

TWO MINUTES WITH

Ann Marie Thigpen**Director, The Long Island Center
for Nonprofit Leadership**

The Long Island Center for Nonprofit Leadership, housed in the School of Social Work at Adelphi University, counsels nonprofits on transitions of leadership at nonprofits, holds seminars and workshops, provides resources for current executives and scouts talent for Island nonprofits. Ann Marie Thigpen has been director since the beginning.

What is the state of nonprofits on Long Island today? The numbers are growing, but they're starting to feel the impact of retirements. There's a leadership deficit looming. A challenge to overcome is that compensation at nonprofits is not always the best combined with the fact that the cost of living on Long Island is particularly high.

What qualities are essential for an executive at a nonprofit? All the characteristics that are important for a leader of a for-profit company, but you need additional qualities such as more flexibility and adaptability.

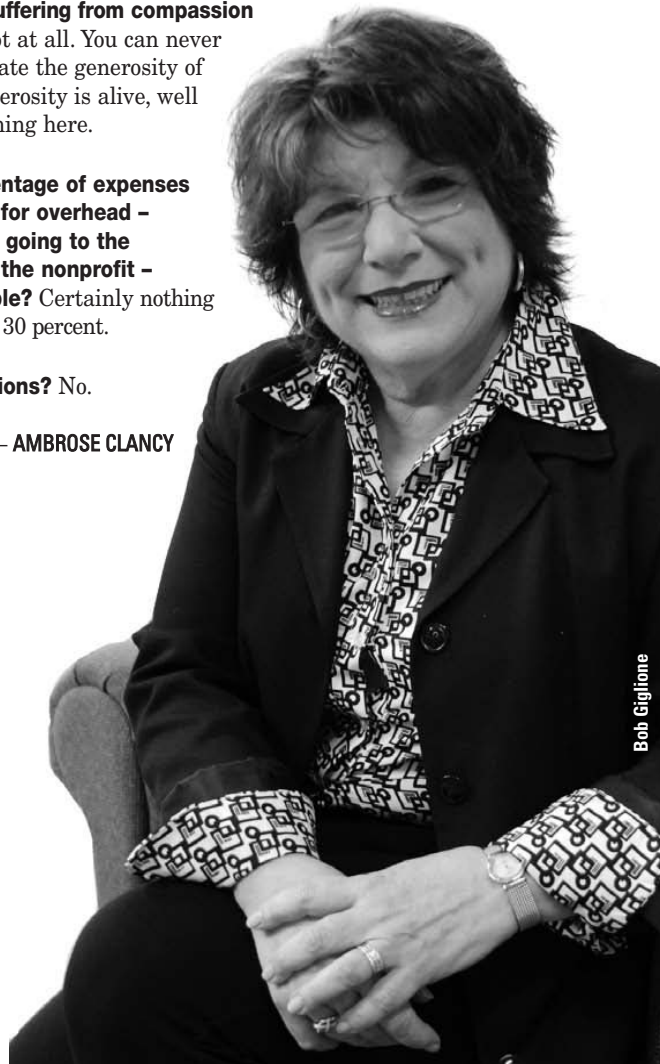
Are there any governmental directives helping nonprofits? The Sarbanes-Oxley Act demands transparency, openness and accountability, which has helped, because the more transparent you can be the better. I encourage every nonprofit to post its 990s (not-for-profit tax forms) on its Web sites. Don't make anyone search for them.

With the number of nonprofits here, are Long Islanders suffering from compassion fatigue? Not at all. You can never underestimate the generosity of people. Generosity is alive, well and flourishing here.

What percentage of expenses earmarked for overhead – rather than going to the purpose of the nonprofit – is acceptable? Certainly nothing higher than 30 percent.

Any exceptions? No.

– AMBROSE CLANCY



Bob Giglione