



September 30, 2007

Leadership makes difference for nonprofit groups

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Nonprofits in Indianapolis, just as in other parts of the country, face plenty of challenges. Fundraising is one, of course; but we also are faced with the challenge of recruiting and training valuable board members, volunteers and staff.

Engaging talented and dedicated volunteers is critically important whether you're feeding and clothing the homeless or fostering leadership. As director of the premier leadership network in Indianapolis, I'm excited about the evolution of Leadership Ventures (formally Trustee Leadership Development).

For several years, our two organizations have collaborated on initiatives such as Get on Board, which links volunteer leadership with the nonprofit community. Get on Board, which has infused just over 1,000 newly engaged volunteers into the nonprofit sector, is one example of how collaboration has played a huge role in the success of our nonprofit sector.

Leadership Ventures is undergoing a transformation, which goes far beyond a new name. This new focus will include bringing even more services to nonprofit groups, developing new collaborations and playing a supportive role, which will benefit all nonprofit organizations, regardless of their missions.

Theresa Farrington Rhodes

Executive director, Lacy Leadership Association

Indianapolis