

Community Leadership: Best Practices for Brazos Valley  
Report for the Brazos Community Foundation  
**Executive Summary**  
May 7, 2008

This report was prepared as part of a graduate student capstone project at the George Bush School of Government and Public Service for our client, the Brazos Community Foundation (BCF). We believe the report has implications for the BCF and the broader nonprofit community in the Brazos Valley.

The project team identified ten potential community leadership roles based on best practices in the field and interests of the BCF. Students conducted interviews with 25 local nonprofit leaders, Texas A&M University representatives, as well as other community foundations to inform our recommendations.

After careful evaluation of data the group identified five community leadership roles with the most potential for implementation by the Brazos Community Foundation and the Brazos Valley at large. These roles received wide support, were feasible - based on available resources, and aligned with the mission and purpose of BCF. Students developed a series of action steps to provide guidance for the implementation of these roles. Through the interviews students discovered many opportunities for partnerships in implementing roles:

1. Nurture New Philanthropists
  - Bring together philanthropists
  - Education, cooperation, and mentoring of current and potential philanthropists
  - Matching donor interests with community needs
  - Find ways to keep money in the Brazos Valley
2. Nonprofit Excellence Awards
  - Create a Nonprofit Management Award
  - This award can be given at a Nonprofit Forum
  - Create a collaborative selection and review panel
3. Workshops and Trainings
  - Past Capstone nonprofit forums and workshops can be a basis for the future
  - Coordinate work with others
  - Provide opportunities for local trainings and workshops
4. Connect to University Resources
  - Further develop partnership with Bush School, Aggie Serve, etc.
  - Foster the creation networks between community and university entities
5. Nonprofit Resource Center
  - Participate in efforts to organize and develop a nonprofit resource center

The implementation of these action steps can help strengthen the capacity of regional nonprofits and improve the visibility of the Brazos Community Foundation.