

A network of expertise

By Karen P. Dutro

WILLIAMSBURG
As NetworkWilliamsburg begins its fifth year, we would like to thank the community for its support of local nonprofits in 2011 as they faced continuing challenges in a down economy.

We couldn't help but notice the many businesses, civic groups and faith-based institutions, not to mention the many individuals in our community, all coming together to help others in need. We are grateful for everyone who came along to fill in the gaps for nonprofits so they could continue the valuable work they do.

Thank you for the donations of furniture, computers, filing cabinets, and office supplies that we were able to put into the hands of nonprofits in need.

ESSAY

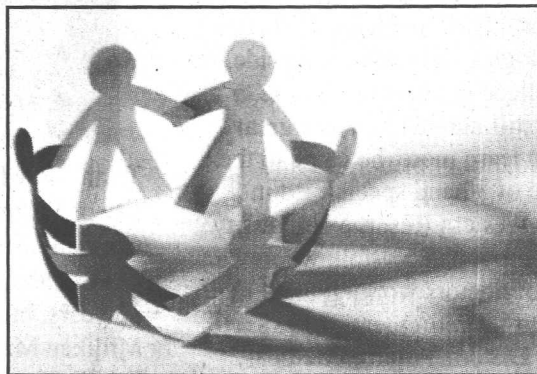
Thank you to local businesses that gave nonprofits an opportunity to earn a percentage of profits, and the churches and civic groups that organized collection drives to benefit multiple nonprofits.

Special thanks to the companies that provided funds, classroom space, copying services, and food for our monthly workshop series. Most of all, thank you to all the nonprofit leaders, staff, and board members for everything you do to impact our community for good. It is an honor and a privilege to serve you.

As we begin what we plan

to be a yearlong celebration of our fifth anniversary, we are positioned to help more than 85 local nonprofits with capacity building programs and services to help them find security in sustainability.

What we do isn't cute, like children or dogs or horses. It



isn't safety net, like food or clothing; and it doesn't involve any disease that needs eradicating. What we do is work hard to help the nonprofits that are dealing with these and other needs in our community.

We also strive to raise awareness about all that takes place in our community and to show a way for everyone to help as they are able, regardless of age, sex, or skill set. We believe the end result will be a stronger, more unified "networked community."

In the last year alone, here are a few ways we have moved closer to this goal:

■ We brought in experts in their field to provide *free* monthly continuing education workshops for more than 175 nonprofit leaders, board, and staff representing 75+ local nonprofits.

■ We commissioned a report on "The Use of Social

Media in Williamsburg," funded by the Williamsburg Community Foundation, which led to the creation of the first Twitter hashtag for Williamsburg (#wbgva). This will enable nonprofits and businesses to be more visible to this growing online community. Copies of this report are still available.

■ We chartered a new Toastmaster's Club, Voices of Change, to help nonprofit staff improve their presentation and leadership skills.

■ We completed the second 6-week

training for 19 community members to help them better understand the roles, responsibilities, and rewards of serving on a nonprofit board. To date, 31 community members have graduated from this class. Our next class begins in February.

Special thanks to our partners who enable us to continue our work. We couldn't do it without you!

Williamsburg Estate Planning, Virginia Company Bank, Michael C. Rock Agency, Williamsburg Home Painting, Words Matter, Baylands Federal Credit Union, Jimmy's Oven & Grill, Thomas Nelson Workforce Development, BayPort Credit Union, Computer Concepts, BRG Strategy Group, Sage Title, Proximo Marketing Strategies, DailySocials, and all of our business, individual and civic and faith-based members.

Karen P. Dutro is the executive director of NetworkWilliamsburg.