

For Immediate Release

February 9, 2017

Contact: Erin Berry

202.349.2541

Erin.Berry@boardsource.org

New Campaign Encourages Nonprofit Leaders to Expand Their Impact Through Strategic Partnerships

Washington, D.C. — Several leading nonprofits launched a campaign today that is focused on inspiring nonprofit collaboration through strategic alliances and restructuring.

The Power of Possibility campaign is built on the understanding that strategic alliances and restructuring can be a powerful lever for nonprofit impact. The campaign highlights stories of successful strategic alliances and restructuring — such as joint programming, administrative consolidation, and mergers — and invites boards to consider whether a strategic alliance or restructuring could help them advance their organization's work.

Youth Services Network, a group of twelve organizations serving homeless youth in the Twin Cities, is one of the stories featured in the campaign. They came together as a joint program to build a phone application to help homeless youth find nightly shelter beds in their community. "We were able to accomplish together what we couldn't have done alone — provide a youth-friendly application to give homeless youth much faster access to life-saving support," said Deborah Loon of Avenues for Homeless Youth and Michelle Basham of Bridge for Youth, two leaders in the Youth Services Network.

The campaign website — thepowerofpossibility.org — provides free resources to help guide board discussions about the possibility of strategic partnerships, including at critical organizational moments such as an executive transition, changes in the organizational funding environment, or during strategic planning. Each resource encourages boards and leaders to explore the potential value of working in collaboration with others, and to reflect on the possible benefit of doing so to the people and communities they serve.

Commenting on what led them to collaborate, Loon and Basham said, "The harsh reality is that youth on the streets will be approached within 48 hours by someone seeking to exploit them. For us, the stakes really couldn't have been higher."

The Power of Possibility campaign is a joint effort by BoardSource, The Bridgespan Group, La Piana Consulting, The Lodestar Foundation, Lyda Hill, MAP for Nonprofits, and The Patterson Foundation, with additional support from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation and The Trustees' Philanthropy Fund of Fidelity Charitable.

"We are inviting nonprofit leaders to think big about how their missions and purposes can be strengthened by coming together for a common purpose," said Anne Wallestad, president and CEO of BoardSource. "We believe that board members can play a powerful and visionary role in making that happen."

To learn more about The Power of Possibility campaign, visit www.thepowerofpossibility.org.

###