



## passion, partnerships, purpose

In uncertain times, relationships are everything. Nonprofits are navigating leadership changes, shifting funding landscapes, and the need to secure revenue beyond grants. Now more than ever, staying connected to what drives you, the people you serve, and those who support your work isn't just valuable – it's essential.

Did you know an octopus has [three hearts](#)? Nonprofits do too – one for your **purpose and mission**, one for the **people you serve**, and one for the **partners who make it possible**. We're diving into ways to strengthen all three.

### Heart #1: Passion

Keeping your team anchored in mission—driven by curiosity, resilience, and a deep sense of purpose.

Read >> [15 Strategies For Keeping Nonprofit Teams Connected And Motivated](#)

### Heart #2: Partnerships

Reaching further, strengthening the connections that sustain your work while cultivating connections that open new possibilities.

Read >> [Relationship-Building Checklist for Nonprofits](#)

### Heart #3: Purpose

Staying steady and focused, even in uncertain waters, always guided by what matters most.

Watch >> [Leading with Purpose TED Talk with Joan Garry](#)



## celebrating our partners

This month, in the spirit of **Galentines**, we're celebrating the incredible women-led organizations we're proud to work with—those who build, lead, and strengthen their communities every day.

- **Chesterfield Colonial Heights Alliance for Social Ministry (CCHASM)** – Providing food and utility assistance to individuals and families in crisis.
- **Jacob's Chance** – Creating inclusive opportunities for youth and adults with disabilities.
- **Virginia Local News Project (VLNP)** – Supporting and growing independent local journalism in every Virginia community.
- **Richmond Volleyball Club (RVC)** – Building community by expanding access to sport.
- **Meg Stone & IMPACT Boston** – Leading innovative violence prevention and self-defense programs.



## honoring black history month

As we close out this month, we acknowledge the leadership that has shaped our communities, fueled by the resilience, vision, and strength of Black people. From social justice movements to innovative businesses, Black leaders have consistently **broken barriers, created opportunities, and made lasting change**. Their dedication is a reminder that leadership is not just about positions of power, but about the courage to build, challenge, and transform. At Blue Octopus, we're inspired by this legacy and the ongoing work to create a more just, inclusive world.

## upcoming events



### The Cost of Fear Book Event

Why is most safety advice outdated—and often sexist? Join us for a thought-provoking book discussion with Meg Stone, author of *The Cost of Fear*, on Thursday, February 27 at Fountain Bookstore.

I'LL BE THERE



### Pickleball Tournament

Don't miss the Jacob's Chance Classic on Saturday, March 8! Round Robin pickleball tournament with Men's, Women's, Mixed Doubles, and Inclusive Divisions. All proceeds benefit [Jacob's Chance!](#)

COUNT ME IN



### VPA Conference

Save the Date for the Virginia Press Association Conference on Saturday, April 12. Dynamic sessions and hands-on training at a conference dedicated to shaping the future of journalism.

TELL ME MORE



## women-owned business

We're officially [SWaM-certified](#), reinforcing our commitment to increasing access and opportunities in business and the nonprofit sector. As a women-owned business, this certification expands opportunities for us to collaborate with nonprofits, government agencies, and mission-driven businesses seeking certified vendors for full-service solutions.



let's chat

