

Welcome To Our Monthly Non-Profits Newsletter

Three essential steps to kick off the year with clarity and purpose:

As a Nonprofit Leader your role is to spend more time "ON" your business and not "IN" your business. What does this mean? It's easy to focus on who you are helping vs who fuels your work financially, the strategy you need to level up or how to do your work more efficiently. Starting a new year is a perfect time to focus on intentional planning. Whether it's a strategic plan developed with your Board of Directors or a programming plan, knowing what you want to accomplish can make all the difference in your organization's success. Here are three essential steps to kick off the year with clarity and purpose:

1. Honestly Assess Where You Are:

- Take time to review the previous year's accomplishments and challenges. What goals were achieved? What areas need improvement? This reflection could provide valuable insights for setting realistic and impactful goals for the year ahead and knowing where to spend your time.

2. Define Your Goals:

- Strategic Goals: Collaborate with your Board of Directors/Supervisor to outline the organizations objectives for the year. Consider financial stability, program growth, and community impact and what role each position (Staff, Board, Volunteer) plays, If it is not assigned, it will not get done!
- Program Goals: Develop a personal plan for your programs activities. What specific outcomes do you want to achieve? Align these goals with your organizations mission and strategic direction.

3. Create a Roadmap:

- Break larger goals into actionable steps. Assign timelines, resources, and responsibilities to ensure progress. (Ask Sara and Kevin about the WACF Rainbow report)
- Regularly revisit your plan throughout the year. Check in with your team and board to assess progress and make adjustments as needed. Make this a part of your agenda to help keep the entire team focused.

Why Planning Matters


A solid plan serves as a roadmap, guiding your organization toward its mission to:

- Clarifies Priorities: Helps you focus on what's most important.
- Engages Stakeholders: Provides your team, board and donors with a clear vision to rally behind.
- Measures Success: Establishes benchmarks to track progress and celebrate achievements.

As you start the New Year, take time to prioritize planning. With a clear vision and actionable steps, you'll be well-equipped to navigate challenges and seize opportunities. Let's make 2025 a year of meaningful impact and success!



Bridge Builders Upcoming Meetings.....



Tuesday, January 28th 2025

Time: 12 Noon - 1:30pm

Location: Willmar Public Library - 2nd Floor Community Room

Topic: Non-profit Year End Financial Planning and Financial Things You Needed to Know Yesterday

Speaker: Meranda Wacek, CPA with CDS




Tuesday, February 25th 2025

Time: 12:00 - 1:00pm

Location: Willmar Public Library - 2nd Floor Community Room

Topic: TBD



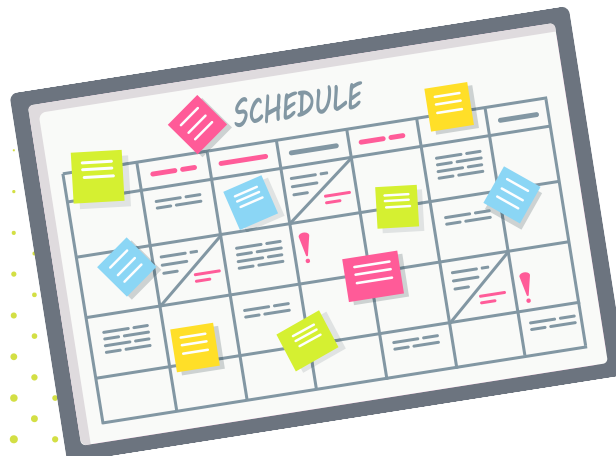
Tuesday, March 25th 2025

Time: 12:00 - 1:30pm

Location: Kandiyohi County Emergency Ops Center

Topic: Emergency Operations Planning

Register via www.communitygiving.org/events



WACF Grant Round Alert!

Our Community Impact Grant Round is now accepting applications
(November 15-January 15th) & focuses on:

- Small Grants: General operations and project/program support for:
 - A) Productive Aging
 - B) Bridging Diverse Sectors of our Community
 - C) Community Innovations (creative approaches to community challenges, not focused on youth/children)
 - D) Capital Projects
- Difference Maker Grant: Other strategic investments that support community-wide, lasting, and positive changes involving 2 or more collaborating organizations (By invitation only)

[Click Here For More Information and to Apply](#)

The WACF Opportunity Gap Grant Round will be accepting applications
May 15- June 30 and will focus on:

“Addressing the Achievement Gap for our Youth”.

Children, Youth & Family Focused programs, capital projects and/or
Difference Maker
proposals will also be eligible.

More information will be shared in the spring.

Online

Virtual Training Session with Propel Nonprofits

February 6, 2025: Strategy, Planning and Outcomes: Bridging Your Strategy Work
with Ground Level Impacts, 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

Speaker: Sindiswa Georgiades, Strategic Services Director

[Click Here to Register](#)

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