

Be Bold
Create a **career** with impact.

Bold as a Career Choice
Journal



Time to Be Bold

We hope that the stories of the Echoing Green Fellows profiled in *Be Bold* hold some meaning and spark in you a desire to begin or further develop an exciting and meaningful career in the nonprofit sector. Working in the nonprofit sector means that you have made a commitment to seeking positive change in the world and to developing the tools and skills that will make this happen. From those who made dramatic career changes to pursue something more meaningful to those who take on tough issues despite the odds against them, the people profiled in *Be Bold* prove that there is no one path to your goal. There is only *your way*. However different the trajectories of the Echoing Green Fellows have been, all of them have gone about their journeys boldly. They have followed what's called them, confronted fear and moved beyond it, developed a personal vision for the way things could be in this world, and used their creativity to bring their visions to life.

Use their stories to create your own action plan for boldness. A *moment of obligation* challenges you to take responsibility for and commit to an issue that may seem overwhelming and difficult at first. The *gall to think big* allows you to ignore others' expectations and to create big solutions to vexing social problems. Pursuing *new and untested* ideas means thinking creatively and dreaming up new solutions to old problems. And finally, *seeing possibilities* means spotting opportunities before others and then enacting your unique vision for a better world.

Being Bold professionally in the nonprofit sector means fighting for change, standing up to what's wrong, and thinking creatively about how to make things right. **Being Bold** in your personal life means developing such a high level of self-awareness, self-knowledge, and self-mastery that you become your own best self. There truly is nothing more powerful than that! You link the two kinds of boldness by developing a vision for your unique place in the world and acting on it.

We suggest that you take the time to think about and answer the questions that are listed in the following pages. This process will help you get to know yourself better and identify ways in which you are already **Being Bold**. You can use this knowledge to develop a new, powerful direction for yourself.

Finding Solutions: New and Untested

New and untested is the process of innovating for the greater good. It is coming up with new ideas, new strategies, and new methodologies to tackle and solve tough problems. This requires a great deal of courage, in part because your new approach may challenge the status quo. *New and untested* is a different way of thinking. It requires you to question the way things *are* and imagine the way things *could be*. Answering the following questions can help you draw on your ability to innovate and be creative.

- 1. What are some of the most creative things you have done (could be anything—from a pottery project to organizing a rally)? What skills did you draw on to accomplish that creative thing?**

- 2. What is the biggest risk you have ever taken? This could be doing something new, putting yourself out there, taking an unpopular stance, or anything else you define as a risk. Was it worth it? How did taking the risk make you feel? What was the result?**

Visioning: Seeing Possibilities

Seeing possibilities first requires that you not walk away from or past a problem. Once you are committed to working on that problem, use your imagination to create solutions and envision what a world free of that problem would look like. At its core, *seeing possibilities* is about having hope and turning hope into action by developing your own personal vision of change in the world.

Work in the nonprofit sector can be very challenging. There is always more to be done. The tasks can seem endless and frustrating and the change incremental. But nonprofit work can also be exhilarating and fulfilling. It allows you to be involved in the important issues of the day and make a significant difference in the world. *Seeing possibilities* is the reason you get up every morning and the reason we all believe in a better tomorrow.

Here are some questions to explore.

- 1. Look back at what you have written thus far. Now answer: What do you wish for yourself, your community (however you define it), and the world? Include your thoughts on your professional career.**

- 2. Lay out the steps you need to take in order to achieve your professional vision.**

3. It takes most of us a lot of time to figure out what really captures our attention. Make a list of five experiences you will pursue in the next year to explore what your long-term focus might be.

4. When historians write your biography, what do you want them to say about you? For what do you want to be remembered?

Dare to Live Boldly

The questions in this chapter are meant to help you uncover your hopes, dreams, and passions. These are the sources of your power. If you choose to own this power, just imagine what you can accomplish. Nothing is beyond your reach, not even the ability to change the world.

Complete these statements:

My moment of obligation has led me to:

By acknowledging this moment of obligation, I have the gall to think big about:

If I were to act on my *gall* to think big and develop a new and untested idea, it would be:

If my *new and untested idea* were fully enacted, I see possibilities that the world would be better in the following ways:

Come back to your words often. They are your bold plan for creating a better world.