



SISTERS OF CHARITY FOUNDATION
of South Carolina

Learning Academy

2008 Report Card



The Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina's Learning Academy was established to leverage training and educational opportunities for the capacity building needs of nonprofit organizations in South Carolina.

This report contains implementation and outcome data from the first year of the Learning Academy.

During its inaugural year, the Learning Academy:

- Provided 14 workshops to 200 participants
- Trained 151 individuals
- Impacted 117 nonprofit organizations

2008 Learning Academy Schedule

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Board Governance & Ethics												
Communications & Marketing												
Evaluation 101												
Financial Management												
Fund Raising Fundamentals												
Grant Writing Basics												
Partnerships & Sustainability												
Strategic Planning												

Counties Represented



Organizations from 36 counties attended a workshop in the 2008 Learning Academy year.

"The Sisters of Charity Foundation does a wonderful job of helping organizations like ours learn to do our jobs better."

- Iron City Ministries, Inc.

What else are participants saying about the Learning Academy?

"The workshop was one of the best and most interactive I've been to in a long time."

"This workshop has been extremely helpful in developing board structure at our organization."

"It was great and helped me to create a fund-raising plan for our agency."

"We have been successful on three (out of four) grant applications (since the workshop)."

"Excellent info! I am still learning about ways to use social media and plan to create an e-newsletter."

Evaluation Methods

A comprehensive evaluation designed to assess consumer satisfaction, knowledge gains and workshop outcomes is a major component of the Learning Academy. The evaluation consists of a questionnaire administered at the conclusion of each workshop (on-site) and two additional questionnaires distributed via email at three and nine month intervals (follow-ups). The quotations in this report were gleaned from the on-site questionnaire and the three-month follow-up. Not all participants responded to the follow-up; response rates ranged from 26% to 69%, with the majority being 50% or higher.

Data from the three-month follow-up were used to create the graphs on the right. A checklist on the follow-up enables participants to indicate whether they have met any of ten outcomes anticipated for each workshop.

Two of the checklist items assess whether participants met with staff and the board, respectively, to discuss workshop-related issues. Figures A and B display the percentage of respondents indicating that they had done so, and both figures depict very high rates for this information exchange.

Figure C displays the highest percentage of outcome attainment among the other checklist items for each workshop. For example, 90% of respondents investigated new funding sources following the Grant Writing Basics workshop while 54% of respondents developed or revised mission and vision statements following the Strategic Planning workshop. These results depict high levels of outcome attainment among respondents.

Figure A. Percentage of respondents who met with staff to discuss workshop content following the event by workshop.

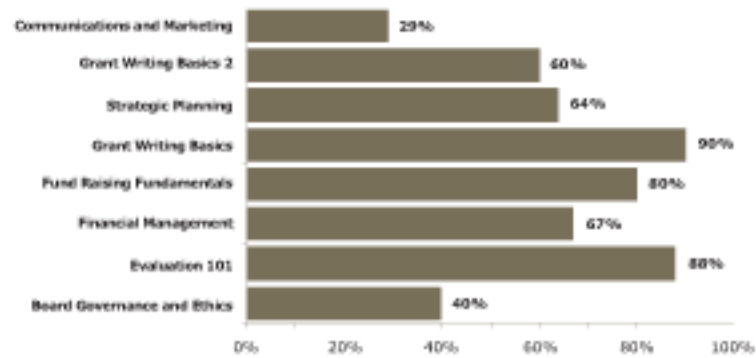


Figure B. Percentage of respondents who met with the board to discuss workshop content following the event by workshop.

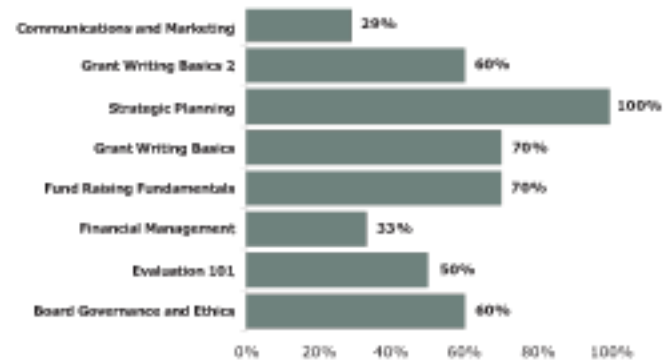
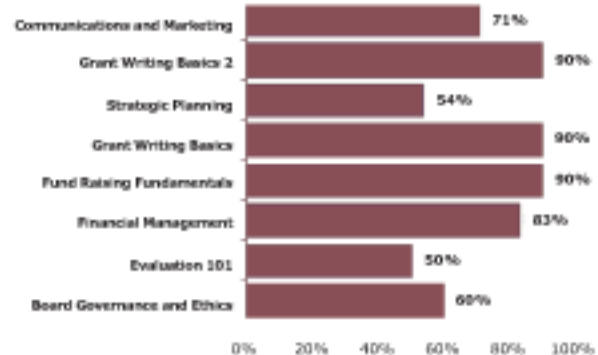


Figure C. Highest level of attainment reported among selected outcomes by workshop.



On average, 81% of follow-up survey respondents have recommended the workshop they attended to others.

Facilitator Evaluation

Our evaluation confirms that the Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina identified outstanding faculty for the Learning Academy. Their qualifications accompany the workshop announcements on the Foundation Web site.

“Great facilitator!”

“Presenters were exceptionally great.”

2009 Learning Academy Workshops

Board Governance & Ethics
Communications & Marketing
Employee & Volunteer Development*
Evaluation 101
Financial Management
Fund Raising Fundamentals
Grant Writing Basics
Partnerships & Sustainability
Strategic Planning
Team Skills*

*Denotes workshops that are new to the Learning Academy schedule.

For more information about the Learning Academy:

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or

visit the Foundation's Web site, sistersofcharitysc.com.