

July 2017



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[Heart & Soul](#)



Recruit and Retain Enthusiastic Volunteers

Small towns rely on volunteers for prosperity, but it can be a challenge to sustain energy and enthusiasm. With a resident-driven approach, Heart & Soul® towns rally community members to increase civic participation and create positive change. Listen in for ideas on keeping volunteers motivated and engaged for the long run.

Free! Thursday, July 27, 3-4 p.m. Eastern

Speakers:



Sara Lightner, senior associate, Orton Family Foundation. Before joining Orton, Sara worked with volunteers in the Peace Corps, where she was director of programming and training for the Eastern Caribbean and for Vanuatu in the

South Pacific. Sara managed volunteer training and project activities, ensuring that volunteers received the support needed to be successful.



Debbie Moreno, project coordinator, [Galesburg on Track](#). Debbie is a journalist, a poet, a parent, and an active volunteer—skills and experience that have transferred to her role as project coordinator of a Community Heart & Soul® project in Galesburg, Illinois. Debbie is devoted to effective communication with residents and has built a strong and dedicated group of volunteers that represent the broad range of perspectives.

Register now



Video: Mahoosuc Heart & Soul

Residents from the Western Maine towns of Bethel, Newry, Greenwood, and Woodstock came together for Mahoosuc Heart & Soul. As part of story gathering in Phase 2 of Community Heart & Soul, residents share stories about how they got there and why they stay.



This Volunteer Returned Home and Carries on a Legacy

Brittany Grimes returned to her hometown, Galesburg, Illinois, (pop. 31,600) and began volunteering for the town's Community Heart & Soul® project, [Galesburg on Track](#). The 31-year-old is inspired by her grandfather who was Galesburg's first African-American alderman.

“I think me trying to be a part of (Galesburg on Track) is almost, in essence, me replacing my grandfather’s space, because I know this would be something that he would want to be involved in,” Grimes said. “He’s had a large influence on a lot of individuals’ lives throughout this community. I’m just one of the many seeds he planted.”

Image: Galesburg on Track volunteer Brittany Grimes explains the day's tasks at a Community Heart & Soul summit meeting in Galesburg, Illinois, earlier this year.

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Volunteer Makes Town Better for Immigrant Kids

In small towns, when there's a need, it's often up to the community to come up with a solution. Or, if you're Laura Espinoza, five solutions. In the [Daily Yonder](#) Lorin Ditzler writes about how Espinoza saw a lack of support for immigrant students and their parents in her Iowa town and started five different programs to help folks navigate their way from primary school to college.

[Read more](#)



Inside Philanthropy Profiles Successful Alignment of Humanities with Heart & Soul

Can the humanities play a role in community development? Absolutely. Find out how in this [Inside Philanthropy feature](#) on how Orton's partnership with the [Pennsylvania Humanities Council](#) is pairing the humanities with community development to strengthen small cities and towns.

Image: Trompe l'oeil murals in downtown Williamsport, Pennsylvania, one of the towns where Orton and the Pennsylvania Humanities Council have partnered in a Community Heart & Soul project.

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Local Food: Secret Ingredient to Vibrant Downtowns

Catch this webinar from June 14 on how, in small towns, the local food movement is doing more than putting meals on plates—it is nourishing economies by keeping farms vital and downtowns alive. Presented with the [Citizens' Institute on Rural Design™](#).

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