

CRE BOARD LEADERSHIP CAUCUS

May - July 2010

Why the Board Leadership Caucus

CRE's 30 years of experience working with nonprofit boards suggests that a lack of knowledge about Board roles is *not* the primary factor contributing to sub-optimal performance by Boards. While there is abundant literature and some good training available about Board "roles and responsibilities," what is needed is **leadership preparation** for –

- handling the complexities of volunteer governance
- grasping the complicated financial and accountability structure of tax-exempt, publicly funded entities, and
- asserting influence in artful ways with colleague volunteers, staff, and funders given the realities of limited time and information.

CRE's Board Leadership Caucus program was launched in 2009 and has won the praise of participating Board Chairs and their Executive Directors. Acknowledging the increasingly difficult and critical work that Boards and their leaders need to perform in this period of economic retraction, the Caucus aims to equip the Board Chair with skills and insights to catalyze fellow Board members and to improve the nonprofit organization's ability to respond to the difficult options these hard times pose.

What You Will Experience

- Four content-rich seminars on critical issues in Board leadership, led by a seasoned nonprofit consultant, based in a peer-learning model, and designed to leave you with concrete plans for implementing change within *your* Board
- Opportunities for two small group "action learning" sessions for further peer exchange about real-time issues participants are facing in their own organizations
- Opportunity to participate in a 360° feedback process and individual consultation with a CRE coach

All sessions will be scheduled late in the day to accommodate participants' work schedules.

What You Will Take Away

- New insights for managing the Chair-Executive Director relationship and strategies for strengthening the Board-ED partnership.
- An understanding of your organization's business model and a grounding in Board Chair "must knows" about nonprofit finances, fundraising, and Board accountability.
- A new framework for shaping the Board's leadership role with flexibility and responsiveness, and some practice in assessing your organization's mission, outlook, and strategic positioning in the present climate.
- Strategies for strengthening board leadership, for optimizing board structures, and for enhancing Board engagement and contribution
- An action plan for maximizing your Board's effectiveness.
- A new perspective on your role and abilities as leader and change agent.

This program is offered to Board Chairs of nonprofit social service agencies in New York City.

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For More Information

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