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electronic editor

Stories...the heart and soul of the community foundation field.

We all have them, and sharing our stories is what sets us apart, makes us unique, and defines our distinct value-added position in the nonprofit sector.

Here are stories about the innovative and useful ways your colleagues are putting the **NMAT Community Foundation Portfolio** resources to work in their foundations. Use these stories to jumpstart your marketing efforts. *Brought to you by the NMAT electronic editor, Dotty Weston-Murphy (dottywm@aol.com, or (203) 453-8723.)*

The Venice Foundation, Florida

Teri A. Hansen
CEO & President
Teri@tvf.org

Former board members are some of community foundations' best "friends." The Venice Foundation is hosting an event to bring some of those friends back into the fold. "We are using the market readiness materials and the professional advisors materials to shape a presentation to this key group to get them energized and up-to-date on Foundation activities. 2002 was a year of changes and growth for The Venice Foundation and we want former board members to be involved. Another key way we keep in touch is through our newly designed web site at www.tvf.org," states CEO Teri Hansen.

The Community Foundation Serving Coastal South Carolina (TCF)

Tish Lynn
Communications Director
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Tish Lynn exclaims, "Thanks to NMAT for providing these materials to CFs both big and small across the country so that they might begin to speak with one voice to a public that is bombarded by well-meaning babble. I'm guilty too!"

"For the most part, the NMAT materials have been useful as a starting place for us to re-evaluate our own materials. We must have 50 different sets of overheads and another 20 Power Point presentations that were created for particular presentations over the last five years. The NMAT materials are a breath of fresh air. They're clean, clear and ordered. The on-line discussions for their use have been relaxed and encouraging. For us, the stage has been set by NMAT, and we are in the process of determining how, where and when to best make use of this good work. At The Community Foundation Serving Coastal South Carolina, we are big believers in collaboration and cooperation. Here in South Carolina there are seven community foundations each with its own origin, asset base and grantmaking practice, but we are working together to better inform and serve all the people of the state."

If your community foundation does not have the Professional Advisor CD and Donor Advised Funds CD, your foundation has probably not agreed to adopt the **National Standards**. For more information on the National Standards go to the Council's Web site at www.cof.org and select the topic 'community foundation services and programs.'

Community Foundations of America and the Council on Foundations Community Foundation Leadership Team created NMAT to provide strategic leadership to increase and strengthen the national and local presence of community foundations by identifying key target audiences and implementing effective communications strategies, activities and programs. Thomas Peters, Ph.D. currently serves as NMAT Chairman. For more information about NMAT, visit the CFA

Web site at www.cfamerica.org. For more information on National Standards for Community Foundations, visit the COF Web site at www.cof.org. If you don't yet have your Community Foundation Portfolio CDs, email nmat@cfamerica.org, or nmat@cof.org to learn how to access these valuable free resources.