

YOUR BOARD SERVICE

“The governance of an organization that serves community needs is in the hands of its board. The board’s wisdom, decisions, willingness to give time and money and their overall service to the organization during their tenure will have impact and value long after their service is finished.”

– Kay Sprinkel Grace, The Ultimate Board.

A Board Member’s Unique Role

- You are part of the checks and balances of governance and management – increasingly important with transparency regulations issued by the federal government.
- You hold the organization “in trust” for the community, which means you are legally and financially responsible for the acts of the organization
- You are the “keepers of the mission,” constantly ensuring activities are in line with the fundamental purpose of the organization
- You represent the community needs
- You ensure that funds are spent wisely
- Each board member is a “multiplier” for limited staff – governing and supporting while staff runs the operational aspects of the organization.

Good Board Members

- Attend board and committee meetings
- Read and understand materials and publications
- Treat all information with confidence
- Ensure appropriate financial, legal, tax and other review systems and procedures
- Understand financial information and processes
- Review and follow policies previously set and create new ones if needed
- Respect staff and their time, and know the boundaries

Board Members as Fundraisers

People give because the organization meets community needs not because it has a need.

- You are a *connector* that moves prospective donors into a relationship with the organization
- You are an *ambassador* that cultivates the organization’s relationship with existing donors
- You are an *advocate* of the organization’s activities, knowledgeable about the specific impact it has on the community.

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

Each Board Member of the Young Leadership Council has a unique combination of strengths that he/she brings to the organization. Those abilities may include one or more of the following: influence with individuals or corporate supporters, community liaison, regional representation, media relations, in-depth knowledge of one or more YLC projects, etc. All assets should be utilized to promote the well-being of the YLC.

As a member of the YLC Board of Directors, an individual is representative of the public trust in the institution as demonstrated by the financial support made available to the YLC by the public. As such, each individual has the responsibility to ensure that the YLC and its projects fulfill the mission and serve the community and that it uses funds responsibly toward these needs.

I, _____, as a member of the Board of Directors of the Young Leadership Council, accept and understand that my duties and responsibilities are as stated:

- I will be fiscally responsible, with other board members, for this organization. I will make myself aware and knowledgeable regarding the operational budget and finances and will take an active part in reviewing, approving and monitoring the budget to meet the goals of the organization, including planning and implementing the fundraising necessary to meet the income goals. I will participate in a mid-year review with the President.
- I will help define the mission, and using that mission, define the purpose and direction of the Young Leadership Council.
- I will support and participate in fundraising efforts.
- I will maintain a paid membership in the organization and will assist the YLC with recruiting new members.
- I will make a “personally significant” financial contribution to the Young Leadership Council on an annual basis.
- I will attend and participate in at least 75% of the monthly board meetings and serve on no less than one standing committee of the board. I will attend 50% of the General Membership meetings and events of three projects/committees per year.
- I will act in the best interest of the Young Leadership Council by excusing myself from discussion and votes where I have a conflict of interest.
- I will maintain confidentiality and not share information of a sensitive nature with others outside the Board.

I accept and understand my duties and responsibilities as a member of the YLC Board of Directors by signing below:

Member, Board of Directors

Date

President, Board of Directors

Date