

EVALUATING NONPROFIT PARTNERS – RECOMMENDED QUESTIONS

INITIAL CONFERENCE CALL

General:

How did you get involved with the organization?

Focus:

1. I've looked at your website, but I'd love to hear in your words about your organization's strategy and programs.
2. What has been the most successful thing you've done to impact your community?
3. How are you moving your clients toward self-sufficiency or setting them up well for the future? How do you develop clients?

Service Opportunities:

1. In what capacity do you use volunteers?
2. How many volunteers serve your organization monthly?
3. Size of volunteer group . . .
 - What volunteer opportunities do you have for individuals?
 - How would you utilize small groups of volunteers (8 to 15 people)? How often could you use groups this size?
 - How can you utilize large groups of volunteers (25+)?
 - How often could you benefit from large-group projects?
 - What's the largest group that can volunteer with your organization?
4. What does an ideal volunteer team look like for you?
5. How do you feel about children volunteering along with adults? Do you have volunteer opportunities for families with children under 16?
6. Will volunteers need to supply any tools or funding for projects?
7. What days of the week and times can volunteers come? When is your greatest need for volunteers (time of day, day of week, and time of year)?

TEAM DEBRIEF

1. Are they meeting legitimate needs in your community in a way that is truly helpful?
2. Based on the information you have, what category does this organization belong to: relief, rehabilitation, or development?
3. Are they located close enough to the church that your attendees will be willing to travel regularly to their location to volunteer?
4. Are their volunteer roles clearly defined and are they a good fit for your attendees? Does their need of volunteers match what your church can offer?

SITE VISIT

General:

1. What most excites you about the work the nonprofit does?
2. What are a couple of stories of life change?

Focus:

What are the usual next steps for people receiving services here?

Leadership:

1. If you had unlimited resources, what are the top three things you would do in your organization?
2. Do your staff, board, and key donors know your top three?
3. How do you make the vision of this organization stick with your staff?
4. What are your greatest successes and learning moments in leading your organization?
5. Can we have a copy of your organizational chart? Can we have a list of your board of directors?

Finances:

1. What are your main funding sources?
2. Do you have audited financial statements? If so, may we see them?
3. May we have a copy of your 990 and a copy of your latest annual report?

Service Opportunities:

1. What are your orientation procedures for volunteers?
2. Are background checks necessary for volunteers before working with children? *(If applicable)*

Single Point of Contact:

If we partner with your organization, who would be our point of contact for arranging volunteer opportunities?

Relationship:

1. What would an ideal partnership look like?
2. What's your level of interest in partnering with us?
3. Do you have any stipulations or guidelines for partnership you'd like us to know?
4. How could our partnership help your organization go further, faster?

SITE VISIT TEAM DEBRIEF

1. Was the facility clean and neat?
2. If you observed any clients, who were they? Is the nonprofit reaching its target audience?

3. If you observed any volunteers, did they seem excited about what they were doing? Did they seem productive?

FINAL EVALUATION

1. How is the nonprofit pouring into its clients?
2. Does the nonprofit have a clear plan of development for its clients?
3. What are the organization's strengths and weaknesses?
4. Does the nonprofit seem to have a lack of funding or resources to accomplish its vision?
5. How does the nonprofit safeguard against liability issues?
6. What seems to be their motivation for partnering with your church?