

**July 2015**

**Nonprofit & Business Partners Council**

Letter from the Council

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July 1 marks the start of a new fiscal year for the Council, as it does for many organizations. It is also the time when board terms end, so this month I want to use this space to thank the people who are rotating off our board, and recap some of the highlights of our year.

Tom Daub, Michelle Deegan, Shelly Brown, and Bruce Palmer are ending their service with us. I want to publicly thank them for their time, talent, and vision. It takes a special group to get a new idea off the ground, and these four folks really helped us to get established within The Chamber, the business community, and the nonprofit sector. They will be tough to replace.

This year we continued to implement our vision of promoting collaboration between nonprofits, businesses, and government. We held a series of educational events, mixers, and meetings all with an eye toward better communication, increasing capacity, and advocacy. Our signature event - this year called "March 4th together" - was well attended and received, in spite of the threat of bad weather. It included a chance for funders and agencies to mingle and network after the program. We had a public policy forum, a presentation by the Pennsylvania Association of Nonprofit Organizations, a presentation on the EITC (Education Tax Credit), and an informative talk about nonprofit mergers. We also worked closely with a new group looking into a "Social Impact Hub" - a very promising and exciting way to bring together like-minded individuals engaged in social change and philanthropy.

We look forward to next year as we keep up the work of promoting partnerships and improving the quality of life here in our beloved Lehigh Valley.