



Annual General Meeting

Annual Report 2005

April 12, 2006

Pillar Nonprofit Network Annual General Meeting

April 12, 2006 – 4:00 p.m.
Pathways Skill Development & Placement Centre
210 Dundas Street, London

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Chair's Remarks
2. Approval of Minutes of AGM on April 13, 2005
3. Presentation of Financial Statements for 2005
4. Motion to Confirm Michael King as Auditor for 2006
5. Motion to Approve the Acts of Directors during 2005
6. Motion to Approve the Slate of Nominees as Presented
7. Recognition of Retiring Board Members
8. Executive Director Recognition
9. **The Pillar Innovation Awards**
10. Adjournment

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Executive Director's Report

Beth De Long

Initiatives:

- The Nonprofit Library Network: Pillar – in partnership with Imagine Canada and other nonprofit organizations in Ontario – hosts this cooperating collection of resources, which provides local access to over 25 print resources to assist nonprofit staff and volunteers in the delivery and management of programs and services for our community.
- Voluntary Sector Forum: This year marked significant changes to the way the nonprofit sector organized itself in its relationship with federal government. A newly configured Voluntary Sector Forum was created. It gathered together both knowledge experts on areas of importance for the sector as well as groups that reflect its rich diversity. As co-chair of the CFVSN, Pillar's Executive Director was one of three representatives of the Federation on the Forum, whose work involved a submission to the Gomery Inquiry, distribution of a Federal Election toolkit, dissemination of questions to each party, preparation of Budget Submissions and positioning of the needs of the nonprofit sector with government.
- Pillar hosted a community conversation to discuss the opportunities provided by the Voluntary Sector Awareness Project to have a collective and shared brand for the nonprofit sector.
- Relationship with Government
 - *Federal:* Pillar Board members and staff continued to inform and educate MPs about the scope, breadth and impact the nonprofit sector has on our community and discussed with them the role of the federal government in supporting the nonprofit sector through the Accord and Codes of Good Practice.
 - *Provincial:* During the summer of 2005 members of our Board along with our staff met with MPPs to discuss the issues that affect the nonprofit sector. We were encouraged by the interest shown by our MPPs. Deb Matthews indicated strong support to our call for transformational change to the insurance and liability issues affecting London's nonprofit sector.
 - *Municipal:* Pillar Board members and staff worked to improve the awareness of City staff and council of the value the nonprofit sector brings to our economic, social and community wealth and on improvement to the relationship between the sector and the City, resulting in better communication and more meaningful dialogue.

Membership

- In 2005, our membership grew by 140% to 99 paid members.
- Pillar further refined its core services – Knowledge Development & Training and Collective Action & Collaboration.

In the sector:

- We helped over 12,000 individuals and organizations through our website and email, telephone and walk-in inquiries. Staff and volunteers participated in 34 events.
- Ongoing relationship with *The Londoner* - Pillar continues to provide weekly profiles of community needs met through volunteerism.

Pillar Team:

- Our 30 active volunteers contributed 1500 hours.
- Pillar is fortunate enough each year to host numerous short term contract staff through a variety of mechanisms, Summer Career Placements, Job Creation Partnerships, Portal Internship Program. This allows us to mentor others in the hope that we will pass on our passion for the nonprofit sector and gives us the opportunity to share our knowledge and skills.

▪ Many talented people worked with us in 2005. Ryan Huffman, Gilles Longtin, Shannon McDowell, and Joanne Drayton contributed to our ongoing service to our members and many continue today as volunteers at Pillar. Gilles and Ryan worked towards the significant increase in our membership. Shannon led our fund development research and proposal writing. Joanne led our technology training and our internet based research programs. We wish each of them the best of luck in all their future endeavours and thank them for their many contributions during 2005 and for their ongoing contributions as volunteers.

The Executive Director serves as an ex officio member of all Pillar committees.

Chair of the Board

Willy Van Klooster

This past year might best be described as an “in between” time. For the past 4 years, many of the original board members and the original Executive Director have pioneered a new reality in London, built a solid foundation, gathered over 100 member organizations and have leveraged the impact of the nonprofit sector in London. At the end of this past year we began to prepare for the departure of several founding board members and our founding Executive Director, Beth De Long. Each of these individuals, Beth in particular, has made enormous contributions to the community of London through Pillar. We thank them and we will miss them.

Now we are getting ready for something new. It is time for Pillar to move to the next level, grow again, and advocate with an even stronger voice for the nonprofit sector. Membership in Pillar will bring even greater benefits and we will engage in new ways with our partners in the private and public sectors to make London even greater than it already is. Thank you to everyone who has been part of the first four years. Welcome to everyone who will join us for the next four and beyond.

Fund Development Committee

Christine Wilde, Michelle Baldwin, Mona Eghanian, Ryan Huffman,
Barb Jones, Kimberly Weber

The Fund Development Committee welcomed several new members early in the year, who are committed to allocating time and energy to support the many opportunities for revenue generation. Sustainability continues to drive the committee's focus and action plans.

To meet the dynamic needs of a growing organization, the Fund Development Committee created a strategic plan for Pillar that identified key target areas, with revenue targets and quantifiable objectives in each area: sponsorship opportunities for signature events, annual networking events and media events, workshops, the Leadership Conference, foundations, corporate gifts, individual gifts, membership, service contracts, and the sale of Pillarv.com. The Board unanimously adopted the work plan.

In the coming year, the Fund Development Committee will embrace an exciting and unprecedented level of activity to contribute to the growth and stability of Pillar Nonprofit Network.

Marketing & Membership Committee

Larry Banks, Michael Duhaney, Lissa Foster, Mindy Gordon, Matt Horst, John White

In 2005, the Marketing Committee grew in scope to include both Marketing and Membership Services. On the Marketing front, the committee considered feedback from members, volunteers and general inquiries, and made the decision to alter our branding to Pillar Nonprofit Network from having previously been known as Pillar - Voluntary Sector Network. We think the new

brand is more succinct and better reflects the general public's sense of our sector. As well, we identified that our extensive and important activities with volunteer referral have resulted in the misconception that this service is the only service Pillar provides. We hope to build greater awareness of the full scope of Pillar as a network that unites and provides a voice for the sector as a whole.

Membership recruitment was also a focus this year. Several membership specials were introduced to drive new memberships and we look forward to continuing this trend in 2006.

Research Committee

Shahin Daya, Beth De Long, Wei Wu, Ruth Young, Mustafa Zahid, Gerda Zonruiter

The Research Committee focused on building relationships with other research efforts in London and, more broadly, in Ontario. Pillar participated in several provincial research initiatives aimed at strengthening the nonprofit sector and increasing the role of the sector in public policy. Pillar joined the London Community Data and Research Committee, which is a group of research practitioners with a focus on London and the people who live in London.

In March, Pillar produced "The Meaning of Volunteering". This study sought to determine how new Canadians (immigrants to Canada within the last ten years) have experienced volunteering in their country of origin and how that might have shaped their view of volunteering in Canada. In 2006, Pillar's Research Committee will continue to focus on research aimed at strengthening London's nonprofit sector.

Special Events Committee

Jennifer Hesse, Mindy Gordon, Laura Visconti

In 2005, Pillar again hosted two successful special events – the London Community Innovation Awards and the Nonprofit & Charitable Expo.

The Second Annual Community Innovation Awards were held on April 13. Two awards were presented in two categories of relevance to the nonprofit sector: Innovation in Awareness and Innovation in Administration. This year, two certificates of honourable mention were also presented.

The 2005 Nonprofit & Charitable Expo was co-sponsored with the London Public Library and took place May 16, 17, and 18. Exhibitors promoted their services and volunteering opportunities over 3 days in the Central Library, and public and professional development workshops were held. Exhibit space sold out well in advance of the Expo and post-event evaluations were once again outstanding.

Training & Education Committee

Kirsten Fisher, Jeff Cadotte, Lee Jones, Amy Hoogsteen, Ben Benedict, Heather Cabral

Established to hold its first meeting in January 2005, the Training and Education Committee has made great strides towards instituting a strong foundation for Pillar to offer training seminars, educational workshops, conferences and round-table and panel discussions on topics beneficial to the effectiveness and credibility of London's nonprofit sector. In 2005, Pillar offered a number of training opportunities. One of the workshops we presented was "A New Focus on Life and Work" and, as a result of a survey of the training needs of our members, we offered the workshop "Adding up to Accountability".

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2005

Willy Van Klooster (Chair), Westover Treatment Centre
Carl Cadogan (Vice-President), Nokee Kwe Occupational Skill Development Inc.
Ruth Young (Secretary), United Way of London & Middlesex
Paul Hubert (Treasurer), Pathways Skill Development & Placement Centre
Michelle Baldwin, Brain Injury Association of London & Region
Cheryl Finn, London Sports Council
Kirsten Fisher, Graduate Student, University of Western Ontario
Lissa Foster, WIL Employment Connections
Janet Frood, Consultant
Jennifer Hesse, London Public Library
Maria Sanchez-Keane, Sanchez-Keane & Associates
Christine Wilde, VON Middlesex-London
Ruth Young, United Way of London & Middlesex

PROPOSED SLATE: BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2006

Michelle Baldwin, Brain Injury Association of London & Region
Kirsten Fisher, Graduate Student, University of Western Ontario
Lissa Foster, WIL Employment Connections
Susanna Hubbard Krimmer, London Public Library
Brian Meehan, Museum London
Maria Sanchez-Keane, Sanchez-Keane & Associates
Willy Van Klooster, Westover Treatment Centre
Christine Wilde, VON Middlesex-London
Gary Wood, Madame Vanier Children's Services

**Pillar Nonprofit Network
gratefully acknowledges our generous funders**



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Pillar also thanks our generous individual donors.