



SISTERS OF CHARITY FOUNDATION
of South Carolina

Learning Academy

2009 Report Card



The Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina's Learning Academy works to leverage training and educational opportunities for the capacity building needs of nonprofit organizations serving the poor in South Carolina.

This report contains implementation and outcome data from the 2009 year of the Learning Academy.

Counties Represented by Workshop Participants

During 2009 there were 149 workshop participants representing 127 separate individuals and 103 nonprofit organizations from across South Carolina.

As shown in state map, over half of the counties in the state (56%) were represented by these individuals and organizations.

In 2010 the Learning Academy will incorporate a distance learning component, which will enhance its capacity to reach a statewide audience.



During 2009 the following Learning Academy workshops were conducted:

Communications & Marketing (CM)

Grant Writing Basics (GW)*

Evaluation 101 (EV)

Partnerships & Sustainability (PS)

Financial Management (FM)

Strategic Planning (SP)

Fund Raising Fundamentals (FR)

Team Skills (TS)

* Three sessions of Grant Writing Basics were conducted.

What participants are saying about the Learning Academy

"I am now inspired to research more grant makers and write my first grant proposal."

"This was an invaluable, can not be measured, learning experience."

"We have used the information that I gained to be a catalyst for our rebranding effort."

"The workshop presentation and tool kit are proving to be extremely valuable to my fledgling 501(c)3 organization."

"Thank you for offering this service to us. It was the most helpful workshop I have attended in 31 years of teaching."

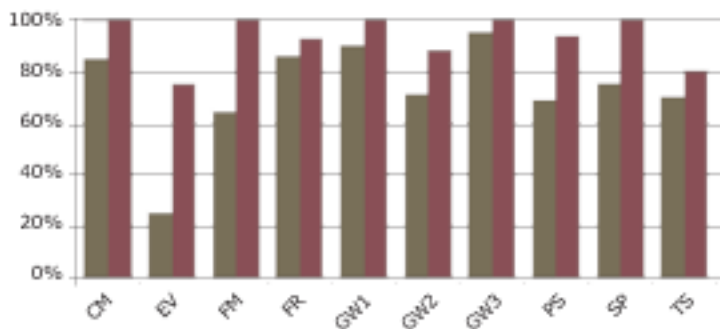
"My confidence level has soared in being able to comfortably dig in to this type of work."

Evaluation Methods and Outcomes

A comprehensive evaluation designed to assess **consumer satisfaction, knowledge gains and transfer** and **workshop outcomes** is a major component of the Learning Academy. Knowledge gains are assessed by a questionnaire administered at the conclusion of each workshop. A questionnaire, distributed three months later, assesses knowledge transfer and other workshop outcomes. Both the initial and follow-up questionnaires, as well as unsolicited testimonials, provide the consumer satisfaction data displayed throughout this report. It should be noted that the follow-up data in this report are incomplete as not all follow-ups have been conducted.

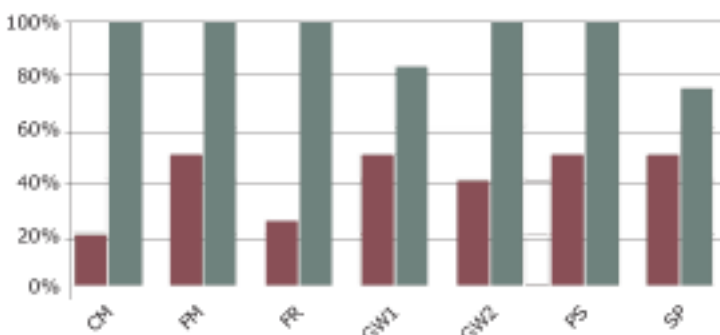
Knowledge Gains. Difference scores were calculated for items assessing level of participant confidence before and after the workshop on various content-related skills. Positive difference scores are indicative of knowledge gain, scores of zero indicate no change and negative scores suggest a drop in confidence as a result of the workshop. Positive difference scores predominated, and the incidence of negative difference scores was negligible. Figure A displays the lowest and highest proportion of participants reporting knowledge gains across the assessed content areas for each workshop. The data suggest significant knowledge gains across all of the workshops and content areas. Participants' comments to an additional item about what they "will now be able to do or do differently" further document knowledge gains from the workshops.

Figure A. Lowest and highest proportion of participants reporting knowledge gains across assessed content areas.



Outcome Attainment. Figure B displays the highest percentage of outcome attainment among the other checklist items for each workshop. For example, 50% of respondents edited or reformulated goals and/or objectives while 83% of respondents investigated new funding sources following the first Grant Writing Basics workshop. Overall, these data document high levels of outcome attainment among workshop participants.

Figure B. Lowest and highest level of outcome attainment reported among selected outcomes.



Knowledge Transfer and Workshop Outcomes. A checklist on the follow-up evaluation enables participants to indicate whether they have met any of ten outcomes anticipated for each workshop. Two of the checklist items assess knowledge transfer by asking whether participants have met with staff and the board, respectively, to discuss workshop-related issues. Figures C and D display the percentage of respondents having done so by workshop, and both figures depict significant levels of information exchange.

Figure C. Percentage of respondents who met with staff to discuss workshop content following the event.

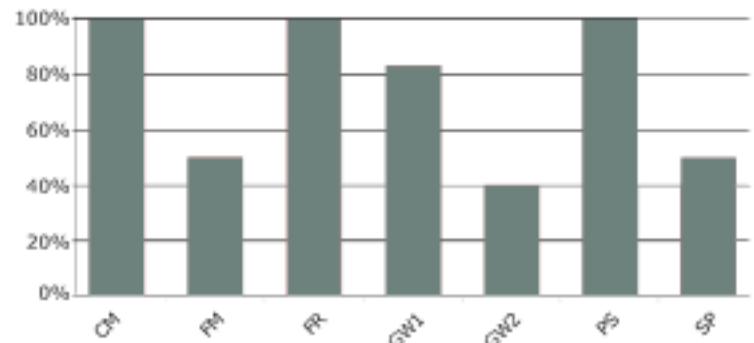
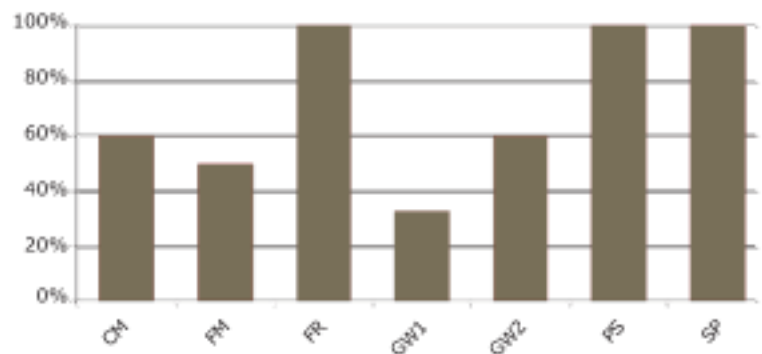


Figure D. Percentage of respondents who met with their board to discuss workshop content following the event.



Seventy-nine percent (79%) of follow-up survey respondents have recommended the workshop they attended to others.



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**For more information about the Learning Academy
visit the Foundation's Web site at sistersofcharitysc.com.**

A ministry of the Sisters of Charity Health System