

# ATTACHMENT 5

## CHARACTERISTICS OF A GOOD BOARD MEMBER

### A good board member:

1. Is **dependable**. He/she can be counted on to attend all meetings, to prepare in advance for meetings, and to follow through on assignments.
2. **Participates fully**. He/she participates actively in board discussions and volunteers for committees or activities associated with the board.
3. Is a **strategic thinker**. He/she understands the board's role in guiding the NPO strategically and providing high level oversight. He/she knows that it is not the board's role to micromanage staff.
4. Is **committed**. He/she has a genuine interest in the NPO's work, and is willing to stay up-to-date in developments concerning the NPO and the issues with which it is involved.
5. Has **high integrity**. He/she is trustworthy, and can be counted on to protect the confidentiality of information provided to the board. He/she avoids any potential conflicts of interest, and immediately reports any involvement that could be construed as a conflict of interest. He/she always puts the interests of the NPO first.
6. Is **willing to learn**. He/she is willing to learn new skills (for example fundraising) as part of being on the board.
7. Is **flexible**. He/she can work well with other people, even those whose opinions and styles differ from their own.
8. Is an **ambassador**. He/she is an ambassador for the NPO in the community, making people aware of the NPO and its importance.