

Catalyst Report Summary: 2015-2016

Overview

Catalyst is an action-learning program that helps nonprofits reach their fullest potential by providing them with tools that strengthen the organization's business model and case for funding.

Catalyst began July 2015 and completed February 2016, with eight organizations graduating from the program.

- Eastside Heritage Center
- Many Lights Foundation
- New Horizon School
- New Horizons Ministries
- Potlatch Fund
- Puget Sound Regional Services
- Sail Sand Point
- Washington Poison Center

Satisfaction

- **100%** of organizations agreed that Catalyst made a positive difference in their ability to accomplish their mission. (55% strongly agree, 45% somewhat agree)
- **100%** of organizations agreed that Catalyst will help them in reaching their fundraising goals. (36% strongly agree, 64% somewhat agree)
- **91%** of organizations agreed that they have a better understanding of fundraising now that they have worked with 501 Commons.
- **100%** of organizations would work with 501 Commons again if their organization had need in the future, and **100%** would recommend 501 Commons to other nonprofit organizations.

Impact

"Catalyst was amazing in terms of helping us clearly see and define our needs, areas of improvement, strengths, and what we need to do." – Sail Sand Point

"The program was excellent. We are very hopeful as we move into the implementation of the plan." – Potlatch Fund

"We were able to set doable goals that we can work on together as a board. It jump started our desire to give fundraising a greater portion of our monthly meeting agenda." – Eastside Heritage Center

"Working with our Catalyst consultants helped us look at our challenges from other perspectives. The Catalyst program was the best investment of time and engaged our board members so they could be leaders in advancing our organization." – Many Lights Foundation

“We have many challenges ahead but will make concerted efforts to follow through on all the hard work we have put out during this program.” – Puget Sound Regional Services

“The Catalyst program helped us by providing the focus we needed to develop a realistic plan for the future. We’ve already seen positive results.” – New Horizons Ministries

“This is an amazing program! Our consultants were excellent. They helped us see what we were doing well and where we could improve, in such a supportive way. The Cohort gatherings were always eye-opening. In nonprofits, we often get hunkered down, too close to the daily grind to see how others see our work. It was refreshing to see another point of view.” – Washington Poison Center

“501 Commons is an excellent resource. I feel so fortunate that New Horizon School was selected to participate in the Catalyst program. Our consultants were dedicated and truly sought to understand our organization and its needs. Debra and Nancy have also provided much guidance and support on this journey.” – New Horizon School

Successes

- Washington Poison Center increased an annual appeal by \$260,000 thanks to recommendations from their consultant team.
- Potlatch Fund increased their annual gala income by \$30,000 with a more explicit approach to “the Ask” with the coaching help of their fund development consultant.
- One fund development consultant received a stellar recommendation from the client and landed a job at Bellevue School Foundation.

Testimonials

Watch Washington Poison Center speak about how the new focus on storytelling promoted through Catalyst reinvigorated the relationship between their board and staff, inspiring both improved fundraising results and greater ambassadorship.

<https://youtu.be/62C99ux90yI>

Watch Potlatch Fund share how Catalyst prompted them to re-examine the culture of giving in their organization, motivating them to find new ways of engaging donors and deepening focus on individual giving.

<https://youtu.be/TXHBXmBf1q8>