

NEW WAYS TO STRENGTHEN NONPROFITS

***Presentation to California Association of Nonprofits
17th Annual Conference***

Los Angeles - Thursday, October 23 3:30 - 5 pm

Especially when resources are limited, cost-effective and creative approaches to capacity building are a must to keep nonprofits strong. A new "virtual capacity-building program" in the San Fernando Valley, leading programs in Long Beach and the High Desert, and a large foundation's programs to support nonprofits will be discussed, followed by brainstorming with the audience.

Presenters:

Thomas E. Backer, PhD, *Valley Nonprofit Resources*

Vici Nagel, *High Desert Resource Network*

Judy Ross, *Long Beach Nonprofit Partnership*

Marcia Schmitt, *Annenberg Foundation*

VALLEY NONPROFIT RESOURCES

Building Stronger Nonprofits in the San Fernando Valley

Established in 2007, *Valley Nonprofit Resources* offers both information and services to strengthen the more than 4,000 nonprofit organizations in the San Fernando Valley region of Los Angeles. VNR helps nonprofit executive directors, staff, boards and volunteers through:

- * a user-friendly, free **website** with a rich and varied set of information resources and linkages
- * a **learning community** for Valley nonprofits, offering peer networking and training workshops given throughout the Valley
- * a **technical assistance** resource, with needs assessment and consulting services (provided by VNR staff or by outside resources through referrals)
- * a **concierge** to give custom-tailored responses to Valley nonprofits' needs in real time, either online or by phone
- * a **community voice** to help Valley nonprofits communicate about critical issues, and interact with policymakers through local convenings.

Background

VNR was created after six years of research and active dialogue with nonprofit leaders in the San Fernando Valley. A one-year feasibility study funded by The California Endowment was conducted in 2005. It confirmed the need for a resource focused on and in the San Fernando Valley, and identified subjects important to Valley nonprofit leaders.

Support

Support for VNR comes from foundations, corporations and private donors. Most services are free of charge, though modest fees for certain training and technical assistance activities also help support the program. Each of the four partner organizations also donates facilities and time for leadership of the program.

VNR's Partners

VNR is operated collaboratively by the nonprofit *Human Interaction Research Institute* (which has conducted research and provided technical assistance to the nonprofit sector since 1961), *California State University Northridge*, *MEND* (the largest poverty services agency in the Valley), and *Volunteer Center of Los Angeles* (already a significant provider of capacity-building services to Valley nonprofits).

To learn more, contact VNR! We look forward to serving you.

www.valleynonprofitresources.org

818/990-0176 infonow@valleynonprofitresources.org

HIGH DESERT RESOURCE NETWORK

Helping amazing people change lives!

Established in 2000, High Desert Resource Network (HDRN) is a small, nonprofit management support organization located in San Bernardino County. HDRN works to support and strengthen community benefit organizations through the following services:

Monthly Network meetings with an average attendance of 50

- Topical presentations
- Resources information
- Information sharing

Periodic workshops

Annual Funding Forum

Online information portal

eNewsletter

Foundation Center Cooperating Collection

Funding deadlines calendar (members only)

Connections to funders through networking meetings, forums, referrals, and small businesses application project

Advocacy to funders and policy makers

Representation at local, state and national forums

Background:

HDRN was formed to respond to the needs of a growing community that lacked a strong social service infrastructure. Local growth continues to be based primarily on the influx of families seeking affordable housing. This increase in lower income families, coupled with the current economy, has placed an enormous burden on the social sector that is unable to meet the increasing demand for services. HDRN currently has 125 paid members and annually provides training to 220+ organizations. Approximately 500 people read our monthly eNewsletter.

Support:

Support comes primarily from foundations and corporations/businesses that understand the value of capacity building. Local government entities are beginning to provide support. Modest fees are charged for training events and a membership fee entitles members to priority and discounted services. The County Superintendent of Schools provides meeting and training space.

Quote:

“I view HDRN as the nonprofit chamber of commerce. In addition to providing chamber-like networking qualities, HDRN also is continually inviting key speakers and providing training on a variety of nonprofit issues, as well as bringing in new funding sources to the High Desert who would normally forget about this region when it comes to grant applications. The spotlight that HDRN shines on the High Desert is a beacon ... and the benefit that this will make in our community in the coming years will be dramatic.”

www.HDRNetwork.org

760-949-2930 info@HDRNetwork.org

Long Beach Nonprofit Partnership

Making Missions Possible....

The LBNP is dedicated to **strengthening area nonprofit organizations through leadership, education and collaboration**. Our focus is to provide community organizations and institutions with training, tools and resources that directly improve their ability to serve their constituents. With a population of over 1.5 million in the Greater Long Beach community, 1000+ nonprofit organizations work diligently to deliver important services in this region. Our constituents include providers of services to youth, seniors, homeless and other social service needs as well as providers that focus on arts and culture, education/training and the environment. The Long Beach Nonprofit Partnership exists to ensure that these vital organizations are strong and sustainable.

We were created and initially funded in 1993 as a program of the Josephine S. Gumbiner Foundation to provide a new way to “grow” and support nonprofit organizations. By the end of 1998, it was determined that there was an ongoing need for a Long Beach nonprofit resource center and that it would be beneficial to establish this program as an independent 501(c)3 organization (February 2000).

The LBNP maintains excellence in its programs with consistent and affordable management support services which target our nonprofit community. Our current programs and activities include:

Workshops, trainings and conferences: Each is focused on education and skill-building in the following six core competency areas: 1) Fund development 2) Board development and volunteer management 3) Marketing/public relations 4) Professional and personal development 5) Planning/evaluation 6) Nonprofit administration (including finance, human resources and technology).

Monthly Networking Breakfast meetings and Affinity groups for Executive Directors, Directors of Volunteers, Fund development professionals and Board leaders. These opportunities affirm the value of peer support and peer learning for the sometimes isolated nonprofit staff members who work in relatively small organizations.

Resources and Information: This is accomplished through telephone contacts, publishing of our thrice-yearly newsletter, *The Nonprofit News*, email communication, our website, www.lbnp.org, library and *Charitable Events Calendar*.

Gale Winting Research Library: Our *Gale Winting Research Library* contains a growing collection of books and publications on nonprofit management and is the only resource of its kind in the area. The library also maintains networked computers available to the public for nonprofit research the internet. Of particular interest is our access to *FD Online*, which assists in identifying potential foundation and corporate resources for nonprofits. The LBNP obtained designation as a “Cooperating Collection” of *The Foundation Center* in 2006. As such, we have joined the more than 240 such collections across the country in providing grantseekers access to high-quality resources and expertise.

Capacity Development Services: Originally known as Consulting Services, this program has been created to provide more in-depth assistance to nonprofits. The services are low-cost and customized to assist organizations with capacity building. Topics most frequently requested include: board roles and responsibilities, strategic planning and fund development.

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Long Beach, CA 90807
www.lbnp.org

Contact us at:
(562) 290-0018-phone
info@lbnp.org



Annenberg Foundation Capacity Building Initiatives

Strengthening the Nonprofits by Offering Professional Development and Technical Assistance

To further serve the community, the Foundation is committed to strengthening the nonprofit infrastructure through a series of efforts that include free executive development and subsidized grantwriting training.

The Annenberg Nonprofit Leadership Seminar brings together the leaders of nonprofit organizations for two and a half days in a workshop environment, with the goal of enabling them to work more effectively with the corporate, government and nonprofit sectors as well as other nonprofit CEOs and board chairs. The “cost of admission” for the seminar is the commitment of *both* the Executive Director *and* Board Chair of the organization to attend the full two-day seminar in Los Angeles, California.

Project Grantsmanship is a comprehensive, hands-on workshop designed to train nonprofit leaders to plan more effective programs and produce compelling proposals for funding. Development professionals from qualified nonprofits are eligible for low-cost grantwriting training.

Additionally, program officers often participate on panels, informally named Meet the

Grantmakers, with Los Angeles nonprofit leaders to better acquaint them with the Foundation and its mission. The Foundation is also currently developing ongoing sessions with nonprofit leaders in low-income, underserved communities in Los Angeles, to create a dialog to clarify what needs and challenges must be directly addressed.

For more information contact:

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Or visit:

www.annenbergfoundation.org