

# Stronger together

Nonprofits collaborate  
for benefit of all



Tom Baker first approached Chamber President Jim Boltz in 2021 with the idea of organizing a non-profit committee. Two years later, the Chamber's Nonprofits North group has much to celebrate as it has grown quite a bit in terms of size and importance within the Chamber.

Baker, the Executive Director of North Hills Community Outreach, a community- and interfaith-based organization addressing the needs of people in crisis, hardship and poverty, first became involved in the Chamber in 2009 through Big Brothers Big Sisters of America. From 2020 to 2022, he served as acting chair of the HYPE committee, was chair of the Membership Committee, and has been on the Chamber Board since 2021.

When Nonprofits North started in 2021, Baker thought it would give non-profits – the Chamber's second largest category of members – better access to each other and would be an excellent opportunity to learn best practices from each other.

"It's been an incredible training and learning opportunity," Baker said. "Now we've had 25 months' worth of Nonprofits North meetings, which is pretty remarkable. The group is really all about bringing out the best in each other."

"We always talk about 'Lets collaborate, not compete,'" he said. "Attending each other's events is always a really helpful part of NPN."

The group's monthly meetings all occur at the Chamber's Wexford office and they have "great speakers every single month," Baker said. "Members leave energized, educated and far more connected within the Chamber and our sector."

"I think the biggest success is that we have grown the group from 8-15 people in attendance to 25-35 each month," said Carrie Nolan-Robson, the Chamber's Director of Events and Programs. "I think that nonprofits see the value the Chamber brings to a nonprofit organization and how we support each nonprofit's efforts and mission within the community."

Baker couldn't agree more.

"It's great that Jim and the team have given us a seat at the table," he said.

