



Community Involvement Contributes to a Well-Rounded Career

Managing a career in public accounting is all about balance. Balance between work and home. Balance between maintaining relationships with current clients and building new ones. Balance between taking home a steady paycheck and giving back to the community.

“Freed Maxick & Battaglia wouldn’t be Western New York’s largest public accounting firm without this community, and we feel very strongly that it’s our responsibility to give something back,” said the Firm’s HR Director, Julie Becht. “There are so many wonderful community organizations in Western New York, and we are proud of our affiliation with a number of them.”

Partners and employees of Freed Maxick & Battaglia (FMB) serve on the Boards for a variety of organizations, ranging from health-related (such as the Alzheimers Association, the American Diabetes Association, and Roswell Park Cancer Institute) to education-related (such as Niagara University’s Advisory Council, SUNY at Buffalo’s School of Management Alumni Association (SOMAA) and Canisius College’s Council of Accountancy.)

“Volunteering has always been important to me because I think people have a calling to serve,” said Kathy Carey, a Firm partner whose volunteer work currently includes serving as Dean of the Saturn Club and Treasurer of the Board of Managers for the Museum of Science, as well as serving on the CPA advisory committee at her church and the Fee Dispute Arbitration Panel for the Erie County Bar. “It could be a charitable, social, business or human services organization that you serve on, but they all have one thing in common: they could not survive without help from volunteers. Helping the organization helps the community which ultimately helps people. And that’s what life should be all about.”

The Firm’s Marketing Supervisor, Mac Hartman, currently serves as Treasurer on the Board for the Taste of Buffalo. “Playing a role in a major community event is a rewarding experience,” he said. “I have the opportunity to work with a great group of people to plan a diverse and fun weekend each year. The entire event is run by volunteers, so without them, the Taste- which has become a staple of summer in Western New York- would not be possible.”

“Volunteering gives people new experiences to bring to the workplace,” said Jill Hausrath, a manager at the Firm who spends time volunteering at UB, as well as at a local middle school, where she educates students on pursuing a career in public accounting. “In addition to helping others, volunteering is a great way to get to know people in the community and learn from them. I have been in Buffalo for seven years, but I feel like I have lived here my whole life, partly because my volunteer work gives me a real sense of fitting into this community.”

Howard Rein, a Firm partner who serves on the Executive Committee for the Jewish Center of Greater Buffalo, agrees: “Volunteer work is vital to the betterment of this community. Nonprofit organizations don’t have sufficient funding and staffing to deliver their mission and services without volunteers, so their success requires involvement and leadership at all levels.”

FMB’s involvement goes beyond participation in community organizations; the firm also believes in recognizing the success of others. Therefore, in 2003, FMB and Business First co-founded the only Western New York Business Leadership Awards, which were created to showcase leaders from all parts of the business community. “While recognizing the past successes of individual leaders, we also hope to create motivation for the leaders of tomorrow, making the community stronger,” said John Kropski, CPA and the Firm’s Marketing Director.

The consensus of the Firm’s employees is clear: volunteering is an important factor in any well-rounded individual, for both personal and professional reasons. “Besides the rewards of knowing you are helping others, there are the benefits of working with a variety of individuals that you wouldn’t normally have the opportunity to interact with in another business setting,” explained Becht. “This, combined with knowing your skills and talents are being put to good use for a good cause, will help any professional achieve more balance in his or her career.”

FMB is based in Buffalo, and has offices in Batavia and Rochester. **For more information about building a career at Freed Maxick & Battaglia, CPAs, PC, visit their web site at freedmaxick.com.**