when Johns Hopkins asked nonprofit leaders around the U.S. “WHAT MAKES NONPROFITS SPECIAL?”

THEY AGREED ON SEVEN KEY VALUES THAT SET NONPROFITS APART:

- productive
- empowering
- effective
- enriching
- reliable
- responsive
- caring

NONPROFITS ARE...

EMPOWERING

56%

OF LEADERS SURVEYED SAID BEING EMPOWERING IS "VERY IMPORTANT" TO NONPROFITS

31%

OF THOSE LEADERS SAID THEIR ORGANIZATION EMBODIES THIS VALUE "VERY WELL"

CONTRIBUTING TO PUBLIC DISCOURSE

"Through our National Diversity Forum, we bring decision makers together around sensitive issues, provide a safe environment to examine root assumptions, and advance the public discourse leading to a change (expansion) of thinking and practices."

~ Arts & Culture leader

Providing Opportunities for Civic Engagement

"Barter Theatre is the place in our community and in our region where people gather for public discourse of a great variety of subject and topics that are important both to our daily lives and to our society as a whole. People may belong to one church or another or even none at all, but Barter is where they gather to discuss and be exposed to issues and ideas from which discourse, discussion and dialogue ensue."

~ Theatre leader

MOBILIZING & EMPOWERING CITIZENS

"We sponsor self-advocacy groups for adults with developmental disabilities, which include learning about and participating in political events, voting, community involvement, etc."

~ Children & Family Services leader

"Our engagement of community based organizations, faith based groups, low-income residents, and others in our annual Symposium on Poverty contributes to the public discourse and empowers citizens to be engaged in a dialogue with policy makers and implementers. Such a blend could not be brought together in a way that empowered all by the government or business sectors."

~ Community & Economic Development leader

We recruit, train and assign community volunteers to advocate for abused and neglected children. Volunteers are a ‘party to the case’ and bring the child’s voice into the courtroom. Juvenile court judges look forward to hearing the volunteers’ recommendations for the child’s best interests and feel that they make better decisions with the volunteers’ input."

~ Children & Family Services leader

"We empower children and promote the joy of reading with a view toward instilling a life-long love of reading by having created and annually sponsoring the Children’s Choice Book Awards, the only national book awards program where the winners are selected by children."

~ Education leader

THE JOHNS HOPKINS LISTENING POST PROJECT’S
NONPROFIT RENEWAL CONVERSATION
ccss.jhu.edu | @JHUCSS | facebook.com/JHUCSS

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY
CENTER FOR CIVIL SOCIETY STUDIES

Source: Johns Hopkins Listening Post Project Nonprofit Values Surveying [link]