

NONPROFIT NEWS

Information and connections for Minnesota's nonprofit sector

MINNESOTA
COUNCIL OF
NONPROFITS

Summer 2019

Working Family Credit expansion boosts incomes of workers, families

Every year is an opportunity to make policy changes that move us closer toward the day that all Minnesotans can participate in the state's prosperity. In 2019, one of the policy changes that contributes toward that progress is expanding the Working Family Tax Credit.

Across Minnesota, tight family budgets make it hard for Minnesotans to pay for child care, education and training to build their skills, reliable transportation, and other things they need to succeed at work and get ahead.

The Working Family Credit—like the federal Earned Income Tax Credit and similar credits in many other states—

boosts the incomes of these workers and families, and contributes to Minnesota having a fairer tax system. The Working Family Credit especially reaches those communities where good-paying jobs are harder to find, including parts of Greater Minnesota and communities of color.

Working with a range of nonprofit and organized labor partners, the Minnesota Budget Project led efforts this year to expand the Working Family Credit. This year's tax legislation expands the credit by about \$30 million a year, and will benefit about 275,000 lower-income Minnesota workers and families.

States across the country have increasingly focused on improving their tax credits

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We can't have a more just society without talking about injustice

When do you get out of the way? And when do you dominate the path?

Consider the last time you walked down a crowded hallway with a mix of people of various ages, abilities, and races. The simple act of crossing paths can play out differently for folks depending on their identification with a marginalized or dominant group. Do you give deference to those approaching? Do you unconsciously assume privilege in the crowd?

The subtle elements of cultural conditioning impact our actions. And through practice, each of us can make the intention to be alert and aware of our actions—knowing that we will only be

able to perceive a small bit of the effect of conditioning around advantage and marginalization. We can learn to stay in dialogue with ourselves and others to understand the historical and systemic forces at play. Walking down a crowded hallway can offer a space for reflection. With discipline, this simple act can provide an opportunity for learning how to near simultaneously read the world even while we are living in it.

Everyone who has tried to address the social realities of oppression and privilege knows that these are tough subjects. Just saying the words "oppression," "racism," or "sexism" will get some people's back up. Many of us may start to feel angry,

continued on page 3...

The mission of the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits is to inform, promote, connect, and strengthen individual nonprofits and the nonprofit sector.

NONPROFIT BITS

To increase the number of people of color leading nonprofits, the sector needs a new narrative about the problem and new strategies to address it. In response to that need, the Building Movement Project has launched their second Race to Lead survey, asking people of color and white respondents' background, aspirations to be leaders, training, and attitudes towards leadership. Take the survey at: <https://bit.ly/30lgiBz>



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Where We Stand

Encouraging signs of civility, honest feedback and UBIT exceptionalism

The “Send her back! Send her back!” chants at the Donald Trump rally in Greenville, North Carolina were only the most recent sorry example of public divisiveness exhibited in a public event, aimed at a Minnesota member of Congress, Ilhan Omar. Creating divisions based on race and religion can make short-term political hay, but are clearly antithetical to the spirit and values of the vast majority of Americans (including North Carolinians)—as well as the nonprofit sector.

Regardless of your political leanings or party affiliation, Minnesotans have a long-standing nonpartisan interest in promoting civil democracy, going back to Minnesota Senator Hubert Humphrey’s most famous civil rights speech in 1948 calling on Americans to “come out of the shadows of state’s rights and into the sunshine of human rights.”

We see Minnesota nonprofit volunteers, donors, and staff constantly working to bring people together in positive ways—often in difficult circumstances. An encouraging ray of sunshine broadcast widely on national media occurred the day after the “Send her back!” rally, when Representative Ilhan Omar arrived at MSP airport’s baggage claim area. This time a very different chant of “Welcome home, Ilhan! Welcome home, Ilhan!” was an example of appreciation and connection we need more of.



Impacts of changing grant funding landscape reflected in GrantAdvisor.org reviews, responses

As it approaches its two year anniversary, GrantAdvisor is receiving increasing numbers of reviews from across the United States, and now also in a UK pilot with seven charitable trusts in London, York, and Edinburgh. There is a growing interest in honest feedback about foundations, a previously unavailable commodity, with 75 percent of the reviews trending positive, available free at the GrantAdvisor website.

California and Minnesota (the two states where GrantAdvisor began in 2017) now have 130 and 77 foundations reviewed, respectively, with 440 reviewed foundations spread among 46 other states. In Minnesota, the GrantAdvisor team has noticed that foundations with the highest reviews are often described as accessible, adaptable, and willing to listen, while those with lower rankings are described as risk averse, bureaucratic, and not worth the time to pitch. Here are the top-rated and lowest rated Minnesota foundations at GrantAdvisor.org:

Top-Rated (tied with 100%)

Blandin Foundation	Medica Foundation
Minneapolis Foundation	Mary’s Pence
Pohlad Family Foundation	

Lowest-Rated (with 5+ reviews)

Target Foundation – 60%	Northwest Area Foundation – 33%
Greater Twin Cities United Way – 56%	Margaret A. Cargill Foundation – 14%
Shavlik Family Foundation – 40%	

Minnesota makes exceptional decision on UBIT Change

With support and testimony by MCN members, the 2019 tax bill made Minnesota the only state that did not adopt the federal changes to the Unrelated Business Income Tax.

The federal changes in UBIT laws from the 2017 federal tax bill did not ensure that money and resources would be used for the right purposes. Instead, they will have the effect of diverting money and resources away from each nonprofit’s mission. With regard to transportation expenses, if Minnesota had conformed to this change, nonprofits and churches would be charged additional state taxes for the cost of parking and transit benefits they provide to employees. Applying UBIT to these expenses is a gross misapplication of the law’s purpose, which is to tax unrelated business income—not expenses.

The Federal UBIT change is still in effect for these changes—so Minnesota nonprofits will have to pay the Federal part of this tax, just not the Minnesota portion. Broad support exists to repeal the transportation UBIT portion at the federal level, but Congress moves slowly, so slowly.

Nonprofits lead the charge to successfully expand the Working Family Credit

continued from page 1...

for workers who aren't raising children in the home. Minnesota was the first state to extend its tax credit to younger workers without children—legislation passed in 2017 dropped the age requirement to qualify from 25 years of age to 21. One component of this year's expansion will mean these young people and other workers without children will qualify for a larger tax credit, and be able to qualify at higher incomes—previously, a single person working full-time, year-round at the minimum wage made too much to qualify for the credit.

A highlight of this session was a youth engagement and listening session held by the Minnesota Budget Project and partners Prepare + Prosper, Voices for Racial Justice, Children's Defense Fund-Minnesota, Ujamaa Place, and

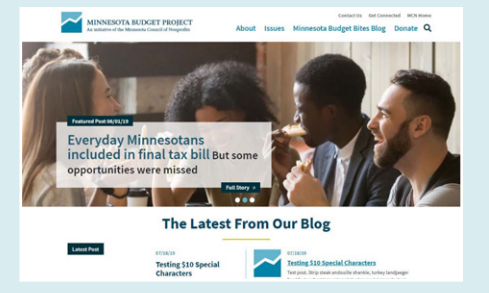
Youthprise. The event kicked off with a spoken-word performance that grounded the event in youth voices; young workers learned more about the Working Family Credit and talked about what an additional \$100 in tax credit through expansion would mean for them. Learning how young people saw the expansion as a way to invest in themselves, their futures, and their communities informed and inspired our policy work throughout session.

To learn more about the Working Family Credit and this year's tax policy changes, please visit www.mnbudgetproject.org.

New Minnesota Budget Project website and blog!

MCN's Minnesota Budget Project is pleased to announce the launch of a newly redesigned website and blog in August.

The new website features a clean, new look and easier access to the latest research and updates related to the Minnesota Budget Project's work identifying and advancing policy solutions so that opportunity and economic security are within reach for all Minnesotans, regardless of who they are or where they live.



MCN Annual Conference, October 24 – 25, focuses on social justice

continued from page 1...

guilty, ashamed, or upset when these topics are raised.

But we can't have a more just society without talking about injustice. How can we address these topics in a constructive way that will enable each of us to listen and grow, even when conflict and ill feelings arise?

During this year's MCN Annual Conference on October 24 – 25 in Rochester, keynote speaker and pre-conference presenter, Dr. Leticia Nieto, will outline an approach that can help us grow in our understanding of oppression, and our compassion for ourselves and others.

Leticia's approach uses the language of imagery and feeling more than that of

politics or activism. She believes that people can develop more appropriate and useful skills to address the issues of oppression just as they develop other types of skills. And she has found that when people learn about these skills they find it easier to tolerate discomfort, change their own behavior, and



Dr. Leticia Nieto

work with people whose experiences differ from their own.


Leticia understands that oppression and trauma cannot be resolved with the mind. Therefore, through her teaching and speaking, she shares the power of connecting with the body through movement, action, and theater. Embodiment has been her path to healing. Inherently, healing means coming home to the body. And social change is achieved only through collective embodiment or action.

Join nonprofit staff, board members, and leaders from across the state on October 24 – 25 to support one another on the journey toward social justice. www.mcnannualconference.org

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Success, with a caveat: health care provider tax extended, rate lowered

More than 150 Minnesota organizations, including the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits and the Minnesota Budget Project, joined together during this legislative session to successfully support the health care provider tax. This vital revenue source raises about \$680 million per year for affordable health care and healthy communities across the state, but was set to sunset at the end of the calendar year. Losing that revenue would have put at risk the health care of our family members and neighbors, and put pressure on every area of the state budget. In the final budget agreement, the sunset language was repealed to allow the health care provider tax to continue—albeit at a lower rate.

Minnesota's health care provider tax was created more than 25 years ago to improve access to affordable health care, and it has been effective: Minnesota has one of highest rates of insurance coverage in the nation, and more than one million Minnesotans—nearly 20 percent of us—have affordable health care coverage through Medicaid or MinnesotaCare funded in part by the provider tax. This includes seniors, people living with disabilities, families earning lower wages, and children.

The provider tax is an essential funding source for nonprofits who deliver health care services in their communities; it also has a critical role to play in ensuring all Minnesotans can get the health care they need. For example, Minnesotans in rural communities can face more hurdles in getting affordable health care, and the provider tax funds essential services to connect rural Minnesotans to health care and contributes to the health of their communities. Rural Minnesota counties tend to have a greater portion of their residents who get health care through

Medicaid or MinnesotaCare compared to urban areas. The provider tax helps fund other efforts to address the health challenges of Greater Minnesota, including the higher prevalence of child poverty and the lower ratio of primary care physicians to people.

The provider tax also helps advance racial equity and access to good health. Many of Minnesota's communities of color face significantly higher rates of premature death than their white neighbors and are more likely to lack access to health care. Since people of color are disproportionately likely to be earning lower incomes in Minnesota, maintaining affordable coverage through Medicaid and MinnesotaCare is essential. And, more steps are needed to ensure that people of color have access to health care providers who understand their needs.

The permanent extension of the health care provider tax will protect health care and healthy communities across Minnesota. However, policymakers lowered the rate from its current 2 percent to 1.8 percent, and the lower rate will mean fewer resources available in the long term to make progress on ensuring affordable health care reaches all Minnesotans. We will be carefully monitoring the implementation of this new rate to ensure that sufficient funding is available for a healthy Minnesota.

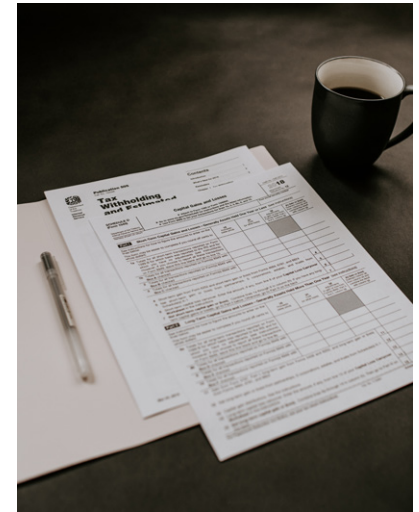
417,000 Minnesota tax filers use non-itemizer charitable deduction in 2018

Minnesota saw a 45 percent increase in the number of tax filers who claimed the non-itemizer charitable deduction in 2018. As always, such a jump makes us ask why it happened. But this one is tricky. Congress passed big changes to federal tax laws in 2017, some of which could impact Minnesotans' choices about charitable giving. For example, Congress nearly doubled the size of the standard deduction, which is expected to result in fewer people itemizing their deductions and therefore fewer are seeing a direct federal tax incentive for their charitable giving.

But Minnesota did not conform to those federal tax changes in 2018—and instead kept in place the tax deductions and subtractions that were in place before the federal law changed. Minnesota was already unusual in being one of two states (along with Colorado) that allows taxpayers who claim the standard deduction to also take a tax deduction related to their charitable giving. When Minnesota policymakers passed legislation in 2019 to update the income tax in response to the federal tax bill, they kept the non-itemizer charitable deduction in place.

In future years, we'll have a better idea of how Minnesotans are changing their behavior responding to the various federal and state tax changes. Of course, MCN will continue to advocate for tax incentives for charitable giving.

The non-itemizer charitable deduction allows Minnesotans to subtract from their taxable income 50 percent of their total charitable giving that exceeds \$500. Based on the Minnesota Department of Revenue's preliminary 2018 tax year data, 417,000 Minnesota non-itemizers claimed charitable deductions reflecting a total of \$892 million in charitable contributions reported by non-itemizers, for an average deduction of \$1,044. This is up from \$780 and \$728 in 2017 and 2016, respectively.



Tax Year	Number of filers claiming the non-itemizer charitable deduction	Average amount of deduction
2018 (preliminary)	417,138	\$1,044
2017	228,358	\$780
2016	243,958	\$728

*Source: Minnesota Department of Revenue. All 2018 data is preliminary information, for returns processed through July 30, 2019.

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Why community members' voices are important at the Capitol

When we talk about state policy changes, it's important to recognize that those new policies are the result of people coming to the Capitol and getting involved. Each year, advocates from nonprofits and communities all across the state talk to their legislators, participate in committee hearings, and meet with administrative officials to help make Minnesota a state where more people can thrive.



not passed this year. The work will continue, and Minnesota policymakers should enact this policy soon.

To learn more about work to increase access to driver's licenses, visit www.freedom2drivemn.com.

To learn more about how to get involved at the state Capitol, visit bit.ly/2OzeM3e.

This year, as in many years past, a broad range of advocates worked tirelessly so that Minnesotans who are working, living, and learning in our communities could apply for driver's licenses, regardless of their immigration status.

People who would be directly impacted by the policy change led this work alongside people from faith and organizing backgrounds, the nonprofit sector and local governments. Thanks to their work, this policy provision passed the House floor for the first time.

For a large number of Minnesotans, the daily activities we do to support our

families—like getting to work safely, dropping children off at school, or buying groceries—require driving. But because of their immigration status, for about 95,000 Minnesotans doing these basic activities without a driver's license could result in potentially life-altering consequences, including being separated from their families or losing their livelihoods.

Ensuring driver's licenses for all is an important step toward all Minnesotans – regardless of who they are or where they were born—having a fair shot in today's economy. But despite the progress this policy made in the House, expanded access to driver's licenses was

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CHALLENGE TO CHANGE

Discover the Virtues of Virtual Learning: 2nd Annual Virtual Conference for Small Development Shops: October 2-3, 2019

For fundraisers at small development shops or organizations, the fundraising tasks at hand can be overwhelming. More often than not, development staff get so busy “doing” that there’s no time to get out and learn.

Hosted by the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits, in collaboration with the North Carolina Center for Nonprofits, North Dakota Association of Nonprofit Organizations, and Washington Nonprofits, the second annual Virtual Conference for Small Development Shops aims to overcome these challenges—by bringing the conference to attendees.

Streamed and archived for a full year, the 2019 Virtual Conference’s sessions are available anywhere with an internet connection.

Never “been” to a virtual conference? Here’s a quick rundown of the virtues of virtual:

No FOMO (fear of missing out)

Are your two favorite sessions at the same time? Have to leave a session halfway through to put out a work fire? You don’t need to catch every moment—we record every session (roughly 14 hours of content) so that registrants can watch them whenever they want over the next 12 months.

“I’ve got this trove of materials bookmarked,” said one attendee after last year’s conference, “so it’s easy to dip back in.”

This size fits you

Our speakers have been in your shoes, and the tools and resources in our sessions are geared toward your needs.

“As a small organization, these tools spoke our language,” said an attendee last year.

2019 Virtual Conference for **SMALL DEVELOPMENT SHOPS**

October 2-3, 2019 | 11 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. CT

Session topics range from capital campaigns to major donor acquisition and from building a culture of philanthropy within your organization to creating a framework for cross-cultural giving. See the full list online.

It’s flexible

With a lot on your plate at all times, committing to a place-based conference (and possibly a flight or hotel booking) may be unrealistic. The Virtual Conference for Small Development Shops gives you the luxury to pop in and out of sessions while never leaving your office (or house).

For many nonprofit professionals located in rural areas, the time and cost savings can mean the difference between accessing valuable skills and resources or having to pass. As one attendee put it last year, “Thanks for making it available to the ‘little guys’ in greater Minnesota!”

“Our hope is that participants will come away from this conference feeling inspired to try new and different ways to achieve your organization’s fundraising goals, with more tools to address organizational challenges related to generating revenue to support mission-related work, and with increased connections to other leaders doing similar work from throughout your state and beyond,” said Sondra Reis, MCN’s director of E-learning.

The 2019 Virtual Conference for Small Development Shops is open accessible to nonprofit professionals and fundraisers throughout Minnesota and beyond. MCN members can register for just \$119, while nonmembers pay \$179. Partial scholarships are also available.

To learn more or register, visit www.minnesotanonprofits.org/VC2019.

“So cool! I can’t believe how easy it was to navigate and what a fun, realistic vibe it lent to the whole experience. I really felt like I was ‘attending’ a conference, not just listening to a [webinar].”

– 2018 Virtual Conference for Small Development Shops attendee



No citizenship question, now what?

In June, the Trump administration dropped a year-long battle to add a citizenship question to the 2020 Census form. This decision came after a series of events, including the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to send the case back to lower courts. MCN, along with many organizations working on the census across the nation, celebrated this win. The citizenship question is against the purpose of the census to get a full count of all people living in the U.S. Research has shown that having the question on the form would lead to an undercount.



Census data is crucial to all of us, as it impacts the welfare of our daily lives. An accurate count guides local agencies on decisions such as highway planning, school expansions, funding for programs such as WIC, and locations of businesses. The citizenship question was dropped, but the fear surrounding data protection is still very much present in communities of color and immigrant groups. It is vital for trusted messengers such as nonprofits (you!) to work together to get out the count for the sake of our diverse and thriving communities here in Minnesota.

MCN's work is to get resources and information into your hands so Minnesotans feel safe, confident, and empowered to fill out the census. The census is one way we can work together to amplify community voices and ensure the government is accountable to their constituents. Every count matters for our democracy. A just and equitable society where everyone has impact on voting, their elected officials, and the economy depends on a fair and accurate count.

What can you do to promote the census as a tool for liberation? Think critically and coordinate efforts when door knocking and tabling. Make sure the people with the resources reflect the demographics of the community they are working in. Gather and share powerful stories with community members that show what communities really look like, and how they will benefit from an accurate count. And, if you have not already, take MCN's Nonprofits Count! Pledge to get more information and to learn about grants available for 2020 Census mobilization.



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Agendas and Action

How to spot a public policy nerd in the wild

MCN has a new Public Policy Director. (Spoiler alert: It's me.) If you haven't worked with a public policy nerd before, allow me to provide some facts. We public policy nerds love what we do and want everyone to understand this work. However, we can be an elusive bunch, sticking mostly to well-lit, temperature-controlled hearing rooms and offices. When forced, we occupy a way-too-warm Capitol rotunda or sit on hard marble floors for hours.

Should you spot a public policy nerd in their natural habitat, they will probably be looking at their phone. Approach loudly, so as to not startle them, though be cautious when engaging a public policy nerd in conversation. What may start as a simple comment could end with ...well, it may never end because the public policy nerd will be so excited that someone is interested in public policy that they will dive so deep into the minutiae of the policy that time will fail to move forward.

So why are public policy nerds so darned excited about public policy work? And why should you care? So glad you asked. (And you're learning—you know I have a word limit and have to stop at some point. Well done!) Public policy nerds share a love of changing rules that are unnecessary, overly burdensome, or are just plain bad. Some of us focus on specific areas like housing, environment, or healthcare, and some of us would take on every single issue, if we had all the time in the world.

In the advocacy world, public policy is the broad set of rules that we have some level of control over—federal laws, state statutes, rules and regulations, city ordinances, etc. It also includes how governing entities approach, understand, and regulate those rules.

A lot of my advocacy experience is in working with human services providers. In that setting, I often explained public policy this way: Think of a barrier that you've come across with multiple clients—something set by the feds, the state, the county, or the city. If that barrier is related to a law or other rule made by elected or appointed officials, it is in the realm of public policy and we can lobby to change it. How successful that work will be depends on many factors, and that's another article all together.

To truly change our communities and better serve the people with whom we work, we need to do both direct service and public policy advocacy. I have great respect and gratitude for nonprofit staff and volunteers who work directly with people in crisis, and the only way that we public policy nerds can do our work well is to understand your work and the barriers you and your clients are facing. That's when we can pinpoint where rules and regulations don't match the needs of our communities, find levers and agents of change, and fix what needs to be fixed.

A large part of my role is to identify public policy items that affect large swaths of the nonprofit sector. MCN cannot do this work without you—the information and insights you can provide are absolutely integral to our ability to speak persuasively with policymakers.

So let's talk! I can't promise not to be overly excited about something most people think is boring (did you hear what happened at the committee hearing on UBITs?), but I can promise to genuinely be as excited as you to hear about the work you do and think together about how our work aligns.

I know that Minnesota nonprofits are some of the greatest entities around and collectively change our communities in incredibly beneficial ways. I look forward to being in conversation with you and helping make systems work for your organizations. Just approach gently when I'm scanning #mnleg on my phone.



Nonprofit News and Advancements



Jason Swanson was named executive director of Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging.



Heather Christopherson named executive director of Breanna's Gift.

Little Free Library named M. Greig Metzger II as executive director.



Saint Paul and Minnesota Foundations has hired Kedar Hickman as program manager.

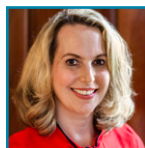


Mat Larson-Krisetya has been hired as operations director at Fresh Energy.



Tina Stofferahn was named director of licensed services at MRCI.

Ruth Richardson has been hired as Wayside's new CEO.



Schubert Club hired Amy Marret as director of development.

Sheila Her joined HandsOn Twin Cities as special projects director.

Meg VanWagner joined HandsOn Twin Cities as director of strategic initiatives and growth.

Emily Bastian was hired as vice president of chemical and mental health at Avivo.



Kate King joined Lee Carlson Center for Mental Health and Well-Being as director of development.



Kevin Lindsey joined the Minnesota Humanities Center as CEO.



Stefano Perugini joined Children's HeartLink as vice president of development.

Kate Tobin has joined Tubman as director of shelter services.

Jena Reed has joined Tubman as director of legal services.



Laura Wertheim Joseph was named curator of exhibitions at Minnesota Museum of American Art.

Valley Friendship Club named Pete Erickson executive director.

Minnesota Council of Nonprofits Announcements

Ileana Mejia joined MCN as public policy advocate, following serving as park ally for the Trust for Public Land.

Wooseok Song joined MCN as human resources manager, effective September 1, 2019. Prior to MCN, Wooseok served as human resources consultant and business manager for the Korean Service Center.

Submit Your Announcements

MCN member organizations are invited to submit your organization's awards, staffing announcements, and other news to scrumrine@minnesotanonprofits.org. MCN cannot guarantee that all announcements will make it into *Nonprofit News*.

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2018 Nonprofit Mission Award recipient for responsive philanthropy: Sundance Family Foundation

The Sundance Family Foundation, founded in 2003 by Nancy Jacobs and Mark Sandercott, supports youth development and strengthens family stability. As a way to more keenly focus their philanthropy, the foundation decided to focus a large portion of its energy and funding to Youth Social Entrepreneurship (YSE) programs—youth-centric businesses or community social initiatives that use an asset-based model of youth development, community engagement, workforce readiness, and skills training.

The Sundance Family Foundation has been championing YSE as a way to support youth ages 14-24 in low-income communities, communities of color, and under-represented communities. YSE youth-serving nonprofit programs tend to have a core enterprise (baking, fixing bikes, engine repair, etc.), while simultaneously integrate positive youth development, community engagement, workforce readiness and agile thinking—social entrepreneurship. The programs offer youth their first wage-earning jobs, and an incubated setting where youth can take a variety of business and community leadership positions.

A YSE program is a transformative asset-based model of youth development. It includes the development of entrepreneurial thought, business and personal skills and community engagement. Together, these learnings inspire youth to acquire the self-confidence to explore careers, post-secondary training, and to embark upon meaningful sustainable futures.

Sundance Family Foundation has seeded and cultivated the field of YSE by focusing on five strategies:

- Building the capacity of non-profits to produce rigorous evidence-based evaluation
- Developing bridges and pipelines between youth-serving nonprofits, post-secondary training, and job opportunities
- Creating innovative transportation, training and workplace mentoring pilot projects
- Producing Wunderkammers: Community Tech and Training Exploratoriums which provide hands-on career engagement with working technicians
- Communicating these bold innovations through video, social media, and storytelling.



By advancing the field of YSE, Sundance Family Foundation has been driving the changes that enable the economic and personal transformation of youth, their families, and their communities. As a result of the foundation's approach to funding where community needs point, the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits was pleased to present the nonprofit with the 2018 Mission Award for Responsive Philanthropy.

Learn more about Sundance Family Foundation, and their awe-inspiring impact on local youth, at www.sundancefamilyfoundation.org.



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10/24 - MCN Annual Conference

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Congratulations to MCN's 2019 Nonprofit Leadership Award Winners

Each year, MCN presents inspiring nonprofiters in various points in their career three leadership awards. These three individuals exemplify what it means to be a leader on the nonprofit sector. We are excited to announce this year's Nonprofit Leadership Award recipients!

Catalytic Leader – Lorena Pinto, Program Director, The Family Partnership

Lorena Pinto is passionate about ending gender-based violence for vulnerable populations. As director of PRIDE at The Family Partnership, she oversees comprehensive services for survivors of commercial sex trafficking and has trained over 1,500 community members. Lorena was born in Peru. She is a graduate of the Wilkins Community Fellows program at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, and holds degrees from San Diego State University and Widener University. She is co-director of the Twin Cities New Leader's Council that helps empower young professionals to create social change in our community. This emerging leader award is co-sponsored by the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits and YNPN Twin Cities.

Visionary Leader – Tonya Brownlow, Executive Director, Emma Norton Services

Tonya Brownlow has more than 20 years of experience working in social services. For the last 12 years she has



The recipients of the 2019 Nonprofit Leadership Awards (from left to right): Tonya Brownlow, Emma Norton Services; Lorena Pinto, The Family Partnership; Cathy Maes, Loaves and Fishes

focused on the best ways to serve those in the homeless population, by working in agencies offering emergency shelter, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing to single adults. She has also served as an adjunct faculty member at St. Catherine University/University of St. Thomas. Tonya has been a catalyst for change within Emma Norton Services over the past five years, growing programs and moving the agency toward a more sustainable future. She holds a Master's in Social Work from St. Catherine University/University of St. Thomas and is a licensed social worker. This mid-career leader award is sponsored by the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits.

Transformational Leader – Cathy Maes, Executive Director, Loaves and Fishes

Cathy Maes is a tireless advocate for the less fortunate. Since becoming the executive director of Loaves and Fishes in

2013, Cathy's team has enhanced the organization's mission to emphasize nutrition in every meal, and has led an innovative expansion effort that tripled the number of healthy meals served. With Cathy's steady leadership, Loaves and Fishes served over one million nutritious meals in 2018. Previously, Cathy served as the executive director of the ICA Food Shelf. Cathy holds a B.S. in communications from Northern Arizona University and has served as the vice-chair of the board of Minnesota Council of Nonprofits and as a school board member for Minnetonka Public Schools. This experienced leader award is co-sponsored by the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits and the Center for Integrative Leadership at the University of Minnesota.