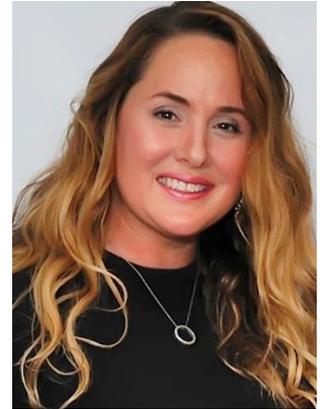


Dear Community,

I'm thrilled to celebrate another year of *Helping Others Serve More!* At Nonprofits First, we strengthen the nonprofit sector by maximizing their capacity to deliver services through accreditation, leadership development, education, and management support services. This is our mission and it's what we do every day.

We strive to build a community in which nonprofit organizations achieve their highest level of impact. This all-encompassing belief has guided our programs and services since 2005, and has helped establish Nonprofits First as the "go-to" resource for nonprofit organizations in Palm Beach County and beyond. It is a genuine honor and privilege to support and live out this mission.



As Board Chair, I have the opportunity to hear from local nonprofit CEOs and board members about the impact Nonprofits First has had on their organizations and the community. Take an organization like the EJS Project, which recently celebrated the grand opening of its new office in Delray Beach. The Founder and CEO, Emanuel Dupree Jackson, Jr. participated in Nonprofits First's "101 for the 501" program, an educational experience equipping emerging nonprofits with the essential knowledge they need to succeed. The classes include topics such as board governance, volunteer coordinating, financial management and much more - all of which is free to the organizations participating. We achieved great strides in 2017 with 21 nonprofits completing the 6-week program.

I've also heard from organizations like the Milagro Center who support their up-and-coming leaders' professional development through our Rising Leaders program. This year, we helped to cultivate 22 Rising Leaders, who will join the 311 graduates of the program since 2006. Rising Leaders participants grow their leadership, public speaking and management skills to make a greater impact for their organization and ultimately the community. They truly are the future executive leaders of our local nonprofit organizations.

We have had the honor to present certificates of Accreditation to multiple boards in our community like the Center for Child Counseling. The Center for Child Counseling is one of the outstanding local nonprofits showcasing their excellence and sustainability through our Accreditation program, which measures organizations by over 300 standards. I am especially grateful to our many volunteers who contributed more than 420 volunteer hours helping our staff accredit 70 plus nonprofit organizations.

In 2017, we increased our nonprofit education programs to serve 448 participants while growing our membership a whopping 34%. One of the efforts I am most proud about for 2017 was the planning for our inaugural "Hats Off Nonprofit Awards" (HONA) event to honor the Palm Beach County nonprofit community. Attendees gathered to celebrate the 114 nominees representing 78 organizations that offer vital services in our area. Our 2018 HONA is October 2, 2018.

I'm so grateful for our generous staff, volunteers, board members, and community partners who all have the shared vision to cultivate the best nonprofit community possible and to make a lasting impact in our area. Nonprofits First is committed to quality in the nonprofit sector and we will be relentless in our pursuit of it.

I encourage you to join Nonprofits First, Inc. and partner with us to make 2018 - 2019 even better! We couldn't do it without YOU.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Deana Pizzo".

Deana Pizzo
Board Chair