

## Get Connected and Get Started!

There are lots of people who are willing to help you on your journey: co-workers, mentors, family and friends. Here are some resources to help you get started!



Contact the Nonprofit Leadership Initiative within the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region at website: [www.npleadershipfv.org](http://www.npleadershipfv.org) phone: 920-702-7614 or email: [npl@cffoxvalley.org](mailto:npl@cffoxvalley.org) to learn more about other nonprofit leadership opportunities in the Fox Valley.



Optimize your board experience using free tools and resources available at [www.nonprofitnext.org/foxvalley](http://www.nonprofitnext.org/foxvalley). Access is free for those in the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region service area. Just register to get started.



Sign up for Board Connect and be matched with local nonprofits and their open board/committee positions based on your skills and interests. Visit <http://VCBoardConnect.VolunteerCenter.net>.



Register with [Guidestar.org](http://Guidestar.org) for free to research nonprofit organizations of interest.



Check with your company's Human Resources or Community Relations team for a list of volunteer opportunities and non-profits the organization supports.



After volunteering for a CASA fundraising event, I joined the board to advocate for children who need a voice - as a mother that's important to me. At the same time, I am gaining new experiences that help me grow professionally - *it's the perfect combination!*



Angela Horn  
CASA of the Fox Cities  
Board Member

IS BOARD SERVICE THE  
*missing piece*  
OF YOUR COMMUNITY  
INVOLVEMENT?



### Materials provided by: Nonprofit Leadership Initiative

Nonprofit Leadership Initiative is creating a framework to develop effective boards and executive leaders in the Fox Valley Region through leadership, collaboration, and learning opportunities.



## You make a difference

You've got energy. You've got passion. You have a desire to make a difference in your community. You've got exactly what local non-profit boards need to help them accomplish their mission today and position their organizations for tomorrow.

Find out more about how board service can be a rewarding part of your journey!

## Everything to Gain

Serving on a non-profit board can be a tremendously rewarding and enriching experience. While you are sharing your ideas, skills and time, you will also gain experience and the satisfaction of transforming your community. It can be a great complement to skills you already have and help you develop others. You will:

- Add or expand your critical thinking and communications skills.
- Develop a better understanding of organizational dynamics.
- Improve your ability to work collaboratively and within a team.
- Expand your visibility within the community and provide great networking opportunities.
- Gain exposure to new business areas, such as human resources, budgeting and strategic planning.
- Gain leadership experience that you can use in all areas of your life.
- Experience your community differently.
- Gain perspectives from outside of your company or industry.
- Be part of something that is making a difference in your community.

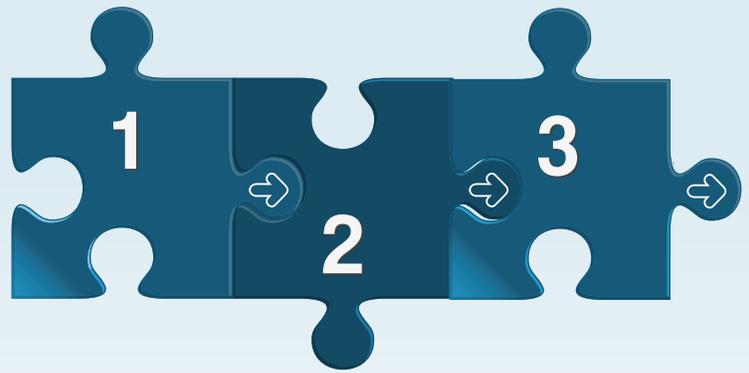
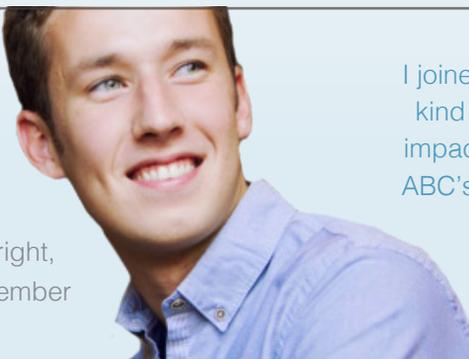
## Your Road to Board Service

Not sure if you are quite ready for a board seat? Get involved by volunteering or joining a committee. You'll get the opportunity to get to know the people behind the organization and see where you can help. If, over time, you are ready to take the next step and serve on the board, you'll be even better equipped for the role.



Get more information, including board readiness assessment resources at [www.nonprofitnext.org/foxvalley](http://www.nonprofitnext.org/foxvalley).

Jamie Cartwright,  
ABC Board Member



### Connect

Get connected with an organization that shares your values and passions by volunteering or serving on a committee.

### Learn

Every board is different. Ask about the roles, responsibilities and expectations of serving on the board for your organization of choice.

### Engage

Found the right fit? Let the board know you are ready, and when a board seat is available, take your seat and begin your journey!

## Finding a Good Fit

Being a board member is different for everyone because everyone brings something different to the table. No one member has every skill, but together a diverse board will have members who complement one another with their own set of experiences, skills and a shared commitment. To help you find a good fit - these questions may help:

- What issues ignite your passion? For example: arts/culture, environment, children, homelessness, mental health, or education.
- Estimate how much time you have to contribute on a monthly basis for meetings and outside activities. Also consider the long-term commitment you are making - a typical board term is 1-3 years.
- What background and knowledge do you have to offer? For example, financial expertise, marketing skills, knowledge of specific key issues.
- Are you willing to support fundraising efforts of the organization?
- Do you possess or are you interested in developing broad critical thinking or strategic planning skills?
- Are you comfortable speaking up and able to discuss difficult topics?
- Are you willing to be a strong advocate for the mission of the nonprofit?



I joined the board of Appleton - A Better Chance because I believe it's the kind of organization that, with the right momentum, can have a dramatic impact on our community. Each board meeting, I bring my enthusiasm for ABC's mission and am challenged to use and develop my knowledge and skills. I see board participation as more than volunteerism -

*it's building our community.*