SERVING OUR SECTOR
SERVING THE NEEDS OF OUR SECTOR

Those of us who work and volunteer at 501 Commons have the honor – and fun – of learning the story behind the nonprofits we serve each year. We hope to contribute to those stories and make their work a little easier. This annual report distills some of the activities of this year into quotes, stories, and statistics so you get a taste of what it means to serve our sector.

Executive Service Corps members always deliver most of our management consulting, but this year, there was an increase in service corps members working alongside our talented Human Resources team as well. This allowed HR to increase services by 30% despite being understaffed. We still have a “line at the door” and are seeking more staff members and volunteers.

We were also able to contribute to the HR practices of thousands of nonprofits through the second King County Nonprofit Wage & Benefits Report. With some adjustment for average median income, this free data can be used by nonprofits throughout the U.S. Our research included the King County Nonprofit Employee Engagement Survey, which shows that employees are very proud of their work and organizations. However, the survey results also reveal a high risk of employees leaving our sector because of wages, benefits, and dissatisfaction with employer communication and transparency.

While we serve many large nonprofit organizations, particularly through Data Solutions and IT Services, our financial and tax services provide smaller nonprofits with top-notch financial management, often for only $500–$1,000 a month. These organizations also benefit from the year-round Washington Gives platform, where we host GiveBIG. At a time when philanthropic donations to community-based nonprofits are declining, those of us who know the value of nonprofits need to encourage others to give.

Since nothing like 501 Commons exists in most cities, it is not a surprise that our services are being discovered by nonprofits throughout the U.S. In 2023, we served organizations in 30 counties in Washington and 24 different states.

In 2024, we will celebrate our 35th anniversary! We look back with gratitude for all of you who have contributed your time, expertise, donations, and partnership to 501 Commons. We have never been about standing still. In 2024, we will expand our cybersecurity services, reach out to a national audience for our training sessions, and offer our Next Level program to BIPOC leaders in Pierce County, where we are also serving homeless organizations under a contract with Pierce County.

Thank you, and enjoy the read!
IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Praise for our Data Solutions team

“We started the search for a contractor that could help us transition to using Salesforce. 501 Commons was recommended by a staff member who had worked with them at another organization. From our first meeting to the launch of our first program’s platform, the team at 501 Commons was incredibly easy to work with. They understand nonprofits and the arduous data we need to capture. Because they’re experts, they often knew what to include in our system even if we hadn’t thought of it yet.”

–Kristina Szczyrbak, deputy director at ANEW

Gratitude for our Exec2Exec program

“My experience with executive consulting from 501 Commons was very positive. My assigned consultant created a really supportive space to reflect and plan, asked challenging questions, and provided important resources to help me be a more effective leader of our organization.”

–Era Schrepfer, executive director of FIUTS (Foundation for International Understanding Through Students)

A glowing review for our IT and Help Desk services

“501 Commons and their team help us to maintain our IT program. The Help Desk is always responsive and promptly responds to our needs. The designated IT Consultant provides excellent service and is a valued member of our team. 501 Commons professionals are valued partners helping us to fulfill our mission.”

–Diane Kolb, executive director of Children’s Country Home
Nalanda Institute for Contemplative Science is a NYC-based nonprofit that helps people manage stress and improve their emotional well-being. Using academic studies and meditative practices inspired by Buddhism, they aim to bring more positivity into people’s lives.

In similar fashion, 501 Commons’ Financial Services team helped Nalanda Institute gain peace of mind by bringing more stability to their accounting practices.

Before reaching out to us, Nalanda’s programs were being tracked through disconnected spreadsheets managed by program staff rather than a centralized accounting system. They knew something had to change. Today, executive director Dan Donohue says they’re in a much better place with their books and financial controls.

“We now have much greater visibility into the financials of our programs, which has helped us better allocate resources,” Dan says. “We also added a new accounts payable software recommended by 501 Commons which makes tracking vendor payments much easier.”

Outsourcing accounting to 501 Commons has freed up staff time to focus on programs and their community’s needs – which is what every nonprofit wants!

“We’ve had a very positive experience working with 501 Commons. They’re very knowledgeable about nonprofit bookkeeping and accounting and have been immensely helpful in getting our books in order,” Dan says.
Too many nonprofits are behind the curve when it comes to implementing cybersecurity measures. In the summer of 2023, we rolled out new services and restored our Plan IT program so we can help them catch up.

Our goal is to engage our expert staff and skilled volunteers so we can make services accessible to nonprofits of all sizes. The training and services were developed and managed by Kai Dailey, who brings years of IT consulting experience to 501 Commons’ nonprofit clients.

Through Tech Clinic webinars, in-person workshops, and access to free resources, we want to fundamentally transform how the nonprofit community thinks about cybersecurity, IT systems, and the role staff, volunteers, and boards play in ensuring their technology environment is secure against malicious threats. The program educates nonprofit leaders and strengthens our sector’s ability to protect itself from cyber threats that are continuously evolving.

Internally, Kai has played a tremendous role in implementing a cybersecurity training program for all 501 Commons staff – many of whom live remotely outside Washington State. Through video tutorials, online quizzes, and links to informative articles, our staff are given up-to-date tips and guidance on how to protect organizational data, respond to an emergency, and think through preventative measures.

Right off the bat, the feedback we’ve received from participants has been remarkably positive:

“Thank you for today’s cybersecurity clinic! It was very informative and the speakers were great! I’m glad that we have outside managed services (501 Commons) to help us implement/monitor and troubleshoot systems. I look forward to future clinics and talks! Thank you again!” writes Gwen Heisterkamp (Spark Northwest) after attending our October Tech Clinic.

Nonprofits annually raise $30 billion and handle sensitive information about millions of people. They often have weak cybersecurity and privacy practices, making them attractive to hackers. Board Effect reports that “9 out of 10 organizations do not train staff regularly on cybersecurity while 3 out of 4 organizations do not monitor their networks.”
OUR IMPACT

2,000+ organizations served
We are proud of the diverse organizations we partner with in the Pacific Northwest and beyond. They serve several geographic areas, a variety of missions, communities of people, and ecosystems.

$533,000+
Worth of time donated by our superb pool of volunteers and in-kind donations from companies.

1.6 million website visits
The nonprofit community appreciates our free library of resources. Donors everywhere trust Washington Gives as a source for 1,500+ dynamic nonprofits.

554 volunteers
Our Executive Service Corps consultants bring a wide range of expertise, experiences, and skills to their client engagements. We appreciate the value they bring to the community.

$12.8 million
Raised during GiveBIG 2023. This boost in financial support benefits nonprofits at a time when our sector faces funding challenges.

We serve nonprofits of all kinds

- Arts, Culture and Humanities
- Civil Rights, Social Action and Advocacy
- Community Improvement, Capacity Building
- Education
- Environmental Quality, Protection and Beautification
- Food, Agriculture and Nutrition
- Health - General and Rehabilitative
- Housing, Shelter
- Human Services - Multipurpose and Other
- Recreation, Sports, Leisure, Athletics
- Unknown/Other
- Youth Development
- Other
OUR 2022 FINANCIALS

Revenue Sources

- Earned Income & Other ($3,114,363)
- Donations & Contributions ($311,901)
- Government Funding ($53,733)
- Previous Year Donations & Interest ($309,207)

Functional Expenses

- Program (83%)
- Fundraising (4%)
- Management & General (13%)

Visit our Candid profile to see our 2022 Form 990. Please note that the financial information for Washington State Opportunity Scholarship is included in our 990 due to a state contract.

Watch this video to see how appreciative the Museum of Glass is for our HR Partner program and expertise.
STAY IN TOUCH

You can support our work and the 2,000+ organizations we serve by following us on social media! We frequently share information about our services, upcoming workshops, and employment opportunities.

“Liking,” commenting, and sharing our social media posts are easy ways to spread the word about the impact we’re making in the nonprofit community.

501commons.org

Facebook.com/501Commons

Twitter.com/501Commons

LinkedIn.com/company/501-Commons

YouTube.com/@501CommonsWashington

WAGives.org/501-Commons

501commons.org/engage/about-the-service-corps/volunteer-application