

Nonprofit Chamber of Services to promote diversity while honoring top boards

BY PAT SANGIMINO

Perry Schuckman says the Nonprofit Chamber of Services he oversees will create relationships Friday when it hosts the third annual Good Works program at the Wichita Marriott.

"We're the match maker," Schuckman says.

Thirty-two booths will be occupied by Wichita nonprofit organizations. Those who attend will have the opportunity to ask



Schuckman

questions about volunteering their time as well as serving on an organization's board of directors.

Schuckman says the first two Good Works programs have led to new board members for a number of nonprofits.

"We know it has happened," he says. "We haven't kept count, but we have heard stories."



Davis

This year's Good Works program will feature a diversity theme — and diversity comes in many forms: gender, race, religion and age, among others.

"I think that's an ongoing challenge," says Jan Davis, chief professional officer of the Boys and Girls Club. "There is room for improvement, but I would say we are making a B, but we would like to be mak-

Good Works 2007

When: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday Oct. 26.
Where: Wichita Marriott Hotel
9100 Corporate Hills Drive, Wichita, Kan., 67207.
Host: Nonprofit Chamber of Services.

ing an A."

It's a balancing act for nonprofits — building diversity while creating a cohesive board that works well together.

OUTSTANDING BOARDS

The Nonprofit Chamber of Services will recognize the Boys and Girls Club of South-central Kansas and Central Plains Regional Health Care Foundation as its outstanding nonprofit boards of directors for 2007.

"A strong nonprofit board first has to be very mission-oriented," says Anne Nelson, COO at Central Plains Regional Health Care Foundation. "It first must see a need in the community. Then the board has to come together in mission-oriented approach. The next step is identifying people who can make that happen."

Central Plains in recent years developed Project Access. Its board, which features members at various levels of the medical profession, has helped to target people in Sedgwick County who are not covered by health insurance.

"They are strong advocates in the community," he says. "They are our strongest supporters."

The Boys and Girls Club of Sedgwick County opened a new 21st Street facility that hosted President Bush this summer. Davis says none of it would have been possible without solid contributions from a 22-member board.

"I inherited what they had begun," Davis says. "Their perseverance through the capital campaign, the unity they demonstrate, is impressive. They all work toward the same mission. They put together a strategic plan and then worked hard to make it work."

QUEST FOR DIVERSITY

And as well as both the aforementioned boards have performed in recent years, each can improve in their quest to becoming more diverse, they agree.

"Could we be more diverse?" Nelson asked. "We can always be more diverse."

It's an issue not isolated to Wichita, but Schuckman says this area's well-rounded work force makes improvement a possibility.

"Sedgwick County is probably among the best places to address this and move forward because of the diverse leadership in town," he says. "Now, we have to make it happen."

That's why the Good Works program is so vital to nonprofits moving forward, he says. And others concur.

"Events like this are perfect for networking," Davis says. "Every place I go is for networking and finding different people and getting different ideas."

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