region will receive the day-long training *Telling Impactful Stories*. MANP offers training and professional development in all regions of the state to support organizations in the communities they serve.

"Nonprofits are the reliable backbone of Maine communities often taken for granted," said Jennifer Hutchins, Executive Director of MANP. "In addition to speaking up for them, we provide the timely information, quality resources, and practical tools they need to do to be sustainable and effective. Partnering with BANC enables us to ensure this information and knowledge is available to everyone who works tirelessly for our communities."

The workshop, *Telling Impactful Stories*, will be presented by Leigh Tillman. Tillman has worked with businesses and organizations through Maine, facilitating decision-making, group processes, and trainings. Her work focuses on helping people hear one another to find common ground so that groups can make realistic, tangible, innovative, and informed decisions. This specific training facilitates team cohesion, collaboration amidst partners, and external messaging.

"In order to attract and retain talent, and build a strong foundation from which to manage current and future change, nonprofits must invest in professional and leadership skill development," said Hutchins.

MANP offers ongoing education and resources designed to provide nonprofit leaders, staff, board members and volunteers with the necessary knowledge and skills to help their organizations become more effective and well-run.

For more information on upcoming educational opportunities or to register for events, visit <http://www.nonprofitmaine.org/learn/> or call (207)871-1885.

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*Since 1994, MANP has grown to become Maine's comprehensive resource for the tools, knowledge, and connections nonprofits need to be effective and well-run. With a growing statewide membership of almost 800 nonprofit and 135 for-profit organizations, MANP **advances** the public profile of Maine nonprofits by highlighting their vital contribution to the quality of life in our state, **connects** people, organizations and resources from all sectors to foster collaborative problem solving, and **strengthens** nonprofits by providing management training and leadership development programs, resources and services to help staff and board leaders enhance their community mission impact.*

565 Congress Street, #301  
Portland, Maine 04101

tel: 207-871-1885

fax: 207-780-0346

[www.NonprofitMaine.org](http://www.NonprofitMaine.org)