



Laura Thrall

President & Chief Executive Officer Epilepsy Foundation

Board Membership of Interest

I am interested in serving on boards in women-focused industries located throughout the US.

Board Member Characteristics

For the past 22 years I have continuously served as a member and/or leader of a nonprofit board of directors and have been the chief executive of two nonprofit organizations. These board and staff positions have provided the opportunity for me to lead organizations through crisis, transformation, growth, and times of stability. In recent years, the lines between compliance and governance issues at the corporate and nonprofit levels have blurred substantially. The rigor with which we govern as board members--and are governed as nonprofit leaders by our boards, is nearly indistinguishable from our forprofit peers. I have had exhibited extraordinary, measurable leadership in both my board and staff roles, and believe I would be an exemplary board member given the right opportunity with the right corporation.

Company Profile

I am the Chief Executive Officer of the YWCA Metropolitan Chicago. We are a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation that provides services to low income women and families in Chicago, and the Western and Southern Suburbs of Chicago. Our annual budget is \$13,000,000 and in FY '07 we served almost 140,000 people through Sexual Violence and Support Services, Early Childhood Services, and Economic Empowerment Services. We operate 11 centers and employ over 160 people. We are the oldest and largest women focused human service agency and are considered among the largest and most reputable agencies in Chicago.

Functional Expertise

Strategic planning, general operations, leadership and staff development, marketing, fund development, cause-related marketing, brand marketing, board development, community relations, product and program development, change management, turn-arounds.

Current Professional Experience

I manage an annual P&L of \$13,000,000. Since coming to the YWCA in 2004 we achieved a balanced budget in FY '05, had a budget surplus in FY '06 (for the first time in over 20 years), but had an operating deficit in FY '07 due to the absorption of operating losses from the closure of our child care centers (although our audited financials show a net surplus due to favorable investment results). Our revenue sources include 63% govt. funding, with the remainder generated from private sources, fees, special events and investment income. I have bottom-line responsibility for raising all private funds annually, as well as raising an additional \$6.5 million in campaign funds.

Prior Professional Experience

Prior to coming to the YWCA, I ran the marketing communications consulting practice for Campbell & Company. The practice was a start up for the firm and I had minimal P&L responsibility. From 1997 - 2003, I led Starlight Children's Foundation Midwest, and then led Fund Development and Marketing for Starlight International. I had P&L responsibility for Midwest's budget and for the development budget for Starlight North America. Other INA