



Your Community Update

Foundation Starts Year by Analyzing Community Needs



Photo from February 2020 Sector Gatherings

At Bainbridge Community Foundation's virtual sector gatherings on February 10 and 11, nonprofit leaders shared that the resiliency of our community during the COVID-19 pandemic has been inspiring—with employees, volunteers, Board members, and donors all coming together to keep the nonprofit sector alive. New connections and partnerships between nonprofits have been formed, and many found they could broaden their geographical reach by offering

virtual programming. As one participant said, “The crisis has been a catalyst for partnerships. We've had better, more meaningful, and more productive partnerships than we've ever had, and I see that continuing on in the future.”

While nonprofit leaders discussed a variety of ways the pandemic has led to positive changes, plenty of challenges remain. BCF's 2021 nonprofit survey, given prior to the sector gatherings, found that isolation and mental health challenges are impacting programs and services across the nonprofit community, and the expectation is that mental health will continue to be a concern even as society opens up. Nonprofit leaders also identified Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Social Justice (IDEAS) as a future priority area for training. As one nonprofit leader said in the sector gatherings, “IDEAS shouldn’t be a fad, we need to make it genuinely meaningful to the people we serve.”

**BCF'S 2021 NONPROFIT SURVEY:
PRELIMINARY RESULTS**

Preliminary results show:

- 🚩 **Zero nonprofits reported they would not survive social distancing**, as opposed to 30% that reported last March they could not survive six months
- 🚩 **85% of nonprofits reported that 2020 fundraising efforts met or exceeded expectations**
- 🚩 **New connections and increasingly productive partnerships** between nonprofits have been formed as a result of the pandemic
- 🚩 **Many nonprofits found they could broaden their geographical reach** by offering virtual programming
- 🚩 **Isolation and mental health challenges** are having the greatest impact on programs and services across the nonprofit community
- 🚩 **Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Social Justice (IDEAS)** were identified as a future priority area for training

Results from these conversations and a deeper analysis of the survey results will lead to grants and programs that help meet the needs identified. BCF will also use the aggregated data to write a **State of the Sector** report to keep our community informed of priority areas. Stay tuned!

Upcoming BCF Events

March 18 / State of the Sector: *Interested in the preliminary results above?*

Join us for a State of the Sector event from **10:30am-12:00pm on Thursday, March 18** to take a deeper look at the results from our survey and sector gatherings, along with additional information about our community. [RSVP here](#).

April / Financial Education Series: Financial literacy is empowering—yet good, practical education about financial management is too often out of reach for people, especially those with limited incomes. BCF Board member Paul Merriman—founder of Merriman Wealth Management—has dedicated his retirement to providing free trainings to all ages about how to secure a more stable financial future. On behalf of BCF, Paul has organized five free virtual events with speakers who are nationally renowned experts in their fields in order to help educate our community on how to better plan for our futures. These events target all ages and levels of financial literacy, including youth, first-time investors who are still in the workforce, and those who have just entered retirement. **To learn more about each event and to RSVP, [click here](#) or visit our homepage at www.BainbridgeCF.org.**



Community Grants Cycle is OPEN



The Annual Community Grants Cycle (CGC) is the heart of the BCF grants program. Since this program began in 2005, BCF has led this community-driven effort to support specific projects of our local nonprofits. BCF is now accepting applications for the 2021 CGC from all sectors of our nonprofit community **until Wednesday, March 24 at 5PM**. The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way we all operate, and the importance of COVID-19 support will remain a priority during this grants cycle. For more information, please visit our website at www.BainbridgeCF.org and click on “Grants” or feel free to contact Debbie Kuffel at debbie@bainbridgecf.org.

Did You Know?

As we mentioned in our last newsletter, 2021 is Bainbridge Community Foundation's 20th official year in action! All future eNewsletters this year will include some fun facts about BCF and our history. This time, we are sharing a brief history of our annual survey and nonprofit sector gatherings.

THEN AND NOW

- **2012:** Nonprofit leaders shared concerns about meeting fundraising goals due to an ongoing recession, and also discussed challenges with forming partnerships.
- **2021:** Nonprofits leaders reported they have formed many new partnerships that they believe will continue past COVID-19 restrictions, and 85% reported that fundraising goals were met or exceeded despite the latest crisis.

In 2012, BCF hosted its first in-person focus group in order to gain better knowledge about the needs of the community as well as to promote collaboration among nonprofit leaders. **BCF saw sector gatherings as an opportunity for nonprofit leaders to step out of their roles to meet and talk with their peers about the challenges they were all facing.** BCF then conducted a survey following the sector gatherings, modeled after the Nonprofit Finance Fund's State of

the Sector Survey, in order to gather and analyze additional data that could be compared to statewide results. Since 2012, BCF has revamped its survey, given it prior to sector gatherings in order to discuss the most pressing issues, and will write a *State of the Sector* report to give feedback to the community about needs and opportunities.



If you have any questions about this newsletter, please contact media@bainbridgecf.org. If you don't already, please follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn at the links below!



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