



Dear Community,

*I love what we get to do together! At Nonprofits First, we empower nonprofits with the tools they need to better serve their communities. This is the essence of our mission, it's what we do every day. We are the "go-to" resource for nonprofit organizations in Palm Beach County and beyond. It is a sincere privilege of mine to support and live out this mission.*

*As Board Chair, I have the opportunity to hear from local nonprofit CEOs and board members about the impact Nonprofits First has had on their organizations and the community. Take an organization like Kayla Cares 4 Kids (KC4K) as an example – a new nonprofit - which has now donated items to every children's hospital and Ronald McDonald House in the country. KC4K's CEO, Andrea Abramowitz, participated in Nonprofits First's 2016 "101 for the 501" program. It's an educational experience equipping emerging nonprofits with the knowledge they need to succeed. The classes include topics such as board governance, volunteer coordinating, financial management and much more - all of which is free to the organizations participating. This past year over 15 nonprofits participated in the "101 for the 501" program.*



*I've also heard from organizations like the Lord's Place who support their up-and-coming leaders through our Rising Leaders program. There were 22 Rising Leaders graduates in 2016 and 289 graduates since 2006. Rising Leaders participants grow their leadership, public speaking and management skills to make a greater impact for their organization and ultimately the community. Having personally had the opportunity to engage with the participants, I can tell you that they truly are the future executive leaders of our local nonprofit organizations.*

*I've had the honor to present certificates of Accreditation to multiple boards in our community like Neighborhood Renaissance in West Palm Beach. Neighborhood Renaissance is one of many nonprofits showcasing their excellence and sustainability through our Accreditation program which measures organizations by over 300 standards. I am especially grateful to our many volunteers who boast more than 550 volunteer hours helping our staff accredit 70 plus nonprofit organizations.*

*I'm so proud of our generous staff members, volunteers, board members, and community partners who all have the shared vision to cultivate the best nonprofit community possible and to make a lasting impact in our community. Nonprofits First is committed to quality in the nonprofit sector and we will be relentless in our pursuit of it.*

*In reflecting on an incredible 2016 for Nonprofits First and having recently completed the first phase of our strategic planning process, I would encourage you to jump in and partner with us to make 2017 even better! We couldn't do it without YOU.*

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrew J. Gray".

Andrew J. Gray, CPA  
Board Chair