

## President's Message September, 2011

Why is Common Good Ventures' work so important to Maine and Mainers?

Since 2000 Common Good Ventures has helped over 175 Maine nonprofits offer more and better services, increase the number of people they serve – and at the same time lower the cost of those services to Maine's taxpayers and donors. The nonprofit organizations and collaborations CGV has worked with together serve tens of thousands of people living in every county in Maine, including over 25,000 youth and over 10,000 seniors per year.

**One of Common Good Ventures' most important roles is proactively addressing trends that threaten the effectiveness of Maine's nonprofit sector.**

Surveys show that some 75% of the nation's nonprofit leaders expect to leave their current positions within the next few years – a trend with profound implications for the Mainers who depend on nonprofits for essential services. When an executive director or board chair leaves without sufficient organizational planning and preparation the resulting turmoil always diverts resources from the organization's mission-focused work – and may even threaten the existence of its most essential programs.

In the for-profit sector talent development and succession planning are high priorities. Nonprofits are less likely to be well-prepared for leadership transition. We encourage all of Common Good Ventures' clients to do this work and it often becomes a key part of our engagement with a nonprofit.



Now, with the support of the Lennox Foundation, Common Good Ventures is offering a program to help more nonprofits prepare for the departure – expected or unexpected – of those in critical leadership positions. Working with the 64 members of the Maine Association For Community Service Providers we recently kicked off an eighteen-month program offering introductory workshops, group learning sessions, and individualized consulting support to raise awareness among MACSP member organizations of the need for formal succession planning and to help

them develop and implement effective plans.

Stay tuned to our [website](#) for updates on this exciting new program.

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*Can Common Good Ventures really help a non-profit client successfully implement a strategic process realignment that results in an annual **revenue increase of almost \$100,000** and **cost reductions totaling \$300,000** – all within a two year period?*

*The answer is ... **YES**. Really? **Really!***

## **Case study: new strategic vision at United Cerebral Palsy of Maine benefits both clients and staff**

[Learn more.](#)



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*Common Good Ventures' helps Dead River Company assess the impact of their charitable giving and align their key stakeholders...*

## **Case study: strategic philanthropy leads to fuel assistance program**

[Learn more.](#)





***THANK YOU, The VIA Agency***

The VIA Agency is a founding member of Common Good Ventures' Corporate Circle and provides extensive pro bono advertising services to CGV. They designed our logo and brochures; design and produce our annual reports and Corporate Circle ads; host our Springboard brainstorming sessions; and much more.

We are extremely grateful to The VIA Agency and appreciate their great work!