

GIVING

# Having the right board members for a non-profit organization

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Southwest Florida  
Community Foundation

As we have stated before in this column, non-profit organizations are a vital part of Southwest Florida. These organizations step in to provide services to those in need strengthening our community where government and other organizations cannot.

A major factor in whether a non-profit organization is successful in meeting its goals is the strength and make-up of its board.

Every non-profit wants the "name" person on their board — that special person

that a majority of the community knows and respects. Everyone wants a high profile leader to serve on their board giving them exposure and lending a level of respect to their organization.

So how do smaller non-profit organizations build a strong board when there are so many competing for the same high profile leaders?

"I have intentionally tried to do more behind the scenes in recent years to help non-profits rather than to serve on more boards than I am already on," said Jim Nathan, President and CEO of Lee Memorial Health Systems. "I think boards often try to get the 'name' when they really should approach the up-and-comers who have a good relationship with the 'name.'"

How does a non-profit organization find the right match?

"When I'm approached to serve on a non-profit board, first I consider what their cause is and if I have a passion for that cause. Another reason I may consider serving is if the need is significant and will benefit a large portion of our community," said Joe Catti, President and CEO of FineMark National Bank & Trust.

It's important for non-profits to search out individuals who, not only are busi-



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ness leaders in the community but, also have a sense of community involvement and have a common passion for the cause your organization is supporting.

What to think about if you are considering serving on a non-profit board:

- Is this how you can best use your talents for the community?
- Will you be able to meet others in the community with like passions?
- What are the time commitments and expectations involved?
- As a board member, am I prepared to not be an operations

leader; rather secure the right leadership for that role?

Whether you are with a non-profit organization looking for the right leaders to become board members or someone who has been approached to serve on a board, it is important that expectations from both sides are communicated upfront.

The Southwest Florida Community Foundation has been supporting the communities of Lee, Charlotte, Collier, Glades and Hendry through endowed funds for more than 30 years. With assets of more than \$57 million and over 320 endowed funds, the community foundation has provided more than \$30 million in grants and scholarships to the communities it serves.

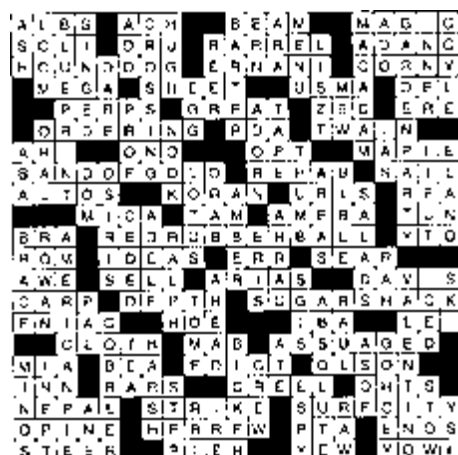
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## PUZZLE ANSWERS


7	5	9	6	2	4	3	8	1
8	6	4	3	7	1	5	9	2
1	2	3	9	5	8	7	6	4
3	8	6	2	4	7	1	5	9
5	1	2	8	9	3	6	4	7
9	4	7	5	1	6	8	2	3
6	9	1	4	3	5	2	7	8
2	7	8	1	6	9	4	3	5
4	3	5	7	8	2	9	1	6



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