



Selected Highlights of Activities, FY12 (7/1/11 - 6/30/12)

Donors Forum experienced another productive and fulfilling year in its FY2012 (7/1/11 - 6/30/12), as we worked to leverage the collective leadership, expertise, and influence of philanthropy and nonprofits to improve lives and strengthen communities. Listed below are just some of the tactics and strategies we used toward that end. We:

- Developed a model for and launched two **Communities of Practice**: Streamlining the Grantmaking Challenge and Solving the Nonprofit Overhead Challenge, and launched a new training on finance for grantmakers.
- Held an interactive convening of 250 grantmaking Members and nonprofit Forum Partners on the topic of **community engagement**, and offered additional joint programs for grantmaking Members and nonprofit Partners featuring national experts.
- Launched and held nine events in a **Public Officials Program series** for grantmaking Members, featuring leaders in the new City of Chicago administration.
- Hosted Donors Forum's first statewide **Illinois Nonprofit Conference**. Held in Springfield, the conference was attended by more than 200 nonprofit leaders from across the state.
- Launched **redesigned nonprofit workshops** with a focus on proposal writing, individual giving, and evaluation, with sessions at the basic and advanced levels. And, achieved record attendance of almost 600 people at the free First Step in Fundraising workshops, offered throughout the year at both the Donors Forum Library and Donors Forum's five philanthropy centers.
- Assisted almost 2,000 people with information and reference requests through the **Donors Forum Library**.
- Monitored threats to the **nonprofit tax exemptions and tax-exempt status** at the city and state levels, and responded forcefully (PDF) to misperceptions about nonprofit executive compensation and independence in the media.

- Produced ***Giving in Illinois*** and the 11th edition of ***Directory of Funding in Illinois*** in a new collaboration with the Foundation Center.
- Held a public forum on **Budgeting for Results (BFR)**, bringing together nonprofits, foundations, and government officials. Donors Forum also gave testimony before the BFR Commission, contributed to the government's BFR strategic plan and shepherded streamlining reporting and auditing reform with state agencies, and released a report on BFR.
- Continued to participate on the **Department of Human Services' Management Improvement Initiative Committee**, evaluating and released a report in February on the adoption of Donors Forum's *Partnership Principles for a Sustainable Human Services System*.
- Facilitated and advised on the **state's continuing implementation of recommended priorities**, both within the Department of Human Services and in four other agencies, resulting in the rollout of a centralized repository vault to reduce redundant requests and submissions.
- Opened Donors Forum's signature event, the **Annual Luncheon**, to the public for the first time, with attendance of almost 600. Welcomed national speaker Paul Schmitz from Public Allies.
- Provided an intensive year-long training program focused on building the fundraising, governance, and collaboration capacity of community-based organizations on the south and west sides of Chicago as part of **A Force for Good, a project with the Chicago Police Department**.