

You have a great idea plus the skills and passion to make it happen. That's excellent!

Please know this:

- It is **HIGHLY** likely that one or more organizations in our area are doing exactly what you want to do
- Those organizations will welcome your skills and passion

Yes, but you still want to start a nonprofit. OK. Nonprofit organizations provide programs and services that benefit the public. So, your **first step** is to describe in detail the specific group of people you will serve and the specific impact you wish to make. Please, **BE SPECIFIC**.

Once you have done that, your **second step** is to contact existing organizations doing the same or similar work and/or serving the same constituents, and then discuss your ideas with them. Investigate potential synergies or collaborations that would make your idea possible. (Find a Local Organization Directory at www.kpl.gov/ONEplace)

Your **third step** is to start making a positive impact right now! There are many alternatives to the long, drawn-out process of starting a nonprofit. You could:

1. **Volunteer** – Volunteer for an organization that is doing something similar to what you have in mind. You could join their board or even take a job. This experience will focus your ideas and interests as well as build your skills. More info at volunteerkalamazoo.org
2. **Form or join a giving circle** – Gather a group of people who wish to pool their time and money to benefit a local charity.
3. **Organize an unincorporated association** – Put together an unincorporated association to fulfill your mission without seeking tax-exempt status.

These first three steps will take weeks – probably months. But they are **ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY**. During this time, you will:

- Meet and learn from wonderful people who are doing what you want to do
- Refine your skills and focus your ideas
- Face the day-to-day, year-to-year reality of running an organization

Your **fourth step** is to visit <http://www.nolo.com/legal-encyclopedia/forming-nonprofit-corporation-michigan-36070.html>. Read carefully through each step and the other resources linked on the page. Once you have finished this step, set an appointment with ONEplace staff to discuss your future: call 269-553-7899 or email ONEplace@kpl.gov.

(over please)

Welcome to ONEplace

kpl.gov/oneplace

oneplace@kpl.gov

*In the end, we realize that **leadership development** is ultimately **self-development**.*

Meeting the leadership challenge is a personal – and a daily – challenge for us all.

The Leadership Challenge

Our Cause

A strong nonprofit sector is critical to the success of any community

Nonprofit leaders interface with residents from all socio-economic strata as well as the business, faith and government communities. They also provide the human infrastructure required for thriving communities.

Our Purpose

To encourage and equip Resolute-Humble leaders

Resolute-Humble leaders take full responsibility and ownership of their role(s), seeking required resources and developing needed relationships. They listen and learn from others, and teach and share with others.

Our Strategies

Address the whole person

We bring all of who we are to every situation

Encourage personal integrity

Aligning values and actions energizes one's voice and agency

Facilitate strong, collaborative connections

Only together do we bring sufficient capacity to move the needle

Leader Development includes

- ONEplace Nonprofit Leader Academy – ten-month intensive; 1 full day/month (Feb-Nov)
- Peer Learning Groups – nine-month intensive; 90' meeting/month (Sep-May)
- Board Development – onsite training and facilitation to increase board effectiveness
- Self Development – doing the work so you can do the work
- Management Track workshops – addressing content areas & skills
- Direct Assistance – single session consulting on new or sticky concerns
- Employment Opportunities - webpage providing nonprofit job listings in Kalamazoo County
- ONEpages – single-topic, online/pdf resources on essential nonprofit issues

Vision

ONEplace is a catalyst of community success

We envision a day when a critical mass of Resolute-Humble Leaders is spread throughout our area, collaborating to successfully address deeply entrenched community problems. Success is not understood as solving a problem once and for all. Rather, success is a state of continual improvement in which a community admits and addresses their problems and opportunities in a spirit of cooperation.