

## Don't Take Your Profession for Granted: #IGPD

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"I just kind of fell into it."

"They told me I was the new grant person."

"I'm just a grant writer."

You've heard it all before, right? Maybe you've even said it out loud once or twice. But these modest statements sell us short on the incredible impact that grant professionals have on the communities we serve.

Thanks to grant professionals across the country and around the world like you, money comes in to help people find a home, to keep dogs and cats safe, to develop life-saving medicines, to build safe playgrounds and walking trails and thousands of other things that make our communities better.

We sell ourselves short when we diminish our real worth. Let me be the first to say that I know very few grant professionals who will make the Forbes list, take their private jet to visit their next client or buy an NFL franchise. (If you are THAT grant professional, please contact me as soon as possible!) But I've met hundreds of dedicated, hard-working, compassionate people at my local Grant Professionals Association chapter meetings, regional workshops, and national conferences who have helped improve the lives of so many through their skills at prospect research, grant writing, grant management, and everything in between.

Through the Grant Professionals Association, I remain honored to meet, learn from, and laugh with talented, caring people who "get" what I do. These friends and colleagues have helped grow my own career of nearly 20 years. (I started writing grants as a five-year-old in clear violation of child labor laws) through their invaluable knowledge and insight. I'm sure I'm not alone in this experience and sense of gratitude.

Now we have a way to show the world how these skills and talent can change lives:  
[International Grant Professionals Day and Week.](#)

From a very unscientific longitudinal survey I've personally conducted whenever I've thought about it (perhaps over a glass of wine at a GPA National Conference opening reception), I've found that many grant professionals call themselves introverts, myself included. Sure we can get out there and present, lead meetings, and even work a room if we have to, but many of us do our best work alone with a computer and Wi-Fi. And sometimes this means we are not the

best at tooting our own horns about the positive changes we help bring about in the world. For a quick refresher as to the impressive impacts grant professionals have in our community, look no further than the [Grant Professional Foundation's Impact Survey](#).

After you've finished patting yourself on the back in the privacy of your own cubicle, why not consider how to go public with the great news of how grant professionals help change the world for the better? Why not start tweeting and posting about International Grant Professionals Day using the #IGPD hashtag? It's super easy, and you don't even have to leave your desk.

And because most of us didn't grow up dreaming of being a grant professional, and maybe fell into it or were told we were writing grants before we truly knew what it meant—why not honor the grant professionals who were and are your mentors [by donating in their honor](#) to the Grant Professionals Foundation? There's even a special *I Heart Grant Professionals* page for you to do just that.

Whether you “fell” into grant writing or have pursued it obsessively since infancy (bless your heart) your gift to the Grant Professionals Foundation helps provide access to the tools, education and networking that helps make a positive change in our world. Your gift helps grant professionals earn credentials, stay up-to-date on philanthropic trends, and learn new skills. Let's show the world that stronger grant writers create more good.

Happy #IGPD and Week, and many more!