

# Mission

Cause Collective strengthens nonprofits to better serve the community through collaboration, education and advocacy.

## Vision

Nonprofits provide a vibrant, thriving and compassionate community where all residents have equal opportunity.

#### WE ARE HERE FOR YOU

We are all here to support and learn from each other, so all of those we serve can have access to a better life. Our members believe by working together all our agencies become stronger, more efficient, and more effective.

When it comes to helping those in need and making Lincoln a better community, there is strength in numbers. Cause Collective is a nonprofit agency which strengthens over 130 other nonprofit agencies in Lincoln/Lancaster County.

Together, through collaborative meetings, educational events and advocacy, we create a more efficient and effective community for our members and all of Lincoln's residents.



# WHAT OTHER MEMBERS ARE SAYING:

"Times can be trying with the daily news, but I am always hopeful and energized when leaving our meetings. Everyone is working so hard for our community. What a fantastic group to be a part of! Thank you everyone, for all you do!" Valerie Murphy, St. Monica's

"One of the member benefits provided by Cause Collective is the radio show on KZUM. We have been guests several times and each time after the show we have had someone donate to our organization because they heard us on KZUM. Excellent PR for an agency that has no marketing budget!" Rhonda Mattingly, Executive Director, Bridges to Hope

"The Leadership Training series, hosted by Cause Collective, gave me concrete information to apply in guiding our organization. It helped me to understand the importance of certain aspects of my role as a leader from a fresh perspective" Ann Seacrest, Executive Director, MilkWorks

"I love the Cause Collective newsletter, the Collaborator. It's well organized and provides great information on member activities and new services. A nice 'onestop shop' newsletter to find out what's happening in our nonprofit community." Robin Schmid, Region V Systems



# **HUMAN DIVERSITY STATEMENT:**

Cause Collective affirms its commitment to human diversity, equity and inclusion. We encourage mutual respect and understanding among people of all abilities, ethnicities, cultures, races, generations, religions, sexual orientations and gender identities. We recognize that true excellence in organizations and communities results from identifying, serving, and enlisting the participation of people who represent a diversity of experiences.

We urge member agencies to provide services to, and with equal respect for, those of all abilities, ethnicities, cultures, races, generations, religions, sexual orientations and gender identities, and economic status; and to recruit staff and board members who represent diverse populations.

We believe this commitment to be our responsibility as a professional organization which plays an integral leadership role in the community and future of this City.



#### **COLLABORATION:**

The better we know each other, the better we work together.

Through communication and networking (in person and electronically) we can all learn more about what we do, helping the nonprofit community work more efficiently. A couple services we provide are our bi-monthly newsletter that goes out to over 900 emails and our monthly meetings - for people to get to know each other and about their nonprofit. This builds both knowledge and trust within our nonprofit community.

Cause Collective also has several standing committees where members can help plan activities. If you are interested in helping with any of them, let us know!

#### **EDUCATION:**

Throughout the year we provide approximately 20 trainings and other events for its members to learn and grow. These opportunities cover everything from current hot topics, running a nonprofit business and case manager's trainings, all leading to improved services. **Our trainings are heavily discounted for members.** We are here to help you grow!

#### **ADVOCACY:**

Spearheaded by our advocacy committee, we organize and educate the membership to ensure there is a voice for nonprofits when needed with our elected officials, and to impact legislation. It is up to us to advocate for our clients!



## **COLLABORATION:**

- The Collaborator: A twice a month newsletter that only members can submit articles. It is free for all staff of all our members and goes out to over 1000 emails with a consistent open rate of nearly 40%. The Collaborator is published on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month. We encourage all staff of a member agency to sign up as well as submit articles. Contact us for more info on how to do that!
- In Common: A monthly newsletter that goes out to the general community that helps people know who you are so you can market your events and services. In Common is released on the 1st of each month. Only the general community can sign up, but all members can submit articles for free to help spread their news.
- Monthly Meetings: Members can join our monthly meeting to get to know others in our nonprofit community and keep updated on current events. Each month we have an elected official guest and presentation, along with any Cause Collective updates and business.
- **Networking Events:** Each year Cause Collective hosts a few networking events for members. Another chance for members to meet/greet each other and a good way to reward your staff with a little down time with peers.
- Weekly Radio Show: each week a different member is featured on our KZUM radio show to talk about their services or promote and upcoming event. Reach out if you would like to feature your agency!
- Board Matching Web Page: For members looking for new board people, you can post information on our web page to help stretch your reach to the community.
- Networking Facebook Page: A forum to ask advice and share information. This is open to any nonprofit working within Lancaster County.
- **Corporate Sponsors Program** 
  - Our corporate sponsors believe in the mission of Cause Collective and offer their support with a donation. Some of them include discounts exclusive to our members. We collaborate with some of our nonprofit consultant partners to bring members better deals on their services.



### **EDUCATION:**

#### Regularly Hosted Trainings

Examples of topics are grant writing, leadership skills, marketing, finances, technology and more. Topics come from members' interest and other hot topic issues that arise throughout the year.

#### Quarterly Case Manager's Training

Examples of topics are working with interpreters, Suicide Prevention, understanding child trauma, safety net services in Lincoln/Lancaster County. This series is free and open to anyone.

#### Volunteer Coordinator's Council

Another series of professional development trainings to help staff that work with volunteers connect with others in Lincoln and learn tricks of the trade from each other.

### Executive Director Discussion Group

Also known as 'Third Thursday's Round Table' - a free monthly gathering for Executive Directors of member agencies to unwind and ask/give advice in a confidential setting with their peers.

#### Board Trainings

A free 1.5 hour training for member boards that help them understand their basic roles and responsibilities.

#### Skill Share Program

A service for new executive directors and management staff that provides a one hour meeting with an experienced director to help you with a specific issue or concern you may be having.

#### Ad-hoc Projects

When there is interest and funding, we often run cohort projects that help support our members in areas such as succession planning, student interships or fundraising.



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### **ADVOCACY:**

### Lobby Day

This is a free annual event to help members with little advocacy and lobbying experience get inside the capitol to see first hand what it's like to lobby, talk with Senators and testify at a hearing.

### Lobbying and Advocacy Education

Cause Collective is also working to help the membership understand the rules of lobbying. Many nonprofit staff are new to the rules of lobbying and advocating; Cause Collective can help make it much easier to take that first step so you can support those you serve without being nervous to do so.

### • Monthly Meeting Elected Official Guest

We try our best to have an elected official attend each monthly meetings. Making that first introduction for members can make it more comfortable to reach out to them when needed, and if they know you, it may make them more likely to respond. This also helps our elected officials understand the impact nonprofits are making in Lincoln.

