

Our Ark
CODE OF ETHICS

Mission Statement

The mission is to break the cycle of homelessness for street youth and young adults that empower independence and hope for security, personal safety and opportunity for change.

Given its mission, Our Ark has adopted a code of ethics to guide its board of directors, committee members, staff and volunteers in their conduct when acting on behalf of Our Ark. The Code contains broad principles reflecting the types of behavior Our Ark expects towards constituents, donors, employees, peers and the public.

The policy is not intended as a stand-alone policy. It does not embody the totality of Our Ark ethical standards, nor does it answer every ethical question or issue that might arise. Rather, it is one element of a broader effort to create and maintain a quality organization that gives conduct the highest priority. This Code will be reviewed periodically.

Board members, committee members, staff and volunteers should:

1. Listen to our stakeholders and make all reasonable efforts to satisfy their needs and concerns within the scope of our mission, and to strive for excellence and innovation and demonstrate professional respect and responsiveness to constituents, donors and others.
2. Make an effort to understand, respect, and support our constituents from other cultures, exemplified by the contributions of our staff and executive leadership, and to contribute to an organizational culture that respects the diverse, individual contributions of staff and leadership.
3. Respect the confidentiality of sensitive information about Our Ark, its members, constituents, donors, board and employees.
4. Comply with applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations and fiduciary responsibilities in an effort to create transparency in all of our operations.
5. For the board of directors, provide credible and effective oversight to the organization's work without personal bias.
6. Not accept commissions, gifts, payments, loans, promises of future benefits or other items of value from anyone who has or may seek some benefit from Our Ark in return, other than occasional gifts of nominal value that are in keeping with good business ethics.
7. Abide by the governing documents and policies of Our Ark.

8. Be accountable for adhering to this Code of Ethics.
9. Implement and follow a nonprofit industry policies including, but not limited to, Anti-Discrimination, Compensation, Conflict of Interest, Document Retention and Destruction, Financial/Fiscal, Gift Acceptance, and Whistleblower policies.
10. Act at all times in accordance with the highest ethical standards and in the best interest of the Our Ark, its members, constituents, donors and reputation.
11. Openly and honestly tell the truth.
12. Honor our commitments and promises to the best of our abilities.
13. Appropriately acknowledge contributions from other individuals and organization who help facilitate our goals
14. Not be deceptive in our fundraising activities or in prospecting for new members to join the Our Ark.
15. Not lobby with the intent to influence individual candidates

Compliance Monitoring and Reporting of Code of Ethics

Our Ark management is responsible for communicating this Code of Ethics to all members of the board of directors, standing committee members, staff, interns, staff volunteers, and all volunteers of the organization.