

## 2006 Summary of Activities

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### **The Need for Nonprofit Development**

Nonprofit organizations in Montana demonstrate their value, and their strengths, every day.

- The nonprofit sector plays important roles in Montana, building healthy communities, attracting economic investment, maintaining beautiful landscapes, delivering cultural experiences, and providing a social safety net.
- The nonprofit sector is a critical part of the state's economy, and was the third largest employer in the state during 2005-2006 (source: Montana Nonprofit Association, Montana Nonprofit Sector Report, January 2007).
- Nonprofits are uniquely positioned to leverage resources from out-of-state foundations, corporations, and the federal government, in addition to attracting funding from in-state donors and foundation.

Nonprofit organizations in the Flathead region face challenges to ensuring their missions are achieved efficiently and effectively. The Flathead's nonprofit sector is comprised primarily of small, under-resourced nonprofit organizations.

- The majority of funding from foundation and government sources is program-focused and usually does not cover staff development or provide for adequate infrastructure.
- Especially in a rural state like Montana, there is a lack of locally-based resources for training and consultation in the areas of leadership, governance, administration, planning and fundraising.
- Few nonprofit leaders are the products of formal training and education in the field of nonprofit management. Instead, a majority of nonprofit CEO's come up through the ranks of program staff, or are managers who have "crossed over" to the nonprofit sector from another line of work, such as for-profit business or public service.

### **Nonprofits in Flathead County** (data from 2004, compiled by the Montana Nonprofit Association)

- Number of Nonprofits reporting income over \$25,000: 147
- Total Expenditures: \$167 Million
- Total Assets: \$265 Million
- Total Employment: 2,710 employees with a payroll over \$85 Million

### **NpDP's Three-Year Vision**

NpDP's vision of service to nonprofits by 2009 includes these elements:

- Accessible, Meaningful Resources including a useful website, resource bank of professionals, and an annual regional nonprofit conference
- Valuable Community Networks, such as relationships with businesses, partnerships with other training organizations, and community awareness of the impact and value of the nonprofit sector
- Enhanced Infrastructure for NpDP, including full-time staff, office space, and an expanded steering committee
- Dynamic FVCC Partnership including a possible certificate program for nonprofits, and a Board of Trustees member serving on the NpDP Steering Committee
- Visionary Programming with a regional presence that is based on research about the evolving needs of nonprofits
- Diversified Funding for NpDP, including support from foundations, corporations, and individuals

## **2006 Overview – Enhancing the Partnership**

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NpDP “hit its stride” in 2006 and began offering consistent programming to support nonprofit staff, Board members, and volunteers. The Steering Committee developed an action plan and long-term vision, engaged two long-term independent contractors to increase NpDP’s organizational capacity, and developed new relationships to strengthen our service to the nonprofits of the Flathead region.

- Monthly Steering Committee meetings were held, and meetings of the Program and Communications Sub-Committees occurred on an as-needed basis. The Steering Committee also developed an Action Plan for 2006 in January, and developed a three-year Vision for NpDP in June.
- Ten Brown Bag workshops were offered. Representatives of 56 nonprofit organizations participated in at least one NpDP event during the course of the year; many of those 56 organizations attended several of the workshops.
- Two Seminars were offered:
  - “Spread the Word: Tools You’ll Use in the Mass Media”, featuring an overview of the basics of working with various media, followed by a panel discussion with representatives of television, radio, and newspapers.
  - “Board Service: Putting Passion into Practice”, which was the first NpDP event designed primarily for Board members, and was designed to emphasize vision, commitment, and an understanding of the roles and responsibilities of Board members.
- Two Networking Groups were started mid-year, one for Fundraisers, and one for Executive Directors. Lively discussion at the monthly meetings has focused on various topics of nonprofit operations, including hiring practices, staff and board evaluation, donor-centered fundraising, and engaging the Board of Directors in fundraising.

### **Outreach and Infrastructure Development Activities in 2006**

- NpDP initiated an article in The Daily Interlake highlighting the contributions of various local nonprofits and encouraged charitable giving and volunteering.
- Operational capacity was increased with the formalization of two contracted positions, (Program Director and Administrative Coordinator), the development of policies and procedures, and the improvement of data management (including the contact database and email utilization).
- A Three-Year Vision and Workplan were developed by the Steering Committee, articulating a longer-term set of expectations and possibilities.
- A survey of our nonprofit partners was distributed and compiled, gathering information about training and information needs, Board structure, budget levels, and sources of funding. 36 surveys were returned.
- Outreach was ongoing to build relationships and coordinate programming with other organizations and networking groups, including:
  - Flathead County One-Stop Workforce Development Center
  - Chambers of Commerce in Bigfork, Whitefish and Kalispell
  - Flathead and Whitefish Community Foundations
  - Montana Conservation Voters
  - FVCC Department of Continuing Education
  - Flathead Conservation Roundtable

<b>Event Type</b>	<b>Title/Presenter</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Attendance Count</b>	<b>Average Overall Rating (Scale of 1-5)</b>
Brown Bag Workshop	Winning Communication Strategies: How telling your stories helps you achieve your goals—Ben Long, Resources Media`	January 12, 2006	33	4.3
Brown Bag Workshop	Do Difficult Conversations Have to be SO Difficult?—Margy Stevens, Counselor/ Consultant	February 9, 2006	19	4.2
Brown Bag Workshop	Public Speaking for Nonprofits-Linda Grinde, consultant/trainer	March 9, 2006	16	4.75
Brown Bag Workshop	Building Donor Loyalty-Ruth Ackroyd, Flathead Valley Community College Foundation	April 13, 2006	23	4.7
Seminar and Panel Discussion	Spread the Word: Tools You'll Use in the Mass Media—Ben Long, Resources Media, and panel of TV, radio, & newspaper representatives	April 20, 2006	19	4.2
Brown Bag Workshop	Generations XYZ—Who ARE They and What Do They Want—Kristin Donahue, Kalispell Regional Medical Center Human Resources Dept. and FVCC Instructor	May 11, 2006	19	4.7
Brown Bag Workshop	Technology on a Shoestring Budget-Sean Guilfooy, eTapestry	May 23, 2006	10	4.0
Brown Bag Workshop	The Customer Experience—Molly McCabe, Hayden Tanner LLC, consultant/ trainer	June 8, 2006	16	4.67
Brown Bag Workshop	The Dance in the Boardroom: Board and Staff Relationships—Ned Cooney, NpDP Program Director	September 14, 2006	22	4.33
Special Town Hall Meeting	The Nonprofit Congress—Brian Magee, Director, Montana Nonprofit Association	September 19, 2006	23	NA
Brown Bag Workshop	Engaging the Board in Fundraising—Janet Cahill, Violence Free Crisis Line	October 12, 2006	35	4.76
Seminar	Board Service: Putting Passion into Practice—Rebecca Johns and Molly McCabe, Consultants	November 2, 2006	54	3.88
Brown Bag Workshop	What is the Ideal Board? Identifying, Recruiting, and Orienting Board Members—Carolyn Stamy, Nonprofit Consultant	December 14, 2006	28	4.21

## **Nonprofit organizations and public agencies represented at NpDP Events**

*The following 56 organizations were represented at one or more NpDP Brown Bag, Seminar, or Networking event, by at least one staff member or volunteer during 2006:*

Abba Agape Center	Northwest Montana Veterans' Food Bank
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Flathead County	Northwest Women's Policy Council
Bob Marshall Foundation	Nurturing Center
Children's House Montessori	PLUK (Parents Let's Unite for Kids)
Citizens for a Better Flathead	Ravenwood Natural Sciences Center
Claiming America	Resources Media
Conrad Mansion	Salvation Army
Discovery Developmental Center	Special Friends Advocacy Program
Evergreen Community Partners	Stillwater Christian School
First Night Flathead	Summit Prep School
Flathead CARE	Swan View Coalition
Flathead County Library Association and Foundation	Trinity Lutheran Child Care Center
Flathead Food Bank	United Way
Flathead FORCE Soccer Club	US Fish and Wildlife Service
Flathead Land Trust	Whitefish CARE
Flathead Valley Community College and Foundation	Whitefish Chamber of Commerce
Flathead Workforce Center	Youth Homes Inc.-Flathead Attention Home
Fur for Vets	
Glacier Fund	
Glacier Institute	
Glacier Natural History Association	
Glacier Performing Arts Center	
Glacier Pilot Club	
Glacier Symphony and Chorale	
Great Bear Foundation	
Habitat for Humanity of Flathead Valley	
Hockaday Museum of Art	
Hope Ranch	
Isaak James Children's Charity	
Kalispell Montessori Elementary	
Literacy Volunteers	
Montana All-Star Cheerleading	
Montana Community Foundation	
Montana State University Alumni Association	
Montana West Economic Development	
Montana Wilderness Association	
Museum at Central School	
Northwest Healthcare Foundation	
Northwest Montana Human Resources	