

# NONPROFITS

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Gay and Lesbian Center, also advised volunteering. “Let people see that you’re enthusiastic and have zeal for the work and that you’re willing to do the grunt work, not just the rewarding parts,” she said.

Myrow suggested the Center for Nonprofit Management in Los Angeles as an “excellent” place to research job opportunities. “I recently advised an L.A. Youth alum looking for nonprofit employment to narrow her focus on areas of interest and make a list of organizations that meet her goals,” she said. “Send a query letter to the organization, along with a brief résumé.”

## NONPROFIT PAYOFFS

St. John said she receives vast rewards from her work. “The center makes a huge

difference in people’s lives and, in fact, saves the lives of homeless youth, people with HIV/AIDS and many others,” she said. “For many people who spent a lot of their lives in secrecy and isolation, the center helps them become part of a community.”

For L.A. Youth’s Fricano, the rewards are about the students. “Their energy, optimism and curiosity is highly contagious,” he said.

Annie Goeke, co-director of Earth Rights Institute based in the nonprofit’s West Coast office in Santa Monica, said that the greatest reward in her work “is seeing the hope we bring to people who have felt neglected and isolated.”

The Earth Rights Institute initiates and supports programs to reduce poverty and dramatically improve the quality of life in distressed rural and urban communities. “We help build

living models of sustainability with our partners, mainly in Africa,” said Goeke. “We organize shipments of donations for educational, medical and sustainable development purposes and we work on new economic policies to help build a fair economy worldwide.”

Goeke said travel, rather than formal training, was a key factor in preparing for her work.

“I started early as a student of life by traveling and living in different countries such as Kenya, Malaysia, American Samoa, France and other places,” she said. “I never had any formal training regarding the position I have in my organization. Instead, I had many years being active in various movements.”

EduCare’s Semigran agreed that life experience has been his best training. “College prepared me for the world, the world prepared me to be of service in a nonprofit organization.”