It hit 90 degrees in my part of the world this week. The columbines are blooming, the garden is in, and the lawn is lush enough to need a mow twice a week (much to my husband’s chagrin). The growth we mere mortals have witnessed in the last month is awesome and energizing. It reminds me of the good in the world, of opportunity, of the possibility of rejuvenation after challenge. It invigorates the heart and soul.

Similarly, you, my fellow grant professionals, move me. I learn something new every day from you. Our interactions on GPA’s LinkedIn Group or through the GPA #grantchat are stimulating and often hilarious, deep and sometimes moving. But what I see most among you is an abiding faith in service to one another, our nonprofits, and our communities. Through your words and actions, you cultivate the next generation of grant writers. Your gentle direction pushed our profession forward with integrity and credibility. So, I thank you, fellow members, for your commitment to the GPA and especially to one another.

This week, I witnessed myriad examples of your thoughtful service during a moderated #grantchat about the Grant Professionals Foundation. (Kudos to Diane Leonard, GPC and Jo Miller, GPC.) It was fun and enlightening to learn how members would like the Foundation to support them and what they see for the Foundation’s future. As a new member to the Foundation Board, I was especially interested in learning how deeply our membership understands the Foundation’s mission, which is in short: We support the education that provides knowledge to grant professionals, the advocacy that gives them greater access to funding, and the credentialing that establishes and promotes excellence in the field. And it’s clear that while many of the folks on the chat were familiar with some elements of the Foundation’s work, some (like me before I joined the Board) were unfamiliar with its total role. Thanks to those of you who joined us and offered your honest responses. We’ll use them to improve our marketing efforts, because like you the Foundation is committed to improving us as individuals and as a collection of dedicated professionals.

Shameless plug: If you haven’t already, please consider supporting the Grant Professionals Foundation as a Board member, committee volunteer, or donor.

I know we’ll keep growing this garden of grant professionals, but it’s only possible together. So let’s keep at it. I’ll take the hoe if you take the spade. Someone else grab the hose. We have more good work to do.