

THE GREATER GOOD

Spring 2026

A Quarterly Report from Delaplaine Foundation, Inc.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Spring has arrived! This time of year inevitably brings a welcome sense of renewal. For our nonprofit partners, who continue to work hard despite limited resources and challenging circumstances, we hope the seasonal change provides a boost of energy to continue moving forward with new ideas that inspire growth and resilience, and renewed focus to drive their missions forward.



In April, we offered our 3rd annual free workshop to grantees as a way to provide support "beyond the check." Delaplaine Foundation and Dr. Lili Leonard of Black Dog Philanthropic collaborated to create a workshop exploring the fundamentals of fundraising and based on our survey results, the workshop was a huge success, with many responders listing the valuable takeaways they are excited to implement.

In the same spirit of renewal, Delaplaine Foundation has a new website! Working with Lockkeeper Graphics, staff spent the first few months of the year updating our online content to provide present and future grantees with valuable information about the foundation, its Board, and our grant process. Check it out at delaplainefoundation.org!

As we continue to celebrate Delaplaine Foundation's 25th Anniversary, we're taking a moment to look back at what it truly represents. Our progress didn't happen in a single year or through any individual effort - it was built over time, through steady work, strong relationships and partnerships and a shared belief in the important role we play in funding our nonprofits grantees who work to strengthen our community. It's a reminder that when we stay connected to our mission and to one another, great things happen. It's Philanthropy for a Greater Good at its finest!


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Dr. Lili Leonard of Black Dog Philanthropic Consulting presenting to attendees at the Delaplaine Foundation workshop.

Foundation Hosts Fundraising Workshop for Grantees

For the third consecutive year, Delaplaine Foundation hosted a free workshop for recent grantees at the Delaplaine Arts Center. The workshop, entitled "Fundamentals of Fundraising: Building Connection, Commitment, and Capacity," was led by Dr. Lili Leonard of Black Dog Philanthropic Consulting on April 16th. Sixty participants, along with Delaplaine Foundation Board members and staff, gathered to discuss topics including diversified funding strategies, creating frameworks for donor engagement, and aligning fundraising activities with organizational capacity.

"After receiving feedback from last year's post-workshop survey, we decided to offer the 2026 workshop to a select number of recent grantees who are seeking additional funding

opportunities," said Blair Wilson, Director of Grantmaking at Delaplaine Foundation. "When making funding decisions, our Board always wants to see that an organization is making strides towards sustainability, and hopefully this workshop will be of benefit to those smaller or mid-sized nonprofits who want to diversify their funding sources."

The day began with Leonard explaining the distinction between fundraising and philanthropy, and how giving is an emotional act rather than a transaction. Common fundraising strategies and methods were identified and discussed. Leonard provided examples of best practices that reinforce trust and donor retention, and introduced ideal ways to cultivate engagement with potential

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