



Minnesota Council of Nonprofits

2017 Annual Report



Dear friends and supporters,

For Minnesota's nonprofit sector, the 2016 election result and beginnings of the Trump Administration brought critical questions about policy shifts, the relationship between nonprofits and government, and how this would affect the lives of people served by community organizations. Some of the 2017 reactions and rising needs from nonprofit organizations that influenced MCN's own work include:

- Greater need for real-time analysis and tracking information of the state and federal public policy process and decisions;
- Critical time for the public voice of nonprofits, including public education about the role and benefits of governmental activity, how it actually works, and its valuable partnerships with the nonprofit sector;
- Increased need for peer support to counter discouragement, burnout and resignation;
- Demand for more practical information on the financing of the nonprofit sector (retrenchment can be fertile ground for various fads, get rich quick schemes, and calls for "business genius to the rescue,") and volunteer boards need balanced information for their decision making;
- Increased need for the nonprofit voice on economic and employer issues;
- Defensive strategies were required for several aspects of public policy, including funding for arts and humanities, environmental protection, education access and social supports, such as SNAP, low income housing, and health care eligibility;
- This was the time to stand with and support community members threatened and targeted by "us vs them" polarization and bias.

Each of these challenges underscored MCN's main task – to support the growth and development of the strongest possible nonprofit sector, capable of autonomous action/self-determination, to increase its own effectiveness and stick to its long-term mission to build a cooperative, healthy and just society.

Minnesota's nonprofit leaders, managers, boards and volunteers made more connections and offered more mutual support during this difficult year. The ongoing leadership from the MCN board and membership set the stage for MCN to be ready for the situation in 2017 through:

1. Broad membership participation and dues from thousands of organizations, continued growth, high renewal rate;
2. Positive reputation for program quality with strong in-person participation and multiple platforms for member interaction;
3. Six regional offices in Duluth, Mankato, St. Cloud, Rochester, Moorhead and Bemidji, with regular events and local advisory committees;
4. Expanded St. Paul training space and upgraded technology;
5. Persistent action for inclusion, equity and accessibility
6. Expanded reach and interactivity through e-learning and GrantAdvisor.org;
7. Solid partnerships and joint activities with allied support organizations
8. Reliable, diverse revenue streams, committed long-term funding, board designated operating reserve and no debt;
9. Deep partnerships with philanthropies that recognize the value of strengthening, with 27 grant makers supporting MCN's work in 2017 including 12 funders that have provided consistent support for over a decade.

While the worst fears of immediate 2017 federal retrenchment did not occur, the trauma and reversals of immigration policy, tax shifts, regulatory snafus and the overall degradation of civil discourse have made the missions of large parts of the nonprofit sector more difficult...and more important.

The primary tasks and revenue streams of the nonprofit sector will continue, we are not going away. Our organizations are committed to being reliable, accountable and effective across every part of the state, every type of community and in an amazingly spectrum of creative methods and relationships. It's true, imagine it and we have a nonprofit for that, and we're going to do everything we can for these organizations to succeed.

sincerely,

Jon Pratt
Executive Director
Minnesota Council of Nonprofits

Kenza Hadj-Moussa, MCN Board Chair
Communications Director
TakeAction Minnesota

You build a better world. We build stronger nonprofits.

2017 was an exciting year for the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits. Here are some of the highlights!

GrantAdvisor Launched

Similar to TripAdvisor but for foundations, GrantAdvisor.org launched in 2017 with the mission to transform philanthropy one 7-minute survey at a time.

By the Numbers:

- Over 1,000 registered reviewers
- Over 400 foundations reviewed
- Reviews of foundations in 45 states
- And over 1,200 reviews

By the Impact:

- Foundations are already using GrantAdvisor to deepen the impact of their grantmaking by:
- Redesigning websites and application processes based on feedback
 - Requesting feedback through GrantAdvisor in emails, grant award letters, and funder websites
 - Discussing their profile and reviews in board meetings



GrantAdvisor



Nonprofit Learning Center Opens

MCN finished a renovation and expansion of its St. Paul headquarters, tripling the available training space and updating the technical infrastructure to support livestreaming and e-Learning. In the first 10 months of the new space being open:

- 1,522 nonprofit leaders accessed 49 on-site events & trainings
 - This is 1,000 more people than the former site could host
- 447 nonprofit leaders accessed 12 webinars & e-Learning opportunities
 - 25% of webinar & e-Learning attendees were from Greater Minnesota

Community and Nonprofit Awards

Nonprofit Mission & Excellence Awards

- Hopewell Music Cooperative North, Innovation
- City Stay, Anti-Racism Initiative
- Muslim American Society of Minnesota, Advocacy
- Mary's Pence, Responsive Philanthropy
- Commonwealth Theatre Company, Excellence
- Project for Pride in Living, Excellence

Virginia McKnight Binger Unsung Hero Awards

- Angela Edwards, Minneapolis
- Jon Vang, St. Paul
- Abdirizack Mahboub, Willmar
- Millicent Simenson, Bemidji

Nonprofit Leadership Awards

- Ashley Charwood, Catalytic Leader
- Lisa Porthan, Visionary Leader
- Whitney Clark, Transformational Leader



Members in 2017

2,624 **Total Nonprofit Members**
with focus areas including poverty alleviation, environment, youth development and more - working on a number of issues important to Minnesota.

686 **Greater Minnesota Nonprofit Members**
representing nearly **26%** of our membership and growing in all areas of the state.

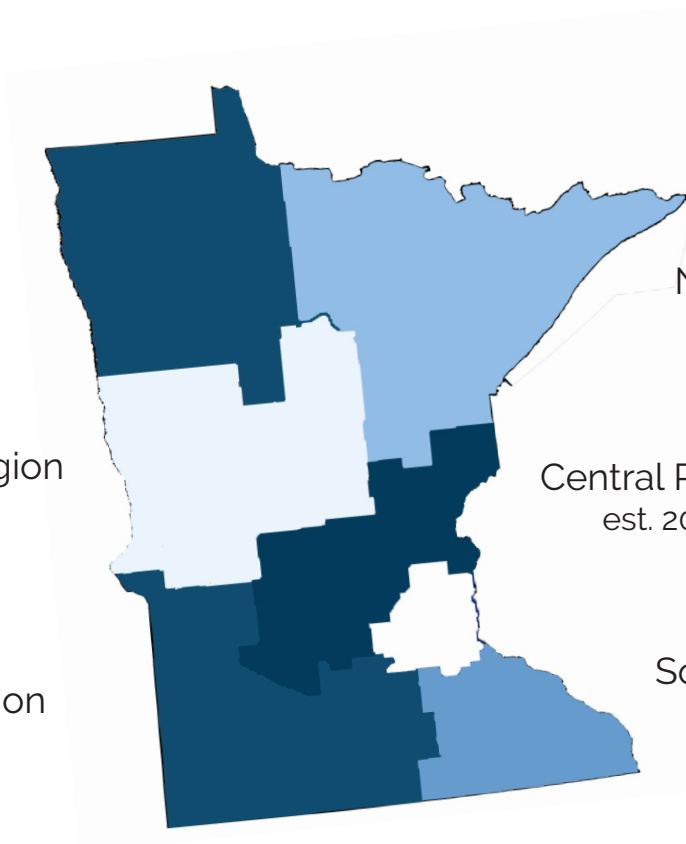
318 **Associate Members**
who provide valuable products, services and expertise and are strong champions and partners of nonprofits.

MCN in Greater Minnesota

Northwest Region
est. 2015

West Central Region
est. 2015

Southwest Region
est. 2006



Northeast Region
est. 1999

Central Region
est. 2011

Southeast Region
est. 2014

The Minnesota Council of Nonprofits strives to develop programming that enables nonprofits to fulfill their missions for a better world.

Through workshops, networking events, conferences, webinars and more, we bring people together from across the state and support our strong, vibrant sector.

Total number of events in 2017



89 networking events (statewide)

112 workshops (statewide)

7 conferences

92 Greater Minnesota events
(paid and free)

As a result of MCN events....

77% of survey respondents made positive changes in their organizations, including:

improved program evaluation **28%**

wrote a new grant **23%**

created a strategic plan **20%**

Thank you to MCN's funders for supporting a thriving nonprofit sector across the entire state:

Expansion and Accessibility Capital Campaign Funders:

Hugh J. Andersen Foundation
F.R. Bigelow Foundation
Blandin Foundation
Otto Bremer Trust
Bush Foundation
Patrick and Aimee Butler Family Foundation
Margaret A. Cargill Foundation Fund of The Minneapolis Foundation
Fidelity Charitable
MAHADH Fund of the HRK Foundation
The McKnight Foundation
MCN Board Reserve Fund
Pohlad Family Foundation
The Saint Paul Foundation
Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation
Shavlik Family Foundation
St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce
Wells Fargo Foundation Minnesota

Operating and Program Funders:

Hugh J. Andersen Foundation*
Blandin Foundation*
Otto Bremer Trust*
Bush Foundation
Patrick and Aimee Butler Family Foundation*
Cargill Foundation*
Center on Budget and Policy Priorities*
Corporation for National and Community Service
Deluxe Corporate Foundation
Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation
Enterprise Holdings Foundation
Ford Foundation*
Greater Twin Cities United Way
Lloyd K. Johnson Foundation
Joyce Foundation
Mayo Clinic Community Contributions Program
The McKnight Foundation*
Minneapolis Foundation
Northland Foundation*
Northwest Minnesota Foundation
Stoneman Family Foundations
Target Foundation*
West Central Initiative
The Whitman Institute
Xcel Energy Foundation*

** indicates funders who have supported the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits for over a decade.*

Program Partners:

Association of Fundraising Professionals - Minnesota Chapter
Center for Integrative Leadership, University of Minnesota
Center for Nonprofit Management, University of St. Thomas
Community Giving
FM Area Foundation
Initiative Foundation
Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota - Duluth
Mankato Area Foundation
Minneapolis – St Paul Nonprofit Tech Club
Minnesota Council on Foundations
Nonprofit Finance Group
North Dakota Association of Nonprofit Organizations
Northwest Minnesota Foundation
Propel Nonprofits
Public and Nonprofit Leadership Center, University of Minnesota
Rochester Area Foundation
West Central Initiative
Willmar Area Community Foundation
Young Nonprofit Professionals Network - Twin Cities

Sponsors:

Alliance of Nonprofits for Insurance
Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.
BerganKDV
Best Buy
Blandin Foundation
Bold Leading
Bremer Bank
Bush Foundation
CBIZ
CliftonLarsonAllen
Comcast Business
Fredrikson & Byron, PA
Greater Twin Cities United Way
Hamline University School of Business
Humphrey School of Public Affairs
The Improve Group
Mahoney, Ulbrich, Christiansen & Russ, PA
Medtronic Foundation
Metropolitan State University
OneNeck IT Solutions
Print Solutions
Saint Catherine University
SNI Certes
The Design Company
Vehicle Donation to Any Charity
Xcel Energy

financial position

	2017	2016
assets	\$ 2,724,728	\$ 2,836,367
liabilities	308,585	276,621
net assets	2,416,143	2,559,746

income	2017	2016
grants	\$ 1,253,708	\$ 1,143,123
dues	846,085	790,750
events	960,746	795,949
other earned income	291,533	359,584
total income	3,352,072	3,089,406

expenses	2017	2016
program	\$ 2,779,746	\$ 2,380,331
core mission support	715,929	583,039
total expenses	3,495,675	2,963,370

staff

Kari Aanestad	Development Manager
Mark Buenafior	Operations and Database Coordinator
Shelly Chamberlain	Director of Operations and Human Resources
Jesse Chang	VISTA Program Coordinator
Michelle Chang	Inclusion and Engagement VISTA
Ashley Charwood	Northwest Regional Coordinator
Sarah Crumrine	Communications Coordinator
Anne Dugan	Northeast Regional Coordinator
Clark Goldenrod	Senior Policy Analyst
Deb Gorczycki	Accounting Assistant
Ann Iijima	Southeast Regional Coordinator
Becky Johnson	Finance Manager
Rebecca Lucero	Public Policy Director
Nan Madden	Minnesota Budget Project Director
Paul Masiarchin	Program Director
Shannon McCarville	Program Coordinator
Laura Mortenson	Minnesota Budget Project Communications Manager
Joe Pederson	West Central Regional Coordinator
Jon Pratt	Executive Director
Taylor Putz	Public Policy Advocate
Sondra Reis	Director of E-Learning
Andrea Sanow	GrantAdvisor Coordinator
Emily Steinmetz	Central Regional Coordinator
Biftu Takele	Nonprofit Services Assistant
Rachel Wagner	Office Assistant
Bradley Wolfe	South Central Regional Coordinator
John Wurm	Membership and Communications Director

board of directors

Kenza Hadj-Moussa, Chair	TakeAction Minnesota
Sheila Smith, Vice-Chair	Minnesota Citizens for the Arts
Jonah Weinberg, Vice-Chair	Autism Society of Minnesota
Jarell Skinner-Roy, Secretary	College Possible
Bob Benes, Treasurer*	Lakes and Pines Community Action Council, Inc.
Thomas Adams	Better Futures Minnesota
Eunice Adjei*	Create CommUNITY
Cameron Bloom Kruger*	Duluth Children's Museum
Antonio Cardona	Pillsbury United Communities
Sarah Clyne	Domestic Abuse Project
Sue Estee*	Second Harvest North Central Food Bank
Tracy Fischman	Prepare+Prosper
Amel Gorani*	Carleton College
Sue Grafstrom*	LifeCare Medical Center
Lynn Hunt*	Happy Dancing Turtle
Mary LaGarde	Minneapolis American Indian Center
Cathy Maes	Loaves and Fishes MN
Molly Matheson Gruen	Bush Foundation
Angie Miller*	Community Action Duluth
Susan Schmidt	The Trust for Public Land
Chris Taylor	Minnesota Historical Society
Ernesto Velez*	Centro Campesino
Melinda Wedzina*	MRCI WorkSource

**indicates a board member from Greater MN*

2017 MCN VISTA cohort

In 2017, MCN welcomed its fourth AmeriCorps VISTA cohort. These 12 VISTA members managed communications and outreach, developed programs, recruitment volunteers and gained nonprofit leadership skills while serving in community-based nonprofits across the Twin Cities.

MCN's VISTA program was made possible with support from the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Meredith Benson, Casa de Esperanza	Kedir Kurfessa, AEDS
Michelle Chang, Minnesota Council of Nonprofits	David Langley, APAC
Jess Del Fiocco, MIWRC	Kat McCaffery, AIFC
Joy Hammer, Ka Joog	Grete Oanes, WISE
Nadia Hecker O'Brien, CAIR-MN	Suzanne Olive, KOM
Maddie Hyde, Dream of Wild Health	Sharon Rebar, Lao Assistance Center of Minnesota
Madeline Kiehn, Standpoint	Shelby Rutzick, Frogtown Farm
David Kraft, MIGIZI	Kaitlyn Szabo, Exodus Lending

**minnesota council
of nonprofits**

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