

The Change Agent



NLDP is a program of the Mandel Foundation
and Cleveland Foundation

Greetings NLDP Community,

I hope everyone had a joyful holiday season. On January 12th, the NLDP hosted its 3rd Annual New Year Celebration. It was a great success with fun activities, meaningful learning experiences, and of course, excellent food.

In preparing for our next cohort, NLDP VI, we are currently seeking key neighborhood leaders. These are the well respected individuals that many go to for news, advice, or when assistance is needed. If you know of anyone that fits this description, please refer them to us or provide us with that person's contact information. Below you will find two great examples of NLDP Cleveland leaders and what this program means to them.

Please also contact the NLDP office if you or your organization would be interested in assisting us with recruiting the next cohort of engaged Cleveland leaders or would like for us to speak at your next meeting.

More changes are also underway in the program. I invite you to read the rest of this newsletter and stay in the loop to see what's next!

Best Regards,
Lori Peterson
Program Manager
www.neighborhoodleadershipdevelopment.com
New Year Party 2012!!

NLDP Graduate Corner



News Grads Can Use

Thank you to all who have joined a graduate support committee.

As a reminder to those considering joining, the four committees are:

- Social
- Communications
- Program
- Recruitment & Selection

We are still seeking committed and engaged graduates that would like to help shape the graduate program. If you would like to join a committee or need more information contact Laura Junglas or Lori Peterson at 216-776-6172 or nldpmanager@gmail.com

Save the Date!!

NLDP Alumni Weekend
June 1st and 2nd 2012!

A good time was had by all....



lots of delicious food...



meeting new people...

Further details coming soon!!

Mark your calendars for the Annual Barbeque on March 24th at 11:30 am at Trinity Commons. Need a coach? There will be an opportunity to meet the coaches after the Barbeque with "Speed Dating". This is a great way to find a coach that "matches" your personality. Don't miss out!!

Neighborhood Connections Workshops

Grantseeker Workshop- Wednesday, February 1 from 4 to 6pm at the Eastman Branch of CPL, 11602 Lorain Avenue.

One-on-One Assistance- Saturday, February 4 from 10am to 1pm at the MLK Civic Center, 14801 Shaw Avenue, East Cleveland 44112.

Grant Proposals are due on Friday, February 10th at 5pm. Please visit www.neighborhoodgrants.org for an application.

The **Foundation Center** also hosts free workshops which can be found by clicking [here](#).

Graduate Shout-Outs



and great prizes!!!

Coaching Sessions

Don't forget to utilize your two free coaching sessions for this year! The coaching can be used for your project or to help you with some challenges you may be facing. The coaches are: Laura Junglas (Lead Coach), Eric Lutzo, Linda DeMarco and Merle Graybill.

The NLDP will be hosting "Speed Dating with a Coach" on March 24th at 1:00 pm after the Annual Barbeque at Trinity Commons. Take advantage of the opportunity to meet all four NLDP coaches and see who may be a good fit for your twice per year coaching sessions!

Alumni Spotlight **Kyle Earley**



What have fellow grads been up to?

Laura Boustani-

Congratulations on your new baby boy!

Josh Klein- Added a new baby girl to his family!

Farai Malianga-

Kudos on your business school for kids!

Joel Solow-

Welcome back from your bike trip and kudos for volunteering as a math mentor.

Najah Muhammad-

Congratulations on becoming a certified Reiki level I practitioner and for your Dig In! Community Gardening Training.

Stephanie Howse-Bon Voyage as you travel to India with the Rotary Foundation's Group Study Exchange



The Cleveland Voter Coalition
It's not a Moment, It's a MOVEMENT!!!!!!!!!!

It seems like yesterday, when I was interviewed to be selected as a member of NLDP cohort 4. Going in; I must admit that I was unclear about what my true calling was to serve such a great city like Cleveland. When you are an individual of purpose, vision, compassion and hope, there are a million ideas of how you can help your city, community and neighborhood grow. The challenge becomes developing the discipline necessary to channel all of those ideas in a structured and measurable plan of action that produces results.

I started my journey through NLDP with honesty. One day the class was allowed to share thoughts about our expectations of the program. I shared with my class that my biggest challenge was; "looking in the mirror and not being able to see the potential that others see in me." NLDP helped me see that potential. The potential has since turned into productivity.

In November of 2010, it became clear to me that my contribution to making Cleveland a better place was to increase voter participation in Cleveland neighborhoods through social engagement activities and issue driven education. Working with family, friends and NLDP participants, we created the Cleveland Voter Coalition. The Cleveland Voter Coalition is a non partisan voter outreach organization with the mission to increase voter participation in Cleveland through aggressive and effective education, engagement and empowerment outreach efforts. The Cleveland Voter Coalition has developed an aggressive movement that is producing results. Our approach is simple, "Take Our Message to Families and Neighborhoods." The C.V.C. has hosted events such as

Program.

Myra Simmons-
Congratulations Myra
for losing over 100
pounds!

**If you were not
included in this list and
would like to be, please
contact the NLDP office
by May 20th to be
included in the next
newsletter.

"Energy creates energy.
It is by spending oneself
that one becomes rich."

~Sarah Bernhardt

Resource Toolbox

Useful Links:

The Great Lakes Regional
Pollution Prevention
Roundtable [website](#) provides
a listing of current available
grants that are national in
scope. Most, but not all
grants, are "green" or
environmental in nature.

The WECO Fund of
Cleveland provides various
services to individuals and
businesses seeking to
achieve financial success.
Various workshops are
offered periodically. Click
[here](#) for more information.

Community Housing
Solutions offers a free tool
loan program to Cleveland
residents. Click [here](#) for more
details.

Going on Around Town:

Barbershop and Beauty Salon Talks, Coffee Conversations, Back Yard Bar B Que's, Marches and Rallies, Education and Training forums, community service activities and many other activities and events. All of these events were vehicles used to register individuals to vote, allow those who have moved to update their current voter registration information; educate participants on federal, state and local legislative issues and highlight effective social service programs and community leaders. In 2011, the C.V.C. was able to educate, engage and empowere over 5,000 Cleveland residents, but there is still so much work to do. In closing, allow me to share a quote I read out of my mother's bible. It read "If the CAUSE is important, then the COST is irrelevant."

Alumni Spotlight Joel Solow

In the summer and fall of 2011, I, Joel Solow (NLDP Cohort IV), and my sister Ruth took a bicycle trip from Cleveland to Austin, Texas. We went on the trip because we wanted to see the country. My sister and I are both from New York City, I had never been South of Cincinnati before and, as a Northerner hoping to challenge my previous understanding and notions of that part of the country, wanted to see something different. As for why we chose to bike, the short answer is that neither of us have a driver's license. Ruth and I wanted a challenge, and wanted to take a journey that forced us to pay attention and look around. There are few greater conversation starters than riding up to a gas station or a town of 450 people in East Texas on a bike, laden down with four bags of supplies, a tent and a sleeping bag. All in all we biked 1300 miles from Cleveland to Palestine, Texas by our route, with approximately 2-3 of days resting in each major city. By far the best part of the trip was meeting some of the most amazing people I had ever encountered in my 24 years, and experiencing the support and generosity of friends, family, and everyone we met. I didn't initially think of the bike trip as an exercise in, or exploration of, leadership. Taking two months to bike across the country seemed clearly to constitute a vacation from normal responsibility, but the more time my sister and I spent together and the farther we went, the more I was able to feel how extensively the principles taught in

University Circle Initiative- a physical development and neighborhood cultivation project of the Cleveland Foundation. Click [here](#) to learn more.

The Greater Cleveland Aquarium is now open for business. Located in the Powerhouse in the Flats, 2000 Sycamore Street, check out this new attraction that Cleveland has to offer!

Word Pool Poem from a NLDP V Participant
A NLDP V participant challenged the cohort to create a list of words and use them in a poem. This is the first of many...

I am truly Thankful and Fortunate for the Sugar High that has Motivated me these early Saturday mornings. See, already Educated, I feel so Inspired and Intrigued to be Here. I'm Happy to be among these Positive, Powerful, and Organized people, that I say WooHoo as and I get Excited, Energized, and Engaged in the change that is to come. When I look around, I am Aware the I am being Challenged to Be exactly who God has Destined me to be. See I'm really feeling the vibe I get from my NLDP Cohort V.

~Stephanie Pope

leadership training generally, and Cohort IV of NLDP more specifically, apply to 'non-traditional' projects like a bike trip. I also learned that as an aspiring, growing leader, I have much to gain from occasionally giving myself the time to take on those projects. The responsibility becomes using what I have gained and been given to encourage, educate and empower others.

Additionally, I know I had at least a bit of a fantasy of 'proving something' by going on a bike trip: of crossing the country North to South with my own physical power; of not taking easy ways out; of not asking for help; of living some self-sufficient, independent, ruggedly individual adventure. Thankfully that's not how it actually turned out or I would have missed what was easily the most fun and surprising part of the journey: discovering how my sister and I responded creatively within our limited abilities and capacities to major-league screw-ups and oversights; and the degree to which the universe has a much more infinite capacity and creativity than we did, as expressed through the incredible love and support we found first and foremost from our family and friends, and most surprisingly, from complete strangers who gave so much of themselves without knowing us at all. So many of them expressed what I can only convey as karma or faith, a sense that it was their duty, responsibility and joy to support others. When identifying our leadership and visions, it's important not to forget that 1) those visions are ultimately supported by others, by our communities, and 2) those visions need to support others, our communities in turn.

It's also important to remember where our visions, our drive to serve as leaders comes from, the stories that we continue to write, and to remember the value those stories have if they invite others to join in them and bring their own story to the table. One of the things that consistently struck my sister and I was the startling number of times that strangers we encountered on the road thanked us for coming to their town, staying in their home, or joining them for a meal. To me and my sister, this was absurd. We were the ones who should be thankful, not our hosts. But while we surely were thankful for those encounters and exchanges, as we continued to experience this strange gratitude, my sister and I began to realize the value and meaning our story and journey had for others. Our route was not a typical one for a bike tour, and many of the people we encountered were unfamiliar with the idea that

people can bike across the country, or would want to. And my sister and I were explicit in our intention to talk to and learn from as many people as possible. For those with whom we developed even basic bonds, it meant a lot to be included in that adventure, and to get the chance to share what they had (in the form of stories, places to stay, or food) as well. As leaders we need to appreciate the power and value of our stories, and welcome participation and input when they are offered.

There are leaders with amazing stories of their own absolutely everywhere, people with passion, caring, ingenuity and creativity doing the craziest things. They start their journeys at any time, come in every age, and with every set of backgrounds. What this signals to me is that 1) we can, and should, in gestures big and small, cultivate leadership (what in grassroots circles gets called “empowerment”) everywhere, and that 2) there’s no better place to start than where you’re at, as there’s probably somebody there waiting to be asked to step up.

Upcoming Grant Deadlines

Looking for ways to fund your project? Here are some unique grants that can help you.

Hoodstrong Grant- for [NLDP graduates only](#)!! Deadline March 16th. Contact the NLDP office for more information or meet with your coach for advice.

[Neighborhood Connections](#) - Grant Proposals are due on Friday, February 10th at 5pm.

[Musser Fund](#)- grant deadline March 21st. Must be working on an arts or environmental initiative.

[Gund Foundation](#)- grant deadline March 15th. The Gund Foundation funds a variety of projects.

[St. Luke's Foundation](#)- quarterly grant deadlines are February 1st and April 1st. Must be a 501(3)(c), priority given to Mt. Pleasant, Buckeye-Shaker, and Woodland Hills neighborhoods, but accepts other Cleveland neighborhoods as well.

[Promise Community Grant](#)- must be a resident or community organization in the Central neighborhood. Deadline May 15th.

[College Club of Cleveland](#)- provides grants to female high school seniors graduating from the Cleveland Metropolitan area and are seeking to attend a 2 year or 4 year college program. Deadline

February 28, 2012.

[Cleveland Foundation](#)- Allows grant seekers to submit an electronic grant inquiry, then the Foundation will request a full application if required. No deadline specified.

Job Announcements

The NLDP is currently seeking a full-time graduate support coordinator. Please click [here](#) for more details. Deadline to apply is January 30th.



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