



An Opportunity For Service

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the website of Project COPE! Great things are happening in the nonprofit sector of our community, and we are delighted at the opportunity provided to highlight our many services, programs, and successes.

Every nonprofit organization is governed by a Board of Directors. In most cases, the board is made up of individuals from the community who have an interest in a particular organization or type of service. Board members are very important members of any organization who bring different skills and play different roles to support and build the organization, working toward common goals with management. But while board members should and do act as supporters and builders, they have another role to play as questioners and monitors of the organization. As part of the team with management, the board stands with their nonprofit organization as it operates in the community. In contrast, in their governing role, the board must stand outside the organization and hold it accountable to the public interest.

The two roles of support and governance are very different tasks. In the role of supporters, board members strive to ensure the success of the organization. Boards raise money, bring contacts and clout to the organization, provide special skills and act as ambassadors to the community. The governance role, on the other hand, has as its goal the protection of the public interest. Governance responsibilities for boards include selecting the top executive (the Chief Executive Officer) and assessing his or her performance, reviewing and authorizing plans, ensuring compliance with legal and contract requirements, and evaluating the organization's work.

No nonprofit can be successful in achieving its mission without a strong, dedicated and questioning volunteer Board of Directors. It does not take any special education or expertise to join a Board. It takes some time, lots of interest, and a commitment to the organization and to the community. Like Project COPE, many nonprofit organizations in Lynn are actively looking for new Board members. If you have an interest to learn and a desire to serve, you may be just that person.

Mark S. Kennard
Executive Director
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