



StewardSHIP

Evaluating Nonprofit Requests

100 Women Who Care - Elk Rapids Area strives to make a difference in Antrim County through thoughtful collective giving. This model allows us to make larger, much more impactful gifts than we can individually. It also challenges us to be good stewards, to engage our heads as well as our hearts in this work.

Whether you are looking to nominate a nonprofit, or evaluating potential recipients already nominated, we encourage you to practice good stewardship. SHIP is an acronym that may help you to evaluate organizations, their programs, and how well our gift will be used.

S - Skills. Does the organizational leadership (staff and board) possess the background and experience to be successful? This is an appropriate question for established nonprofits with a long history but is even more important for young nonprofits that don't have a track record.

H - Health. Is the organization on solid financial footing? How large is their budget and what are their ongoing sources of funds? A variety of diverse funding sources (grants, individual donations, events,) is better than a single source. In sum, we want to be comfortable that our money is being used effectively, and that the organization is able to continue and sustain its work long after our gift is received.

I - Impact. How does the organization make a difference? Who do they serve? How many people are impacted by their services? Are they providing a unique service in the area, something that other organizations are not? How do they partner with other organizations to maximize their reach? Impact isn't just about numbers (although numbers matter); it's about making a measurable difference that improves our community and would be missed if it did not exist.

P - Plan. How will they use our donation in Antrim County? To purchase equipment? Create a new, or expand an existing, program? Cover operating costs like staff and rent? Do they have a long term strategy for sustaining the project? How will they evaluate the success of the project? A specific description of how and when our gift will be used is essential to good stewardship. Generally speaking, we would prefer to see the gift utilized sooner rather than later for a well-defined purpose. If our gift is the primary source of operating support, or essentially a lifeline for an organization, it may not meet the other factors discussed above.

By practicing good stewardSHIP, we have the opportunity to help make Antrim County an even better place to live.