

## **Rewarding Interim Experiences**

Sharon G. Hamilton, PhD

Since retiring from the United Way of Forsyth County, NC, I've had the opportunity to do two interim assignments as CFO for the Trident United Way in Charleston, SC and the United Way of Palm Beach in Boynton Beach, FL. Both assignments lasted twelve weeks. In both, I was filling as CFO while the organization searched for a new CFO.

Serving in this capacity was a great experience for several reasons:

- it let me reconnect with a local United Way on a professional level by getting back in to the day to day work that goes on;
- it was a way to keep up with the changes that are taking place in the field;
- it gave me the opportunity to meet and make friends with colleagues in the field;
- it gave me an opportunity to explore other areas of the country;
- and finally, and most important for me, it allowed me to help give back to the organization in which I spent my working career.

One of the things I reconnected with through this experience is the help and support that United Way employees across the country provide to their colleagues. In both assignments, I had the need to call on professionals in United Ways around the county to get some issues clarified and everyone I called on was unfailingly helpful. It's nice to know that the system still operates in this way.

I recommend to fellow professionals that you take advantage of the chance to serve in an interim capacity with a local United Way if you have the opportunity. I know you will find it a rewarding experience.

I look forward to having other opportunities to serve in this capacity and thank the UWRA for helping facilitate this program.