

# SHIRA TARANTINO

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## Snapshot

Global non-profit leader in fundraising and development, specializing in fundraising, RFP grant writing, strategic development, and cause-marketing. Mission: To seek sustainable solutions with meaningful results.

## Impact

Raised over \$2,000,000 for non-profits from foundation funds, individual donations & private philanthropy

Created individual donor campaigns; increased donor base

Promoted organizational growth

Increased community awareness of organizational missions

## Social

Twitter [@HandfastingsOrg](https://twitter.com/HandfastingsOrg)

LinkedIn [/shiratarantino](https://www.linkedin.com/company/shiratarantino)

Website [ShiraTarantino.com](http://ShiraTarantino.com)

## Experience

### The ENOUGH Campaign, *Stamford, CT*

Co-founder and Development Lead

December 14, 2012 - present

Civic Action Group dedicated to preventing gun violence

- Organize and network with people in Stamford and greater Fairfield County in support of gun violence prevention
- Co-organize events such as annual Stamford Vigil of Hope, WearOrange Day, March For Our Lives Stamford, voter registration, local rallies/protests, etc.
- Create monthly (currently as-needed) newsletter to disseminate information about local, state and federal gun violence prevention initiatives, events, and programs
- Write op-eds and edit other volunteers' op-eds and letters to the editor
- Created organization's first annual report
- Collaborate with other local organizations, civic groups, and Mayor's office for maximum impact
- Participate in and encourage community to attend town halls and local events
- Delegate specific responsibilities to volunteers
- Speak at events and/or find speakers for events
- Mediate brainstorming sessions in support of collaboration and conceiving strategies and ideas
- Co-lead social media campaign: The ENOUGH Campaign has grown to more than 1,100 "Likes" on Facebook ([facebook.com/TheEnoughCampaign](https://facebook.com/TheEnoughCampaign)) and nearly 5,300 followers on Twitter ([twitter.com/enoughcampaign1](https://twitter.com/enoughcampaign1))

### Stamford Pediatric Gun Safety Project (in beta), *Stamford, CT*

Founder, January 2017

As a student project of the Stamford Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI), this project was created to collect and analyze empirical evidence of the barriers that Stamford pediatricians face while providing anticipatory guidance on firearm safety. [pediatricgunsafety.org](http://pediatricgunsafety.org)

## Interests

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Women's and LGBTQ Rights

Gun Violence Prevention

Civic Engagement

Racial Justice & Equity

Equal, Accessible Education & Healthcare

Religious Freedom of Individuals

## Strengths

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- Building long-term relationships
- Securing corporate support & major gifts
- Creating strategy for sustainability
- Excellent verbal & written communication
- Community organizing

## Education

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*PLTI, Stamford Parent Leadership Training Institute*

Certificate - June 2017, Awarded by Mayor of Stamford in partnership with Stamford Public Education Foundation (SPEF)

*Fashion Institute of Technology, State University of New York*

A.A.S. in Advertising and Communications - May 1993  
Major Studies: Marketing, Journalism and Public Relations  
Certificate in Fashion Design - May 1991 with focus on Color Theory and Market Trends

## Parent Faculty Organization, Stark Elementary School, Stamford, CT

Volunteer, 2014 to present

- Fundraise for various events in support of neighborhood Stamford public elementary school
- Instructed Learning to Look Program for fourth grade students
- Wrote grant proposal and subsequently awarded laptops for students in need by Siena Lending Group
- Social Media Coordinator
- Volunteer Coordinator
- Marketing Lead, Starry Night Gala Committee

## I Vote Gun Safety Campaign, 2014 elections

Social Media Coordinator

- Raised the "I Vote Gun Safety" ([twitter.com/votegunsafety](https://twitter.com/votegunsafety)) social media profile to more than 700 social media followers during the 2014 elections in support of the I Vote Gun Safety Political Action Committee
- Impact; While the IVGS PAC is not currently active, its social media campaign lives on in support of voting #GunSafety and civic involvement in the prevention gun violence and is actively growing, with an expanded reach of more than 3,000 followers.

## Handfastings Media and Publications, Westchester, NY and Stamford, CT

Founder and CEO of [Handfastings.org](http://Handfastings.org) and [Handfastings Magazine](http://Handfastings Magazine)  
May 2004 - 2016

- Created and operated the website [Handfastings.org](http://Handfastings.org), the first of its kind dedicated to linking ordained officiants who perform handfastings, wedding ceremonies and other rites of passage and celebrations with people in the Pagan and Wiccan communities.
- Created Handfastings Magazine, publication on the subject
- Networked with handfasting officiants from around the world
- Expanded database of listed officiants from ten to more than 100 worldwide
- Led public relations efforts to support a new worldview of betrothal customs to be inclusive of the LGBTQA community
- Developed and maintained websites and led social media
- Wrote and published supplemental newsletter
- Communicated with listed officiants and potential clients
- Edited publications, wrote and researched articles

## *The Greater Contribution, Thousand Oaks, CA (remote)*

Consultant, volunteer  
January - March 2008

- Created strategic action plan
- Provided executive director with materials and resources for fundraising and strategic planning
- Advised organization on strategies of long-term sustainability, fundraising and financial transparency
- Created recommendations of overall organizational growth and stability
- Assisted in the development of a more streamlined mission, specific goals, and vision

## *Woolston-Steen Theological Seminary, Index, WA (remote)*

Instructor  
January 2008 - September 2008

Sponsored by the established Aquarian Tabernacle Church, the Woolston-Steen Theological Seminary is one of the first accredited seminaries in the U.S. dedicated to Pagan theology and Wiccan studies - and the first of its kind to offer live online classes with audio/visual teacher-student interaction. Class curriculum built around the esoteric book, Natural Magic by Doreen Valiente.

- Taught class on Natural Magic, Valiente's theory, the history of, and its modern applications
- Worked with students to establish an understanding of and practical use of Natural Magic
- Worked with Dean of Students in developing a curriculum

## *Dress for Success Worldwide, New York City*

Director of Development  
2004 - 2007

- Acted as team leader along with directors of corporate philanthropy, special events and in-kind contributions
- Directed America's Charities national workplace-giving campaign for Worldwide and its eighty national and international affiliated non-profit organizations, including distribution of donations to affiliates
- Managed relationships with foundations and non-profit referral programs
- Created three-year strategic fundraising plans
- Researched and wrote grant proposals, qualitative and quantitative reports
- Created fundraising tools for affiliates; aid affiliates in editing proposals; communicate funding opportunities to affiliates
- Managed speaking engagements and corporate volunteer fairs
- Created cause-marketing opportunities with corporations; oversaw and edited public relations, marketing, and program documents including internal and external worldwide newsletters, annual report and financial handbook for clients
- Oversaw and direct work of development associate

### IMPACT:

- + Raised almost \$1,400,000 in foundation funds and in-kind donations
- + Increased foundation funds by more than 300% during first year
- + Created organization's first individual donor campaign; increased donor base by 25%
- + Increased budget from \$4,000,000 to more than \$7,000,000 in one year

## Eviction Intervention Services, *New York City*

Director of Development

1997 - 2004

- Managed all aspects of development department and its staff, interns, and volunteers
- Secured funds to support program initiatives through grant proposals and funding requests
- Researched, identified, solicited, cultivated and retained major donors through various funding prospects
- Developed strategic liaisons with business, government and community resources
- Represented organization through television, print and online media

### IMPACT:

- + Raised more than \$500,000 annually
- + Promoted the growth of the organization by increasing the budget by 20%
- + Increased private philanthropy and community awareness of organizational mission

## National Organization for Women - NYC, The Founding Chapter, *New York City*

Supervisor of Fundraising

1995 - 1997

- Supervised and coordinated busy fundraising staff
- Raised funds for women's advocacy group
- Informed fundraisers of current events and relevant issues
- Facilitated the coordination of fundraising events
- Maintained large computerized database of contributors

### IMPACT:

- + Implemented successful campaign to support the national Violence Against Women Act
- + Reached out to more than 12,000 constituents in New York City

## Other Volunteering

### Board Member, CT Against Gun Violence, *July 2018 - present*

Dedicated to ending gun violence in Connecticut through the development and passage of gun safety legislation

### Volunteer, League of Women Voters Stamford, *July 2018 - present*

Grassroots network to make democracy work for all citizens through the promotion of voting and civic engagement

### Community Organizer, New York Public Interest Research Group, *1992*

Advocating and raising funds for local environmental projects; lobbying for stronger environmental laws