

## 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Nonprofit Legislative Breakfast

Thank you for participating in the March 26, 2010 Nonprofit Legislative Breakfast at Burnham Brook Community Center. Below is a summary of the table discussion.

### ***Nonprofits can enhance communications regarding sector issues and can take action to grow partnerships with elected/government officials by:***

1. Educating officials on the value and impact of nonprofits; what nonprofits need; how nonprofits work, their mission, volunteer efforts, economic benefits; use numbers and data to tell the story; describe impact of elected officials' decisions on the nonprofit sector; create unified message.
2. Sharing your contact information with officials, and the best way to contact you.
3. Inviting officials to nonprofit events, to volunteer, or to be a member of your board.
4. Establishing relationships with officials' staffers, the staff are doers.
5. Scheduling face-to-face meetings with legislators and your program participants; site tour of your organization, programs or constituents.
6. Communicating consistently (persistently) to legislators; don't give up; tailor information to the official, personalize message; send them your E-newsletter; sign up for officials' newsletters when available; least favorite form of communication is fax.
7. Visiting government websites; elected officials' websites; use Michigan Guide to Government (available at County Clerk's office).
8. Having consumers/clients write letters on behalf of nonprofit to advocate and tell success stories.
9. Attending officials' town hall meetings or forums; Nonprofit Advocacy Days in Lansing (Sept. 21, 2010).
10. Being prepared; know the issues; in a collective/ collaborative package make a specific request to partner with an issue.

***Mark your calendar for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Nonprofit Legislative Breakfast on March 25, 2011, 8 a.m. at Starr Commonwealth in Albion.***

You are invited to participate on the breakfast planning committee. The next meeting will be held on September 28, 2010 at 10 a.m. Please contact Linda Wendt at [linda@bccfoundation.org](mailto:linda@bccfoundation.org) to get involved.