

CompassPoint intensifies the impact of fellow nonprofit leaders, organizations, and networks as we achieve social equity together.

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Vicky Valentine

has worked in nonprofits for 16 years and is Senior Director of Huckleberry Wellness Academies at Huckleberry Youth Programs (www.huckleberryyouth.org), serving San Francisco and Marin youth and their families. Her favorite thing about CompassPoint is "the talented staff who are so deeply committed to providing quality, cutting edge trainings, and support." Vicky participated in the 2010 inaugural class of the Leadership Development Program for Next Generation Leaders of Color.

Why do you do the work you do and what motivates you to keep at it?

I benefitted so much from the care and guidance of service providers as a teenager growing up in Oakland. I would not be who I am without having had their support. I am deeply fulfilled by giving back to generations of youth who face institutional and internalized hurdles similar to those that I overcame.

Steve Lew

is a Senior Project Director at CompassPoint. He consults, trains, and leads our Fundraising Academy for Communities of Color and Nonprofits Talking Taxes initiative with the Building Movement Project. Before joining CompassPoint 13 years ago, Steve was a client for several years when he ran an HIV organization. Steve believes the most important quality in a leader is "the ability to see and hold out possibility for self and others."

What part of your job do you most enjoy?

I really enjoy creating ways for groups to channel their energy and ideas more collaboratively, with more impact. I love being a part of the Fundraising Academy for Communities of Color and when something shifts in their outlook towards mastering fundraising - as each cohort goes through the program there are many more leaders of color who are pursuing donor development strategies in their communities. I've also begun to do more coaching that supports leaders to make transformative change in their lives and organizational work, and this has been very fulfilling to me.

Vincent Pan

is the executive director of Chinese for Affirmative Action (www.CAA.org), which since 1969 has protected the civil and political rights of Chinese Americans and advanced multiracial democracy in the United States. As a board member at CompassPoint, he loves the organization's "culture of learning in pursuit of excellence." He believes that what the world needs now is "moral imagination."

Why do you do the work you do and what motivates you to keep at it?

I believe that we live in a time of great hope and great danger. If we choose to be a more compassionate, fair-minded, and inclusive society, we can create a world that works for everyone. The alternatives are not encouraging.

Denny David

is Deputy Director at LYRIC (www.lyric.org), a San Francisco organization building community and inspiring social change for LGBT, queer, and questioning youth. Denny is a participant in CompassPoint's Leadership Development Program for Executives Serving Transition-Age Youth and a past participant in our 2010 Gap Inc. Leadership Initiative (GILI) and Management 101 leadership intensive. His first nonprofit job, at the age of 8, was as a volunteer at the Family Kitchen in Seattle. His job was to place one roll on each plate.

Who is your favorite real life hero or heroine?

Just recently, one of our program participants "came out" as gay at his middle school-it blew me away. I couldn't have done that. He's my hero.

Laurin Mayeno

helps build the capacity and power of people working together to create systems, services, and communities that work for everyone. She consults on CompassPoint's Leadership Development Program for Next Generation Leaders of Color and Cultural Competency Learning Initiative, leads workshops on Authentic Communication, and served as a guiding consultant on our internal multicultural organizational development. Laurin's first nonprofit job was in 1978, dispensing birth control at Planned Parenthood on MacArthur in Oakland.

Why do you do the work you do and what motivates you to keep at it?

I do the work I do (both paid and volunteer) for myself and out of love for family and community. I grew up biracial, feeling like I didn't fit in. I want to live in a world that allows all of us to be fully who we are, to be accepted and celebrated and able to reach our full potential. Seeing glimmers of that world in the many people and organizations I work with feed my soul, build my faith in humanity, and keep me going.

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Paul Buddenhagen

is East Bay Works/Service Integration Administrator at Contra Costa County Employment and Human Services Department and Vice Chair of CompassPoint's Board. He has worked in the nonprofit sector for a "lucky 13" years. His real life heroes and heroines are "the people who stand up in the face of danger for human rights - the Egyptians recently, Stephen Biko, Paul Farmer, Patrice Lumumba."

What is your favorite thing about CompassPoint?

The people and the mission! I'm extremely impressed by the intelligence, compassion, commitment, and thoughtfulness of CompassPoint's staff and board. It's a real pleasure to be part of a team that is so dedicated to strengthening communities and people through the nonprofit sector. I'm not the kind of person who gets excited by theories of change, but if you haven't seen CompassPoint's TOC, go check it out - it's a beauty. It starts with the issue being addressed: achieving social equity requires effective leaders, organizations, and networks and then identifies anticipated changes and primary strategies. It's a wonderful roadmap for the organization and reflects the high quality of staff and mission.

CompassPoint

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