



Published on National Council of Nonprofits (<https://www.councilofnonprofits.org>)

Original URL: <https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/about-americas-nonprofits/nonprofit-impact-communities>

Nonprofit Impact in Communities

Charitable nonprofits embody the best of America. They provide a way for people to work together for the common good, transforming shared beliefs and hopes into action. They give shape to our boldest dreams, highest ideals, and noblest causes.

America's 1.3 million charitable nonprofits feed, heal, shelter, educate, inspire, enlighten, and nurture people of every age, gender, race, and socioeconomic status, from coast to coast, border to border, and beyond. They foster civic engagement and leadership, drive economic growth, and strengthen the fabric of our communities. Every single day.

Every person in the United States benefits from the work of nonprofits in one way or another, whether they realize it or not.

It's easy to see a nonprofit's mission in action when our families or neighbors are direct beneficiaries—such as when nonprofits provide food for the hungry, life-saving trauma care to someone in a car wreck, or rescue relief to hurricane survivors.

It's harder to recognize the full impact of the indirect benefits nonprofits provide us. For example, the mission of the "friends of the local public library" might be to promote reading, but taxpayers also benefit when the nonprofit raises funds to buy books and equipment.

Nonprofits play a fundamental role in creating more equitable and thriving communities. And nonprofits can do even more by coming together to protect both their legacy and their indispensable role in America's future.

CONSIDER—there's a good chance you or a family member:

-  Entered the world born in a nonprofit hospital—nearly half of America's hospitals are nonprofits.
-  Developed life skills like conflict resolution and teamwork through Girl Scouts, Little Leagues, 4-H, or other youth development organizations.
-  Enjoyed family vacations at nonprofits such as the San Diego Zoo, the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago, or the Metropolitan Museum of Art of New York City.
-  Avoided polio because March of Dimes raised research funds to discover a safe and effective vaccine, and escaped other diseases because of scientific research by nonprofits.
-  Attended a nonprofit preschool, grade school, high school, college, or graduate school, perhaps with support of a nonprofit scholarship fund.
-  Inhaled cleaner air in tobacco-free restaurants thanks to the work of public health nonprofits.
-  Attended services at a house of worship maintained by one of the nearly 350,000 nonprofit religious congregations.
-  Exercised your rights to vote, to education, to travel, to equal treatment under the law and other rights secured and protected by nonprofits.
-  Enjoyed the natural wonder and splendor of America's rivers, forests, and open spaces due to the work of nonprofits committed to conservation and our environment.
-  Learned how to swim through lessons at the local JCC, YMCA, or scout camp.
-  Visited historic treasures and places of natural beauty preserved by nonprofits.
-  Laughed, relaxed, rejoiced, and were inspired at nonprofit arts performances.

Of course, that's still just a short list of the many ways that nonprofits improve lives.