

WHAT CAN ALL NONPROFITS DO FOR THE COMMON GOOD?

THE COMMON GOOD PRINCIPLE

For the most part, for most of my life:

- I am happy
- I am physically safe
- I am able to make real choices about the course of my life

"We ALL do better when we ALL do better."
- Senator Paul Wellstone, MN

1. UNDERSTAND OUR INFLUENCE

In the United States
1.6 million nonprofits generate
\$1.4 trillion per year in income.

2. MAKE THE COMMON GOOD A COMMON CONVERSATION



3. UNDERSTAND THE BASICS

What values would you want a tax structure to reflect?

Progressive Tax Rate:

Rate increases as a person's ability to pay increases

Regressive Tax Rate: one rate applies to all, which is a greater burden on those who have less ability to pay

LISTENING STYLES

Competitive

- Listening with judgement
- Lack of attention
- Waiting to make a point or intervene

Collaborative

- Open
- Full attention to words and what's behind them
- Not necessary to intervene

4. KNOW WHAT CAN BE DONE

REMEMBER WHAT WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED!



In 25 years, the number of alcohol related traffic deaths each year has gone from 30,000 to 17,000. This decrease is due largely to the efforts of the nonprofit Mother's Against Drunk Driving (MADD).

The nonprofit NAACP helped to end school segregation by winning the Brown v. Board of Education Supreme Court case.

Using DNA testing, the Innocence Project has helped over 300 people get out of prison.

The nonprofit Women's Political Council, with the help of Rosa Parks (left), was the first to launch the Montgomery Bus Boycott that ultimately brought Dr. Martin Luther King to prominence.



LEARN CURRENT ISSUES AND OPTIONS

- National Priorities Project nationalpriorities.org/
- National Council of Nonprofits www.councilofnonprofits.org/
- Public Works publicworks.org
- Your State Nonprofit Association councilofnonprofits.org/about-us/our-network
- Alliance for Justice afj.org