



Ryan Dewey Smith

Executive Leader. Nonprofit Innovator. Author.

About Ryan



Ryan Dewey Smith is a nationally recognized nonprofit innovator, executive leader, and founder of Inperium, a corporate system built to strengthen and scale mission-driven organizations. With more than 30 years of experience in human services leadership, Ryan has built, restructured, and stabilized organizations serving vulnerable populations across the country.

As the architect of Inperium's constellation model, Ryan challenges traditional nonprofit structures by introducing disciplined capital deployment, shared services, and professional governance to an often-fragile sector. His work is grounded in lived operational experience, blending a caregiver's empathy with an entrepreneur's discipline.

Ryan is the author of *Sustaining the Mission* and a sought-after speaker for leaders navigating growth, financial pressure, governance complexity, and long-term organizational resilience.

For more about Inperium visit: Inperium.org



Keynote Topics

Sustaining the Mission

How to Build Organizations That Endure

- ◇ Why most mission-driven organizations fail at scale
 - ◇ The hidden cost of undercapitalization and weak systems
 - ◇ Designing durability without compromising values
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Innovation Through Collaboration

Why the Future Belongs to Aligned Systems, Not Isolated Organizations

- ◇ The constellation model vs. traditional networks
 - ◇ Shared services, governance, and scale as force multipliers
 - ◇ How collaboration creates resilience in uncertain environments
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Leadership Beyond Passion

Replacing Fragility with Stewardship

- ◇ Why passion alone is not a strategy
 - ◇ Leading through financial and operational pressure
 - ◇ Making hard decisions in service of long-term mission impact
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From Caregiver to CEO

Lessons from the Front Lines of Human Services

- ◇ Leadership shaped by lived operational experience
- ◇ Building trust with teams in complex environments
- ◇ Bridging empathy and accountability



Ryan's speaking style is direct, grounded, and pragmatic. He avoids buzzwords and platitudes in favor of clear frameworks, real-world examples, and hard-earned insight. Audiences leave with practical perspective, renewed clarity, and a deeper understanding of what it takes to lead durable, mission-driven organizations. His talks balance strategy and substance, offering both big-picture thinking and operational reality.



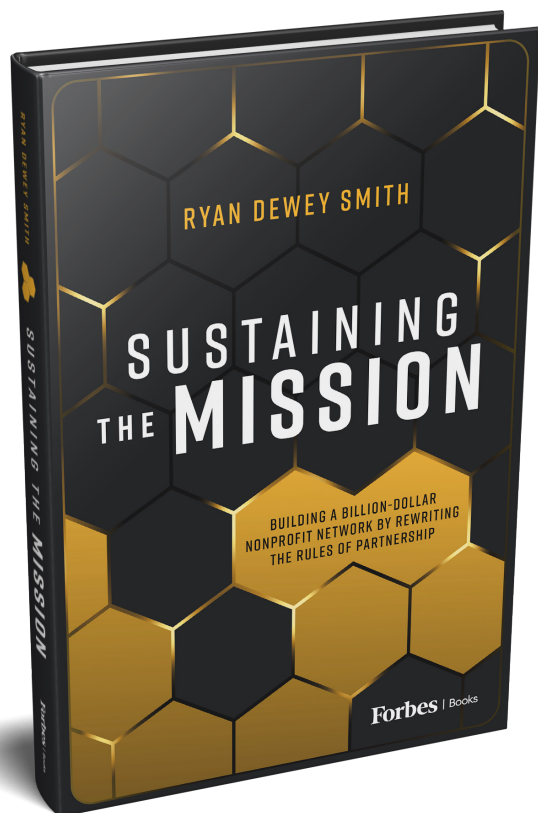
Ryan speaks to:

- ◆ Executive leadership teams
- ◆ Boards of directors
- ◆ Nonprofit and human services conferences
- ◆ Philanthropic and funder gatherings
- ◆ Social impact and innovation forums



Sustaining The Mission: Building a Billion-Dollar Nonprofit Network By Rewriting The Rules of Partnership

By Ryan Dewey Smith



In *Sustaining the Mission*, Ryan Dewey Smith shares the story and work behind one of the most ambitious nonprofit consolidation efforts in the U.S.

Smith's tactical guide draws from real organizations navigating affiliation, scale, and operational transformation. With a blend of personal disclosure and action-ready strategies,

Sustaining the Mission shows how to grow with speed while protecting the mission at the center. Whether you're a nonprofit professional, executive, board member, policymaker, or investor, this book will give you the tools to lead in complex systems and win with integrity.

Sustaining the Mission by Ryan Dewey Smith is publishing September 22, 2026 with Forbes Books.



Testimonials for

Sustaining the Mission

“In 50 years working across the nonprofit sector, I’ve never encountered a book with this level of operational transparency and strategic clarity... Ryan Dewey Smith documents a genuinely innovative approach to organizational sustainability... the rare book that nonprofit CEOs and boards will reference for years.”

— **Denver Frederick | Host, *The Business of Giving***

“At a moment when the organizations we depend on... are under pressure from every direction, Ryan Dewey Smith offers something rare: a proven model for how mission-driven organizations not only survive — but thrive... essential reading for any leader building something that matters.”

— **Tyler Dickerhoof | Author, *The Things We Hide***

“Ryan Dewey Smith demonstrates that building durable human service organizations at scale requires discipline, structure, and far more than good intentions.”

— **Jeffrey Sachs | CEO, The Sachs Policy Group**

“Ryan Dewey Smith captures the essential problem common to human service providers—the belief that hope alone will carry them through crisis... the need to create financial stability to accomplish mission... an alternative business strategy... that challenge[s] the reader to rethink long-held assumptions.”

— **Richard S. Edley, PhD | President/CEO, RCPA**



Contact Ryan

Book Ryan for your next event!



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 [ryan-dewey-smith](https://www.linkedin.com/in/ryan-dewey-smith)



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