

## Business Spotlight: Compass CPA Group



With tax season around the corner, many business owners will be glad to learn that there is a local company that can assist them with their return. Located in the historic library in downtown, Compass CPA Group™ (CCPAG) focuses its practice on family-owned businesses and nonprofits. They can also file individual returns as well. Founded in 2005 by Daniel Hodges, CCPAG prides itself on being a unique CPA group.

"I've long been told that I'm not a typical CPA," Daniel says sitting in the conference room where rows of books used to stand. "I can relate to my clients. They can connect with me. I have surrounded myself with people who can connect. They are genuinely interested, dedicated, and kind-hearted."

In addition to helping with tax returns, CCPAG can assist family-owned businesses and nonprofits with daily and routine accounting help as well. Many business owners can become overwhelmed with the accounting side of business. They have a knack for making and selling their product but don't have the background in accounting and tax laws to keep their books current and correct. CCPAG can help with that by providing those services. Through consultation, CCPAG will look for opportunities to put money back in the pockets of your business by focusing on real life issues and then developing strategies to help the business succeed.

"We offer a unique service to our clients," Daniel says. "We can support business people with their back office work. They may do some pieces of the accounting function, but we can take over and do the rest. This way they can stick to doing what they're good at, and we'll do the accounting stuff at a caliber of service they may never have been able to afford otherwise."

Another reason CCPAG is a great asset to their clients is because of their dedication to education. Waves of changing tax-laws, ever-increasing regulation and accounting declarations have increased the need for businesses and organizations to work with CPA groups like Compass. Daniel and his group have to obtain 40 hours of education per year by law, but they usually go above and beyond that requirement to offer their clients the best possible service.

"At CCPAG we firmly believe in education, training, and the CPA credential," reports Daniel, a graduate of Valparaiso University. "My dad always said 'just because you bought a Craftsman toolbox, it doesn't make you a mechanic.' Well, he was right. To maintain our license as a CPA we must obtain at least 40 hours of continuing education each year. Some years we take 60 or 80 hours just to keep up and stay current. That's just some of what it takes to provide proper service: being immersed in current laws, following emerging tax laws, changing accounting standards, and being versed in technology."

Though CCPAG is not a company that many people would associate with New Haven, it is a company founded along the same values as our community. After leaving a national firm after seven years, Daniel decided to start his business in New Haven because his family is deeply rooted here and is committed to community. CCPAG "invests" in the community's schools and youth organizations as well as other Christian organizations in the area.

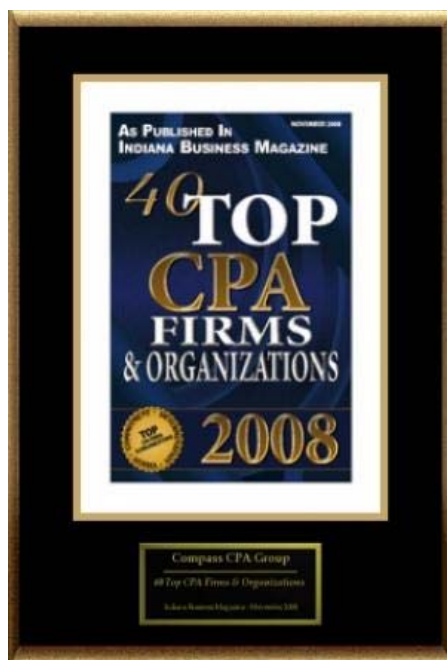
In December 2008, CCPAG was voted by their peers as one of the Top 40 Indiana CPA Firms in a survey conducted by the Indiana CPA Society. This accomplishment is a testament to their hard work and dedication to their clients.

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Photos by: Willyum Baulkey



