

GHI BOARD of DIRECTORS
Meeting Notes – March 11, 2008

6:30-8:30

In attendance: Vi Beaudreau, Donna Cathey, Hope Emery, Kate Emery, Steve Silk, Brenda Steigman, Wick Griswold, Jennifer Jacobson

Absent - Kim Hoare, Janet Kniffin

Business (Kate)

- Minutes from January were approved with minor changes.
- Insurance coverage was discussed. Kate explained that GHI will be covered for general liability and workers compensation through Walker Systems Support's policy at no additional cost. The cost for Directors and Officers Insurance will cost between \$250 and \$600, and we are waiting for a second quote. There was discussion on the topic and a move was made to have Kate get the final quote, and determine which policy made the most sense and email the cost around to directors who will hopefully share the cost of coverage. This was seconded and unanimously approved.
- Preferred Shares of Walker Systems Support – We are in receipt of 1050 shares of special preferred shares of Walker Systems Support stock which gives us to ensure that Walker continues to operate as a Stakeholder Business.
- Planning Meetings – Kate would like to institute a new approach to existing and especially new initiatives that GHI takes on. It would start as a focus group designed to identify whether a new initiative can and should be taken up by GHI in that it should meet our goals of helping to start things that will make a positive difference in the local or global community, and that it should be able to be self-supporting in 3-5 years. There was some discussion on other groups that use this model, and the general consensus seems to be that it would be helpful in keeping the GHI board from having to manage too many individual initiatives.
- Outreach Training – Donna suggested at an earlier meeting that having someone training us on how to talk about GHI would be very helpful. Kate got a quote from a management consultant for \$1800 to do this. While this seems like a reasonable rate for this type of work, the board felt that we should consider some other options first.
 - Kate will approach the Hartford Foundation to see if we can get some help with funding. (Bring up sustainability, building talent, and message and branding).
 - Wick will see if there is someone in the Business Grad school at University of Hartford who might be able to help.
 - We might also be able to facilitate it ourselves, making a powerpoint together, with the different planning groups helping to put information together on the different initiatives.
- Financials – We're very close to having financials to share but there's still work. Kate and Brenda will work with Sharon to finalize and then we will send out to the board for review.

Fundraising (Brenda)

- **Donor Development** – Our goal is \$6000, and with the board Develop Plans we have identified 49 prospective individuals to ask for donations. The estimated prospective donations total \$5,475. To date we have raised \$1,425. Brenda will be working with board members to help them with their plans.
- **Garden Party** – Janet and Donna will be co-hosting this event. After our meeting Jennifer presented Brenda and Kate with a packet of information from another nonprofit that she is working with to help plan and put together house parties. She was host for this organization and had a very successful party. Lot's of good information to use.
- **CareCircle Celebration**
 - Volunteer Kickoff Breakfast went well, and we have some new volunteers.
 - Auction Committee – Vi – Two new volunteers, Willow and Paul. The initial meeting has been setup for next week. Vi is looking for a way to use ebay to make the auction process an ongoing thing.
 - Sponsorship – Grace will be leading up this effort and soliciting area businesses for money and/or things for the auction.
 - Host – Awo Quaison-Sackey is a new volunteer (she was a celebrant last year) and she is chairing this committee. She is hoping to get 10-12 hosts, who will commit to bringing in 10 guests (and asking each guest to commit to bringing in 5 friends!). Debra Herr is another person who has offered to serve on this committee, and we're looking for more volunteers here!
 - PR Committee – Steve is looking for any venues that people know about to use in posting our call for nominations.
 - Program Committee – Kate will be heading this up.
 - Volunteer Committee – Brenda will oversee all the volunteer efforts!
 - Nominations – Janet is chairing this committee and we need to nail down our Compassionate Community Leadership Honoree this month.
 - Honorary Committee – Kate is heading this up and there is an ongoing call for nominations for this committee.

Program Update

- Care Circles – We have
 - Brenda and Grace have conducted surveys at 3 schools to find out
 - What issues are of concern to young people
 - What online tools they're using to help them
 - What they would like to have

And of course telling them about carecircle.net. We will compile the results of these surveys and present the findings
- Computer Contributions –
 - GHI is now offering a recycling service for computer equipment that does not meet the minimum refurbishing standards set up by Microsoft. The recycling fee is \$1 per pound and is not tax deductible.
 - We have applied for another grant to continue and expand the Student Computer Training Program.
 - The program now includes training for 8th & 9th grade students. The first sessions is scheduled for the summer. Sixty students will be trained on the basics of computer hardware and software. The students will also be provided with a computer at the end of the session.

- The A+ Skills Training Pilot Program has been completed. We have revised the program to include the information we gathered during the pilot. A new Training session will begin upon Grant approval. Nine students have signed up for the program.
- Stakeholder Business – Kate has been selected as one of Hartford Business Journal’s Eight Most Remarkable Women In Business 2008 because of the Stakeholder Business Model that Walker has adopted. This will be a great opportunity to start talking more publicly about the model which could/should start the ball rolling for GHI’s involvement.

Creating the buzz for cc.net

- We ran out of time for much discussion, but Brenda gave us an overview of what CareCircle.net can do for you. There will be further discussion about creating a buzz for cc.net at the planning meeting scheduled for 3/20, from 10am-12, and anyone from the board that is interested is welcome to attend (email Kate to let her know).

Next Meeting – The next meeting date is set to 5/13/08

There being no more business to attend to the business portion of the meeting was adjourned at 8:45

Submitted by: Kate Emery