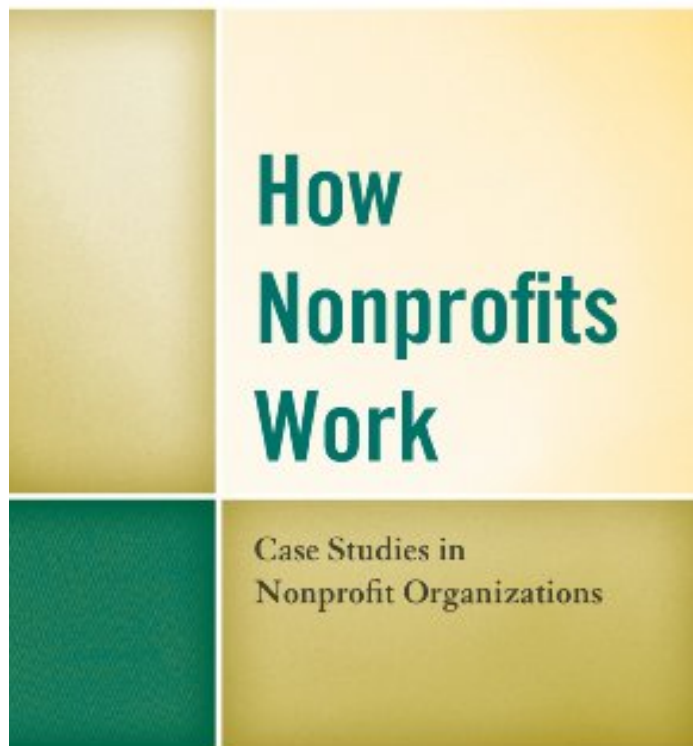


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# How Nonprofits Work: Case Studies in Nonprofit Organizations

*Grace Budrys PhD Professor Emerita Sociology and MPH Program DePaul University  
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**Grace Budrys PhD Professor Emerita Sociology and MPH Program DePaul University : How Nonprofits Work: Case Studies in Nonprofit Organizations** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised How Nonprofits Work: Case Studies in Nonprofit Organizations:

How Nonprofits Work looks at nonprofit organizations through a sociological lens, identifying characteristics that make some nonprofits successful and characteristics that cause challenges, focusing on nonprofits in the health services sector. The book opens with helpful background information about nonprofit organizations, then shares case studies that take readers more deeply into the challenges and successes of various organizations. Given the trials nonprofits face in the current economic climate, this timely book helps readers move beyond the good intentions in nonprofits to find successful practices.

Budrys puts empirical flesh on the bones of theory with lively, in-depth case studies of how nonprofit organizations operate, delving into their mission, history, structure, funding, and evaluation. (Woods Bowman, DePaul University) In the highly readable language of someone who has thoroughly investigated and understands her subject matter, Dr. Grace Budrys provides a robust introduction to the nonprofit sector for both proponents and critics and for those new to or conversant with this sector. (Susan M. Sanders, vice president of administration and planning professor of public policy, Saint Xavier University, Chicago) This book will make a valuable contribution to those in the nonprofit field who are interested in a framework that can be used to assess their own organizations and/or others that exist in the field. Students who are preparing for and seeking volunteer, internship, or employment opportunities in the nonprofit sector will find this book to be a helpful guide into that world. And, instructors should use it in prepping students for those experiences. In addition, this book could be useful to philanthropic entities who have longed for a readable, non-jargon-laden discussion of nonprofit organizations of varying types that seek them out for funding. (Michael Bennett, DePaul University) Budrys' readable, sociological presentation of the nonprofit sector is one of the best I've read. She escapes the managerial perspective that dominates most research on nonprofit organizations. She has a strong theoretical voice, gives a thorough review of the literature, and offers an accurate statement of key ideas. This would be a fine book to use in an undergraduate or beginning graduate course. (Carl Milofsky, Bucknell University; former editor, *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*) In a very readable prose, Budrys shows how the case study method can be employed to effectively illustrate pressures faced by U.S. non-profits to sustain themselves and pursue their missions within an increasingly competitive fundraising environment. Through a careful comparative analysis of nonprofits social service providers, the reader is given a window into the primary vulnerabilities and challenges faced by these organizations as they struggle to deliver services, fundraise, and evaluate themselves. How Nonprofits Work poses critical questions about the stability and future of a central institution of the U.S. social safety net. (Howard Rosing, DePaul University) Budrys (sociology, DePaul Univ.) provides a highly accessible presentation of nonprofits that should appeal to libraries collecting for social work programs. The author's use of bullet points, enumeration, and plain language will be welcome to social work students who typically read works that are far more theoretical during their studies. Budrys makes use of annual reports, websites, and "extensive interviews," Overall, a pragmatic and focused set of case studies sure to engage readers. Summing Up: Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates and above (CHOICE) About the Author Grace Budrys is professor of sociology and Director of the Master of Public Health Program at DePaul University. She is the author of several books, including *Unequal Health: How Inequality Contributes to Health or Illness* and *Our Unsystematic Health Care System*.