

Blog Corner by My Nonprofit Corner

Articles by experienced non profit consulting professionals.

Online Tools for Business Planning

January 31st, 2011



We sometimes hate the word business in the nonprofit world and we even hate reading to a certain extent (lets just say time is limited). So anything that is able to break down information overload into smaller chunks for both the leaders and employees of an organization can be quite useful. I found some tools to help you visualize your business plan! Check out [Make Use Of's 3 Free Tools](#) to Plan and Visualize your Startup Business. Read it very carefully, **then** ask [My Nonprofit Corner](#) how you can tailor your plan to fit your Nonprofit Planning needs.

If you need more information we are always here to help. If you have a question, even better.....we will find an answer.

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How to Design My First Program

November 9th, 2010

Designing, building and running your first non profit program will not be the same as Noah's building of the Ark; Noah was given a few things that may not be so readily available to us today. He was given:

1. **specific directions on how to build,**
2. **the foreknowledge that the need will be great, and**
3. **a guarantee that the need can only be fulfilled with an ark.**



Noah's Ark, imagine having to build one today!

Although we may not know everything, the great thing is that there are plenty of resources that will guide us in the right direction, and a great company willing to help!

There are a few points that every “Nonprofiteer” should keep in mind as they set out to save the world.

Programming defined-There are many valid definitions of what a program actually is. Most of us think we know but in the nonprofit world our actions seems to indicate that instead of programming we are actually running activities and/or events. Activities/Events only make up a portion of what your program should be. There has to be a well thought out link. Think from your clients’ point of view, how are you holistically meeting their need?. Are you just holding an event to pass out clothing or food? Yes you’re meeting a portion of their need, but if they have clothing or food will that solve job readiness or decrease obesity? **To have a valid program there are sequences of actions that will have to be followed which will ultimately result in some sort of intended change on the part of the participant.** In your program have you yet to detail how the organization will implement both a combination of resources and activities that will holistically meet a larger need?

Alignment with your mission- If not the first consideration, whatever program that you would like to implement make sure that it is part of your mission. It will be much more heart wrenching if we follow the missions of others and not become experts of our own mission. *Simply put, if it doesn’t fit then we must acquit!* Discharge the new idea and be even more innovative by rethinking an idea to fit with your current mission or think of a different program altogether. As a new organization you want to be as focused as possible and stick with your carefully sculpted mission.

Involvement at all levels: Last but not least, get the board involved; make it a team effort to get the program plan written. Also find ways to get the community involved. You can survey members of the population to be served to better define the problem. This is one way to ensure that you are meeting an actual need and not just a symptom of a bigger problem. Ask questions, do research, be collaborative, see what similar mission organizations have found successful. This is not a project that a single person should be handling with no outside involvement and use of outside resources. **If you or anyone you know has ever said, “There is a need because I saw it”** and from that they already know how to go about solving the problem, then the organization may end up having a problem with stability.

Amongst other information to help you with designing and building your program another day this month we will discuss:

- Goals, Outcomes, and Strategies
- Program Promotion
- Measuring success

In the meantime we hope this will get a good brainstorm going, and if you have any questions please feel free to post or ask in one of our interactive venues such as [Blog Talk Radio on Saturday November 20th at 10:30am](#) or anytime using [facebook](#), [twitter](#), or [e-mail](#).

Tags: [design non profit prgram](#), [how to start a nonprofit](#), [how to start nonprofit orlando](#), [nonprofit consulting](#), [program plan](#), [program plan non profit](#), [start a nonprofit](#)

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[Are You A Good Board Member?](#)

October 14th, 2010



Ranked one step higher than actually volunteering for a nonprofit organization, serving on the Board of Directors is a highly sought after opportunity. However the responsibilities associated with being a board member can be too much for a busy professional to handle. This is especially true if the nonprofit organization is just starting-up or smaller in size as there will be more demands on each member's time and energy. All too often, I have witnessed organizations lose board members because the role of board member became too time-consuming. Before you decide to step-up to the challenge, here are a few key characteristics of a good board member.

- **Has a passion or interest in the organization's mission.** Board members who have an interest in the organization's overall purpose are usually more likely to remain active in the organization. Giving up some of your other activities might not be so bad if you really care about the organization that you are sacrificing for.
- **Able to work in a group.** As a board member, you are a part of a group that serves as the governing body of a nonprofit organization. In other words, it takes teamwork to make the dream work! A good board member is a team player and is able to work with different personalities and character traits.
- **Can make a financial contribution.** Board members are expected to give to the organization. The amount varies from organization to organization but is usually spelled out in the Bylaws or Policies. If the member is not able to provide a personal donation, he or she should be comfortable with fundraising for the organization. When board members give, it not only provides operating income it also validates the organization a bit more, in the eyes of grant-making institutions.
- **Willing to "work" for the organization.** This is especially true for smaller organizations that have a working board. Nonprofit organizations with little resources often rely of board members to also serve as volunteers at programs and community events. This may mean spending your day off providing services to your target community or even stuffing hundreds of envelopes.

Being a board member is a wonderful way to give back to your community. However, due to the huge role

that they play in determining the direction of the organization, becoming a board member should be something that you have seriously considered. So before you take on yet another responsibility, take a look at this list and be honest, are you a good board member?

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[Starting a Non profit Organization? Foundational Steps You Need to Succeed!](#)

September 16th, 2010

The excitement and anticipation in starting a non profit organization creates a burning passion in you, because you are on a mission to make a difference in your community. Passion, purpose, and focus are essential elements you need to embark on this journey; however to position the business for future growth, you should consider the following foundational steps for Starting a Non Profit Organization:



Building Your Non profit

1. **Initial research beyond the logo and drafting a crafty mission.** In a nutshell someone somewhere is performing a mission in line with yours. Find them, interview them, and investigate best practices. A great place to start is with the [IRS search for charities database](#).
2. **Create innovative solutions.** A nonprofit organization is a business that relies on grant funding, donations from organizations, and individuals. The unstable economy is creating a greater need for non profit organizations to find new ways to [fund-raise](#), manage, and conduct business more effectively and efficiently. To keep interest you should be innovative and if innovation isn't your cup of tea, make sure there is a bunch of people that can sympathize with your mission. Sometimes there is strength in numbers.
3. **It May be a non profit, but you still need funds (other than grants) to support your effort.** Get Creative. For example, traditional fund-raising initiatives coupled with advancement in technology through social media and nonprofit software provides non profit organizations the opportunity to connect and network with a larger target market, and create new opportunities to capture and embrace the heart of your customers.
4. **Learn what it will take to deliver a powerful grant proposal.** At the basic level of understanding, adhering to specific guidelines as well as providing a clear, concise, and passionate mission statement in a grant proposal is powerful in making a connection with the Grantor. For example, if the decision making Grantor is able to relate to your mission and understands how your service solves a problem, your request for grant money will stand out among the stack of requests the Grantor receives daily. Learn what is required before you write your first grant proposal, or at the very least [get professional guidance](#).

We can go on, but we guarantee this is enough to keep anyone busy. The power in starting a nonprofit

organization is having the ability to fulfill your unique mission. In order to [Start, GROW, and Sustain](#) your mission should be relatable and you will need to master the ability to obtain diverse sources of funds and support.

Also don't forget, partnering with [My Nonprofit Corner](#), who can passionately support your mission by creating innovative solutions as well as preparing a powerful path-to-success, can also be a key foundational step in starting a nonprofit organization that makes a difference for everyone's future.

Tags: [Grant Funding](#), [grants](#), [how to start a nonprofit](#), [irs 1023](#), [mission statement](#), [non profit](#), [non profit organizations](#), [start a nonprofit](#)

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[The Non Profit Board of Directors Game](#)

September 10th, 2010

The Non Profit Board Member Game

It happens to many [start-up 501\(c\)\(3\) non profit organizations](#)—someone has an idea about how they would like to help their community; they tell their family and friends and some agree to help out and serve on the board. However, two months later, the founder of the organization finds himself or herself juggling the roles of President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Executive Director of the organization. At that point they wonder, “Where did my board of directors go?”

If you have found yourself in the same unfortunate predicament, rest assured that the non profit board game happens to the best of us. As a start-up non profit organization, it takes hard work to build the first reliable board of directors. Here are three moves that you may want to try to build a good board:



- **Move 1.** *Thoroughly explain the mission of your non profit organization and the types of services that you would like to provide and find out who has a genuine interest in your organization.* People who have a passion for the type of mission that you plan to take-on, are more likely to remain active in the organization. Furthermore, look at their past experiences—your cousin, the Fine Arts major might be a good fit for your arts-focused organization for children.
- **Move 2.** *Explain the time and financial commitment involved with being a board member.* Oftentimes boards fall apart because its members underestimated the amount of time it would take up in their lives. Start up organizations usually have a [working board](#). Meaning that board members also help with the delivery of programs and services in addition to attending regular board meetings and fundraisers.
- **Move 3.** *Provide training or a board orientation.* Are you sure that your board understands what it means to be a board member? What are their roles and board of directors responsibilities? [Board](#)

[training](#) can put all of your board members on the same level. It allows members to understand what is expected of them and how they fit into the grand scheme of things.

Building your first board is a difficult process. However using these steps will hopefully weed out those who are not a good fit for your organization, quickly.

Tags: [board of directors](#), [non profit](#), [non profit board](#), [non profit board of directors](#), [non profit boards](#), [non profit governance](#), [non profit organizations](#)

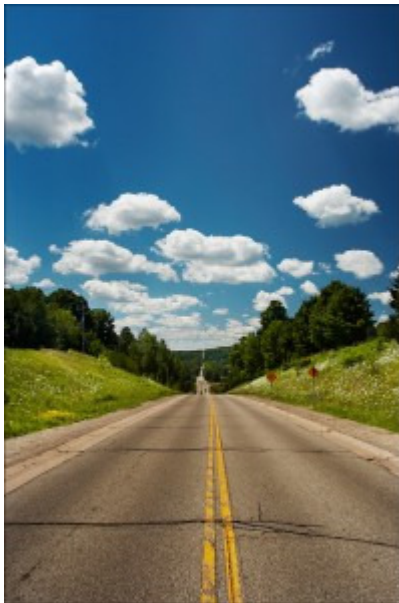
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[Does your non profit need a push in this economy?](#)

September 3rd, 2010

Do we really know where we are going and how we will get there? Good direction will outweigh the bad economy.

We all know that there are many problems to be solved in the non profit community, but can we really envision how the whole process will unfold? How will we (or when will we) begin to not only align our own interest with our mission, but also leverage our area of expertise with the expertise of those serving our organizations' as a board member, staff, and/or volunteer? Understanding and overcoming this obstacle can be a catalyst for growth for many 501c3 organizations that are lacking.



The Road...long and beautiful....when you have a map!!!

There are so many problems in society waiting for creative individuals to do something. There is often the willingness to accomplish missions and go that extra benevolent mile yet we forget that there are management principles involved, financial issues to conquer, and individuals that will be needed to help us along the way. In fact there is actually a special set of knowledge, skills, and abilities applicable to the non profit world. A lot goes into every production of non profit programming and outreach. This can be viewed in light of the demanding nature of grants, but that is a topic for another day!

Beyond just our words and kind intent, have we as the future leaders of non profit America really sat down to

think about how to manage our non profit as the 501c3 corporation that it is, or will be? Not that I agree that nonprofits are identical to the business world, but when money is a driving force, for some reason we become risk takers at the right time and conservative planners when appropriate. Or at the very least we do everything possible to guard our assets. Why, because no one wants to loose money only to realize that Mr. could have, would have, should have, and Mrs. if I had only known had all the answers...only a little too late.

Think of it this way. The community (the true asset) needs us and many people depend on us being effective and organized problem solvers. The field is indeed plenty but dedicated and knowledgeable workers are far and few in-between. With poor knowledge and planning we implicitly make the choice to solve a finite number of problems; eventually we will run out of the time, energy, and money we needed to sustain ourselves. With the right tools that will enable us to start, grow, and sustain our nonprofits successfully we actually choose to be leaders, planners, knowledge absorbers.

Ask questions and take courses, because it will separate you, the achiever, from the non achievers. There are management needs that we should be equipped to fulfilling. This is what will allow us to perpetually serve an infinite amount of people. This is an obstacle we can overcome when seeking growth for our non profit organizations.

Tags: [501c3](#), [how to start a nonprofit](#), [start a nonprofit](#), [sustain a nonprofit](#)

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[How to Start a Nonprofit and File for 501c3 Status on July 17, 2010](#)

July 17th, 2010

Seminar on How to Start a Nonprofit and File for 501c3 Status to be Hosted by My Nonprofit Corner on July 17, 2010

Seminar Details the Most Important Aspects of Building a Viable Nonprofit Organization

Many issues face start-up nonprofit organizations; My Nonprofit Corner, a consultancy firm for nonprofit organizations in the South and Central Florida regions, will host their seminar [“So You Think You Want to Start a Nonprofit”](#) on **July 17 in Orlando, FL from 9:30 am – 12:00 noon**. The seminar focuses on a wide variety of issues facing individuals or organizations when considering [how to start a nonprofit](#) and filing for [501c3](#) status. The “So You Want to Start a Nonprofit” seminar will guide nonprofit organizations in their endeavors.

The monthly seminar covers key issues pertaining to how to start a nonprofit and the 501c3 process including: Choosing a Grant Fundable Program, Developing Fundraising Plans, Developing a Team of Board of Directors, Grant Writing and Navigating Through the 501c3 process. Additionally, seminar participants will be eligible to apply for a grant from My Nonprofit Corner to go towards the 501c3 nonprofit tax-exemption filing fee.

Persons interested in attending the upcoming seminar can register online at <http://www.mynonprofitcorner.com> or register by phone by calling 877-491-3770. A \$30 registration fee includes all seminar materials such as a resource guide, possible grants listing, and refreshments.

[Future Seminars to Consider:](#)

- **501c3 detailed application assistance online and in person**
- **The truth about grant writing and reviewing**
- **Program design and planning**

My Nonprofit Corner is a consultancy firm, serving the South and Central Florida regions, that strives to provide organizations with the knowledge, resources and support needed to foster the growth and vitality of their programs, staff and target community. Start, Grow, and Sustain your nonprofit with Beginning, Intermediate, and Advanced workshops and services tailored to meet your needs.

Your mission is possible with My Nonprofit Corner.

Tags: [1023](#), [501 c 3](#), [501c3](#), [501c3 nonprofit](#), [Grant Funding](#), [grant help](#), [grant writing](#), [grow a nonprofit](#), [how to start a nonprofit](#), [how to start nonprofit orlando](#), [irs 1023](#), [nonprofit](#), [nonprofit consulting](#), [nonprofit grants](#), [orlando](#), [orlando events](#), [orlando grant](#), [orlando nonprofit](#), [start a nonprofit](#)

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[Start a Nonprofit Seminar](#)

June 3rd, 2010

www.MyNonprofitCorner.com For Immediate Release

How to Start a Nonprofit and File for 501c3 Status Seminar Hosted by My Nonprofit Corner



Seminar Highlights Important Aspects of Building a Viable Nonprofit Organization

Davie, FL—May 24, 2010—My Nonprofit Corner will host their seminar “[So You Think You Want to Start a Nonprofit](#)” on June 12, 2010 at 9170 SR 84, Davie, FL from 9:30 am – 11:45 am. The seminar covers a wide variety of key issues facing individuals or organizations when considering [how to start a nonprofit](#) and filing for [501\(c\)\(3\)](#) status.

The seminar covers many aspects of [how to start a nonprofit](#) and the [501\(c\)\(3\)](#) process including: Choosing a Grant Fundable Program, Developing Fundraising Plans, Developing a Team of Board of Directors, [Grant Writing](#) and Navigating Through the [501\(c\)\(3\)](#) Process. Additionally, seminar participants will be eligible to apply for a grant from My Nonprofit Corner to go towards the [501\(c\)\(3\)](#) nonprofit tax-exemption filing fee.

Persons interested in attending the upcoming seminar can register online at <http://www.mynonprofitcorner.com> or register by phone by calling 877-491-3770. A \$25 registration fee includes all seminar materials such as a community resource guide, possible [grants listing](#), and refreshments.

My Nonprofit Corner is a consultancy firm, serving the South and Central Florida regions, that strives to provide organizations with the knowledge, resources and support needed to foster the growth and vitality of

their programs, staff and target community. Start, Grow, and Sustain your nonprofit with Beginning, Intermediate, and Advanced [workshops](#) and services tailored to meet your needs. Our mission is to provide new and old organizations with the knowledge, resources, and support needed to foster the growth and vitality of their programs, staff, and the community in which it serves. We provide affordable [workshops](#), [501\(c\)\(3\)](#) application assistance, [grant writing](#) and reviewing, [program planning](#), and [statistical research](#) services that will enable organizations to be true leaders in their communities. Your mission is possible with My Nonprofit Corner.

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[Video About My Nonprofit Corner](#)

April 30th, 2010

Why are we here and what do we hope to accomplish?

We hope this video allows you to gain some insight into My Nonprofit Corner and what we have to offer!

[My Nonprofit Corner](#)

View more [presentations](#) from [ktdaniels](#).

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[Getting Informed About Grants](#)

March 5th, 2010

This blog is short and sweet for those who would rather not read through too much information to get to the meat of what you need and want to know about nonprofit grants.

[Grants, Grant Writing, Grant Help, Grant Consulting, Grant Writers!](#)

Everyone wants the key to unlock the secret to grant writing or grant winning, but no one knows where to find that key. In a series of blogs we will try to give you easy tips that will help you get to the heart of the winners and happily ignore the losers!



.....So with that said one liner number one; please be on alert with any companies out there that promises you 10 grants within 2 weeks. One grant is hard enough and the likely chance that a foundation will reward an organization for copying and pasting grants all over the place is very UNLIKELY.

Think of it this way, *YES* there are grants out there for nonprofit organizations, and scholarships for individuals. *However*, the people who are giving away the money really would like something in return. They want to know:

- 1) What you are doing or proposing to do?
- 2) Is what you are doing important enough to them and/or your community?
- 3) How cost effective is it?
- 4) Can you tell them in a clear, succinct, and memorable manner?

So **My Nonprofit Corner** friends be wise in this economy and be very careful. Grants take a lot of energy, time commitment, and thought. Either learn how to do it on your own, or get assistance from someone who is willing to take a quality moment to think about your mission.

Visit us at [www.MyNonprofitCorner .com](http://www.MyNonprofitCorner.com) and at the bottom of our home page is a link to our [Facebook page!](#)

[Contact Us](#) and you may qualify for a free grant review.

Tags: [grant consulting](#), [Grant Funding](#), [grant help](#), [Grant Misconceptions](#), [grant scam](#), [grant writers](#), [grant writing](#), [grants](#), [nonprofit grants](#), [winning grants](#)

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