

# Center for Nonprofit Excellence

SUMMER 2016 NEWSLETTER



## Building strong and purposeful boards

### NATIONAL EXPERT DELIVERS TO SELL-OUT CROWD



On May 24th, Chuck Loring joined the Center for Nonprofit Excellence and the CT Community Nonprofit Alliance to lead an all-day workshop covering best practices in governance and fundraising. The event reached “full house” status, with close to 100 nonprofit leaders and board members in attendance. Loring drew from his own experience as a board member and from decades of experience in consulting with nonprofits to share valuable tips and advice.

**“Good governance is a journey. It’s not a project, and organizations need to make sure they are moving forward on the journey,”** said Loring.

He shared insights on how to bring about changes in the culture and practices of nonprofit boards, with the goal of elevating the board’s power in strategic fundraising efforts.

*Janice Wiggins, Executive Director of Renewal House in Danbury, said that her own nonprofit would not have the opportunity or funding to train its board leaders had it not been for the Loring workshop.*

Statements like these reinforce the importance of the Center for Nonprofit Excellence’s mission of supporting nonprofits to become strong and operationally stable, so they can make a bigger impact in the community.

## OUR IMPACT

### HIGHLIGHTS FY16

**874** INDIVIDUALS FROM  
**370** NONPROFITS BENEFITTED FROM CNE SERVICES

**23** PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDED

**96%** SATISFACTION RATE WITH CNE WORKSHOPS

**96%** OF WORKSHOP ATTENDEES REPORTED INCREASING THEIR KNOWLEDGE

**11** EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS IMPROVED THEIR LEADERSHIP SKILLS IN OUR EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

**28** BOARD CHAIRS CONNECTED WITH PEERS IN OUR BOARD CHAIR ROUNDTABLE

**220** INDIVIDUALS FROM **140** NONPROFITS STRENGTHENED THEIR ADVOCACY SKILLS IN OUR ADVOCACY OFFERINGS



Center for Nonprofit Excellence

TOGETHER WE THRIVE

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## Increasing nonprofit staff skills and confidence

### ESSENTIAL SKILLS SERIES LAUNCHES AT SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY

In partnership with the *School of Business at Sacred Heart University*, the CNE launched a new series of workshops to strengthen the core business skills of nonprofit employees in the spring of 2016. Workshops were offered in presentation skills, project management and finance for non-finance staff. 133 nonprofit staff benefitted from attending these workshops.

Participants reported increasing their confidence, gaining new skills and feeling inspired to go back and put into practice what they learned. Participants gave the workshop series a thumbs up with a 97% satisfaction rate. The CNE is planning to offer these workshops again in the fall of 2017. Stay tuned!

## A CNE success story: supporting nonprofits from idea to inception

In 2009, when Catalina Horak came up with the idea of founding a nonprofit to help immigrants integrate into the community, she turned to CNE. From ensuring the concept was viable to orienting a new Board of Directors and training staff, the Center for Nonprofit Excellence's expertise was key to establishing the new organization. Five years later, Neighbors Link Stamford has grown exponentially - and its partnership with the CNE is still thriving.

*"We went from a \$250,000 budget in our first year, to what is now a \$1 million budget," says Horak. "We went from idea stage, to startup, to growth curve - and CNE programs have been relevant to us at all these different growth stages."*

**Support the Center for Nonprofit Excellence and help Fairfield County nonprofits grow and flourish.**



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## UPCOMING WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

### Results-Based Accountability: The Basics

**Date:** July 20, 2016  
**Time:** 9:30 am-12:30 pm

### Results-Based Accountability: Performance Measures

**Date:** September 14, 2016  
**Time:** 9:30 am-12:30 pm

### Board Chair Essentials

**Date:** September 22, 2016  
**Time:** 4:30 pm -7:00 pm  
**Partner:** CT Community Nonprofit Alliance

### Leader, Mentor, Coach: Supervisory Skills

**Date:** October 13, 2016  
**Time:** 9:00 am - 3:00 pm  
**Partner:** CT Community Nonprofit Alliance

### Sustainability and Succession Planning: Everything You Need to Know but Were Afraid to Ask

**Date:** November 2, 2016  
**Time:** 9:00 am -12:00 pm

For complete workshop descriptions and online registration, please visit [FCCFoundation.org](http://FCCFoundation.org).