Our story at the Nonprofit Leadership Initiative (NPLI) is really the story of our nonprofits’ success in fulfilling their missions and their support of our community.

Todd Vander Galien is an example of this success. As the executive director of Unity Recovery Services, Todd participated in our 2020-21 Leadership Institute - a year-long series of educational modules for senior nonprofit leaders on critical leadership, management, technical and governance topics. Graduates receive a Nonprofit Management Certificate upon completion of the program.

“I can only say thank you for the opportunity to be a part of the 2020-21 Leadership Institute cohort. As a ‘start-up’ nonprofit leader, the insight into board and organizational development has been very helpful. From governance and values to financial oversight, NPLI has provided tools that informed significant policy decisions,” said Todd.

We’re glad our program supported Todd as a leader and congratulate him on Unity’s success as noted in a June 24, 2021, news article for WFRV by Danielle Zulkosky. “Menasha is seeing a decrease in opioid-related death during a time where numbers in Winnebago county are rising and officials say Unity’s proactive approach to addiction could be a contributing factor.” With Todd’s training in the Leadership Institute his tool box is filling up on how to do this work.

To see the list of our talented graduates and hear their story of how the Leadership Institute helped in their leadership journey, visit our website. We thank our partners for making this program, and all our programs, possible and for contributing to shaping success in our community.

With gratitude,

Kim
Program Impact

When Brian Leone Tracy stepped into the executive director role at Fox Valley Literacy, he had years of business and nonprofit experience. However, this was his first time as a nonprofit executive director.

Fox Valley Literacy has been transforming the lives of individuals with accessible one-on-one adult education for over 30 years. Theresa Hannah, Fox Valley Literacy’s board chair, believed investing in Brian’s professional development would benefit both Brian and their organization. She encouraged him to apply for NPLI’s Leadership Institute, a program created in partnership with Fox Valley Technical College, providing nonprofit leaders education in topics critical to nonprofit management.

Brian was concerned about committing the time and resources required to participate in the yearlong program but looking back he's glad he did because it increased his efficiency.

“The Institute was a key investment of time for me. I often felt like I was tearing myself away from work, only to find I'd learn something crucial that smoothed the process out that I wouldn't have discovered on my own. This made my days more efficient and freed my time to challenge big picture ideas.”

Brian Leone Tracy | Fox Valley Literacy

When Brian learned about Nonprofit Leadership Initiative’s new program called Board Academy, he was excited to share the news with Theresa. Theresa had been a board member with Fox Valley Literacy since 2018, but never experienced formal training. Board Academy teaches board members the same concepts taught in the Institute - all through the lens of their individual responsibilities.

“I recommend Board Academy to all board members. Clarifying roles and responsibilities, along with all the other sessions, allows me to better support Brian. I’m an accountant, and I still learned a few things in the financial strategy session—especially how to present financials to a board of directors.”

Theresa Hannah | Fox Valley Literacy Board Chair

With Brian and Theresa’s leadership and newfound learnings they restructured their board committees, revised bylaws, and put a plan in place to expand committee membership. “We’re excited about the future of Fox Valley Literacy. Theresa and I are using what we learned and applying it in our strategic planning. It’s already improved how our organization operates,” Brian shared.
Financial Highlights

Income - $306,800

- 30% - Funds within the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region (CFFVR)
- 29% - Individuals + Businesses
- 23% - Corporate + Private Foundations
- 18% - Program Revenue + Other Income

Plus additional $17,280 of in-kind support.

View full listing of financial partners on our website.

Expenses - $277,707

- 30% - Board Effectiveness
- 22% - Leadership Institute
- 20% - External Resources
- 17% - Operations
- 11% - Leadership Forums

During 2020-21 we made the strategic decision to increase staff capacity by hiring Annette Look as a full-time program manager. Current staff capacity was limiting our ability to be impactful, and increased requests for services, especially during the global health crisis, solidified the need to hire.

Increased capacity gave us the ability to deliver on a program request we had been receiving for several years - a comprehensive board training program. Graduates of the Leadership Institute continually encouraged us to develop a training for their board members that incorporated aspects of the Leadership Institute modules. We successfully launched our newest program, Board Academy, in January 2021.

Additionally, we dedicated time to strengthening our marketing, finance and development committees whose leadership is positioning us for growth. We also made it a priority to increase networking opportunities for program participants by creating collaborative online spaces for connecting when we were unable to gather in-person.

Our vision is a healthy and resilient region where nonprofit leaders and organizations have access to the resources they need and are equipped with the skills to make our community a great place to live for all. We’re grateful for our current partners - we couldn’t do this work without you! We also invite new partners to join us in making this vision a reality.
In early 2021, we piloted NPLI’s newest program, Board Academy. The program, developed in partnership with Leadership Fox Cities Alumni Association and Leadership Institute alumni, was created to meet the local demand for a comprehensive board training program. Board Academy’s six sessions teach critical concepts of nonprofit board leadership using a cohort learning model. More information on future sessions is available on our website.

“It was so energizing to have the opportunity to learn from experts and be together with other board members to collaborate and share experiences. The connections I’ve made and the leadership strategies I’ve learned will help me be a more effective board member. I’d do it again in a heartbeat!”

Lauri Asbury | Samaritan Counseling Board

NPLI’s suite of programs complement each other to provide nonprofits leadership development, resources and training, and networking and community building opportunities.

**LEADERSHIP FORUM**

554 registrants participated in four virtual Forums. A new collaboration was formed with the Association for Fundraising Professionals NE WI to co-host two Forums focused on fundraising.

**LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE AND ALUMNI**

14 graduates of the Leadership Institute brings the total of Leadership Institute alumni to 63. We held a two-part alumni-only virtual webinar on Having Courageous Conversations and plan to provide additional training sessions targeted to meet this group's needs in 2021-22.

**BOARD EFFECTIVENESS**

Board Academy, created in partnership with Leadership Fox Cities Alumni Association, graduated 20 participants in its inaugural year. Board Connect’s online platform includes 87 nonprofits posting their board and committee openings.

**EXTERNAL RESOURCES**

26 nonprofits participate in our partnership program with Network for Good to increase fundraising skills and capacity. 312 organizations access Nonprofit Next’s curated directory of tips, tools and templates.