

THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME: *ND IMPACT PARTNERS*

Creating Meaningful Engagement

The program was founded in 2014 to create an opportunity for business alumni to connect with meaningful volunteer opportunities. Roughly 50 percent of participants to date were not actively involved alumni members prior to joining the program.

[For more on the ND Impact Partners program see [“How One Institution is Engaging Alumni through Strategic Community Service Activities”](#)]

Program staff form small teams of 6-7 alumni and assign them to a local nonprofit with strong ties to the University of Notre Dame. The projects are completed over a four-month period and leverage the educational and professional background of the team members.

Here’s How it Works:

Nonprofits Apply

- Nonprofits with strong ties to the University are encouraged to submit the details of their proposed project for review.

Teams are Formed

- Applicants are asked to share their educational and professional backgrounds and rate their interest in available projects.
- Top applicants are scheduled for a phone interview prior to being assigned to a project.
- Each team has a designated team lead and project manager.

Mandatory Orientation Meeting

- This two-hour long meeting covers best practices and advice for managing a project based on past cycles.

Support Offered Throughout

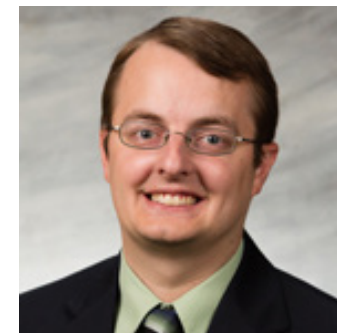
- Participating nonprofits are required to designate a liaison to facilitate the project.
- Over the course of the project the program calls the nonprofits and key team members twice to check in and offer support.

Closing Reception

- This is a chance for all the nonprofits and various teams to be thanked, learn about all the projects, and mingle.

Inspired by Compass

ND Impact Partners drew inspiration from Compass, a program founded in 2001 by a group of Harvard Business School alums to connect business professionals with nonprofits. To find out more about this program visit:
<http://compassprobono.org/about/mission/>



Tim Ponisciak, Director of Graduate Alumni Relations at The University of Notre Dame, runs [a great blog sharing innovative strategies](#) for university relations.

TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL ALUMNI SERVICE PROJECTS

1. Set Manageable Timeframes

Alumni might not be willing to commit to long projects but need to be given enough time to complete meaningful projects.

- *ND Impact Partners has found four months to be ideal*

2. Engage with Past Participants

Past participants have already proven to be willing to donate their time and have a wealth of experience that can benefit new applicants.

- *Past participants help ND Impact Partners review alumni applications for new project cycles.*

3. Account for Attrition

People get busy, so having teams large enough to sustain the loss of a member ensures project success.

- *After their second year ND Impact Partners increased the size of their teams from four or five members to six or seven.*

4. Establish Key Dates Early

Including important dates in the application ensures all team members will be available.

- *The orientation for ND Impact Partners is mandatory and listed on the application.*

