

Welcome!! It is so great to be surrounded by people who care and care about making a difference.

Our committee had a lot of fun creating **Network Rocks**. In your folder we have included other suggestions for using stones as a way to connect and appreciate others.

Our actions and thoughts do have a ripple effect.

One group recently put word stones along a trail and families kept finding them. In Seattle, some art groups put beautiful painted rocks in random places and in so doing created unexpected joy for people. And a woman in one of my classes created a bowl of inspirational rocks for one of her friends who was having a hard time

and encouraged her to pick a different stone each day and focus on it. She said it was helpful to her friend. We know the words on these stones can and do impact who we are and our organizations.

In fact studies on Happiness out of University of Pennsylvania, suggest that the following 5 factors influence happiness.

1. Positive emotions and pleasure
2. Achievement
3. Relationships
4. Engagement
5. Meaning.

All the above factors can be part of being involved in nonprofits.

It seems to me that the nonprofit environment can be the arena where individuals experience moments of happiness and positivity.

Our missions, visions and the work itself give us opportunities for meaning, engagement, building relationships and achieving something greater than ourselves.

Your folder contains 2 handouts to assess your organization. One is called **10 Stepping Stones for an effective organization**

The other is an assessment tool called Healthy Nonprofits-a check up list. In this You can assess different aspects of your organization from strong to call 911. .

Two weeks ago, I asked the CW planning committee to select from my random assortment of pictures, pictures which would reflect our vision for you tonight . I thought I would share a few of them. Some of these pictures may even have scotch tape on them but I wanted to use the ones the committee selected.

1. `We want this to be the **Greatest Show on Earth.**

I know we may laugh

but the truth is what individuals in this room and our organizations are doing every day to

alleviate poverty, improve education, nourish the arts- you name it-

this room is filled with amazing acts and is truly the greatest show on earth.\

We encourage you at every opportunity to sit next to someone you don't know and be an audience for what they are doing

and applaud their efforts.

Ordinary people are doing extraordinary things.

2.The orchestra demonstrates our vision is to make beautiful music together and play in harmony.

Each of us can play a part in helping community work. We do not need to play all the instruments; we **do need** to play our part well **listen** to what others are doing so we can appreciate and work in harmony.

People are counting on nonprofits to deliver their services. If there is discord, everyone pays the price.

We are grateful that so many people tonight want to play their parts even better.

3 Carrying the load together makes it easier.

We know this is true. However, we do not know what other loads individuals are carrying. By building connections and awareness we have the potential to lighten each others loads.

Sometimes as a way of networking, I have had everyone say

this is something I have to off and this is something I need.

Inevitably when people share, the burden becomes lighter and we can accomplish more.

4. I love this picture. We want you to have a brain blast of ideas

5. Our vision is experienced, courageous people reaching new heights. Now you may not identify with people in this picture

but hopefully by attending these workshops you will leave with skills that will enable you to reach new heights and move forward together.

6. We hope this evening will be one that you will connect with others in a safe, secure environment and be ready to fly.

People have told us that in the past they have found jobs thru CW , Board members, volunteers, Executive Directors and kindred spirits. There is no greater gift than a human being:

May you find connections this evening.

6. Finally, We want you to feel like this penquin- inspired, and ready to take off..and with the skills to do it.

Thank you for coming!

Now it is my great Pleasure to introduce Dr DA Graham.