

EXECUTIVE PROFILE

His fight for nonprofit survival



Glen O'Gilvie leads the Center for Nonprofit Advancement, which helps support organizations in Greater Washington.

CENTER FOR NONPROFIT ADVANCEMENT

A June survey by the Charities Aid Foundation of America found that nearly a third of nonprofits could potentially shut down as a result of the economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

From its K Street NW headquarters, the Center for Nonprofit Advancement is working to push back on that prediction. As CEO of the D.C. nonprofit since 2008, Glen O'Gilvie has led operations totaling \$27 million per year. Throughout the pandemic, the center has been assisting struggling Greater Washington organizations in various ways, including hosting 30-minute fundraising events on Zoom to garner more support.

"We want an end to the pandemic for all, but if that end is realized without a third of our nonprofits, poor people are going to be challenged at even greater risks and numbers than they've been in the past and for a longer period of time," O'Gilvie said.

What inspired your passion for nonprofits and community service? When I was an undergraduate student, I took a job at a group home for court-involved youth, not knowing it would be the thing that would spark my focus on helping people in need for the rest of my life. That job really helped me understand that there was hope for young people coming from challenging circumstances.

You recently launched the Center for Race, Equity, Justice and Inclusion within your organization. What are some of its initiatives? The focus is to really help bridge the gap for equity within organizations. We want identifying institutional racism within an organization and addressing

► THE BASICS

GLENN O'GILVIE

CEO, Center for Nonprofit Advancement

Age: 45

Education: Bachelor's in sociology, master's in education, Virginia State University; MBA certificate, Loyola University Chicago

Residence: Upper Marlboro

Family: Wife, daughter and son

First job: Paperboy for the Staten Island Advance

it to be as easy as it is now to identify sexual harassment. We want to make sure that this cross-sector approach helps everyone to have the education and training, the policy and guidelines and understanding to focus on a more equitable region for all.

What have you heard from other nonprofits regarding what they need during this time?

There's a lot of uncertainty. Many of our organizations are purchasing PPE for the very first time. It wasn't a budgeted item. Many organizations rely on volunteers to defray what would otherwise be organizational expenses. Volunteers are not coming out in the way that they were for fear of contracting the virus. Similarly, the way organizations raise money from individuals, from corporations, and even from foundations and government has changed.

What happens if estimates are accurate and a third of nonprofits don't survive the pandemic?

The main issue is that some organizations are exclusive in certain communities – exclusively supporting the efforts of the people in that

particular community. If that goes away, it leaves a gap that would otherwise allow people in our whole community to slip through the cracks.

There's racial disparity in funding for nonprofits with Black and Hispanic leadership. What needs to happen to create concrete change?

I believe the disparity in some cases could be caused by a lack of understanding. People give to people. Unfortunately in fundraising, if you're unknown or you haven't put your organization out front, it's less likely that you will receive the funding you require to be successful.

What was your favorite hobby growing up?

Remote control cars and remote control planes. I was also a big track and field and cross-country guy.

What is your favorite quarantine pastime?

Zoom. The center has been engaging with three times as many people for capacity-building sessions than when we were in person. It's also been holding our family together.

What's your favorite go-to quarantine carryout?

Nando's Peri-Peri and Cava

Where's the first place you'll visit once the pandemic ends?

Jamaica. My family's from Jamaica. We used to go to Jamaica three times a year, but I haven't been able to get there, so that's the first place I'll go.

– Interview by Norah Mulinda

Read the full interview
www.washingtonbusinessjournal.com