Tonya’s Story:

The OM Tribe holds true to its mission of “supporting the community through the four paths of yoga” by inclusively offering their services to the Bloomington-Normal community. The founder, Tonya Keach-Moist discovered that after teaching yoga for over a decade countless people continued to share sentiments that obstacles remained as far as accessing yoga and feeling comfortable doing so. She is passionate about making yoga accessible to all regardless of finance, age, race, background, or ability.

In her process of establishing the OM Tribe, Tonya was extremely fortunate to have members of her original board who had gone through the incorporation process before with other non-profits. This was her first involvement with a non-profit organization and these individuals were her greatest resource. Many were initially recruited by the executive director; some of which remain on the board today. The OM Tribe currently has six people serving on the board, with bylaws in place regarding board participation.

She was able to successfully navigate the updated IRS website as well. A local resource that was particularly beneficial was in attending some Multicultural Leadership Program (MCLP) presentations open to the community.

Due to changes in the incorporation process, Tonya was pleasantly surprised at how straightforward and simple the process seemed. What she anticipated would take months took only a matter of days to complete and weeks to receive notification of approval. A non-profit miracle!

Her advice to others:

• Once you identify a need in your community, the community will support you!
• Enthusiasm is catching and will often inspire others
• Pay attention to what inspires you, it is where you can create your best work