

LiteNews

L · I · T · E local investment toward employment



cover story

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Childminding Program

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The WCWRC Childminding Program

Educating Parents, Supporting Community Organizations and Creating Jobs

BY MATTHEW GEMMEL



Getting involved in one's community and attending local workshops, meetings or events is challenging, even without the added responsibility of finding quality child care. Last year staff and volunteers at the West Central Women's Resource Centre identified that many people (mostly women) were hindered from participating in their communities and accessing resources because of a lack of temporary child care options. The solution, in early 2007, of a user-run childminding service. Now, not even a year old, the service provides on-site child-care for more than 20 organizations on a regular basis.

Enabling parents to attend meetings and events is just one of the many benefits of this multi-faceted idea. In addition to casual employment, all of the participants in the program receive the benefits of a two-day training workshop at the WCWRC. This includes education on topics such as activity planning and child behavior, as well as free criminal record checks and basic first aid and CPR certification. This free training and accreditation strengthens individual's parenting skills, and goes a long way towards giving people the knowledge and confidence to pursue a career in child-care. According to program coordinator Robyn Rybachuk, long-term employment in the child-care field has already arisen numerous times as a result of the training and job experience that the program offers.

The WCWRC Childminding Program is a great example of the Community Economic Development (CED) principles that LITE supports. By providing a simple solution to an important need, this program simultaneously supports individuals, families and communities. As Robin Rybachuk puts it: "The program is really a win, win, win. It is good for women, good for organizations, and it is good for kids. It's really exciting to see how much good it is doing!"

To book child-care for your organization, to find out about the next training session, or to learn more, contact Robyn Rybachuk at 774-8975 ext. 204 or childminding@mts.net

Do you need occasional childcare at your workplace, event, or community organization?

The West Central Women's Resource Center offers on-site childminding for groups large or small, days or evenings. Children will be supervised in a safe and educational environment by trained childminders. To book childcare for your organization, or to learn more about taking childminder training, contact Robyn at 774-8975 ext. 204, or by email at childminding@mts.net

New Website

On September 14 we launched our new website! The user-friendly site includes a link to secure online donations at CanadaHelps.org, information about our partners, and a box to leave us a message. Check it out at www.lite.mb.ca

Run for Rights 2007:

R E P O R T

This year's Run for Rights was another success, both for LITE and for the Run as a whole. Over 30 runners (and cyclists) raced on behalf of LITE and together you raised \$2500! The Run itself had more runners (over 200) and pledges than ever before.

A big thanks to all you table and race marshall volunteers! See you all next year!

Wild Blueberry Pancake Breakfast

Please see the next page to find out about volunteering for the Breakfast. ▶▶

New Faces, Old Bylaws

There were several exciting changes at LITE this summer — perhaps a little more and a little less than expected. New staff and new Board members joined the LITE team, and important membership bylaw changes have been postponed until next year's AGM.

BY NATHAN SAWATZKY

The two new part-time staff are Nathan Sawatzky and Matthew Gemmel. Nathan's past experience with LITE (formerly on the Board) made for a smooth transition when he took over from Sara Stephens in May as Project Manager. Since then Laurene and Nathan have been busy this summer planning for the Fall Campaign, our biggest fundraising push of the year (Oct-Dec). In August Nathan reduced his hours to return to school, and Matthew Gemmel, a Bike Dump founder and UofW Politics student, joined the staff team as Events/Admin Coordinator.

In addition to new staff, four new Board members joined the LITE team at the June AGM. Jennifer Bogoch (SEED Winnipeg), Jacob Carson (St. Matthew's-Maryland Community Garden Preserves and Catering, LITE partner), Jackie Hogue (West Central Women's Resource Centre, LITE partner), and Ruth Taronno (Menno Simons College). But a big thank you goes to all our very hardworking Board members who finished their terms this year: Cori Reimer, Peter Reimer, Carlos Campos, Lillian Richard, and Barry Spain. You can read more about the Board and staff by visiting our new website at www.lite.mb.ca

As the notice in our June mailing announced, there was also an important debate at the AGM about changing LITE's membership bylaws. Currently, anyone who donates \$5 or more in the previous fiscal year is a member of LITE. At the AGM the Board described some difficulties of doing bylaw work at the AGM under the current model. This led to a stimulating and productive debate. In the end, the members voted to form an ad hoc Membership Bylaw Committee composed of general members, Board members, and staff to bring a recommendation for bylaw changes to next year's AGM. The committee met for the first time in early September. To find out more, call Nathan at 942-8578.

Upcoming Events

Fall Campaign

October – November

If you have a business, church group, workplace, school club, etc. that would like to learn more about LITE, contact us to set up a presentation. A LITE staff or volunteer would be happy to present on our history, our current programs and partners, and the principles of CED.

Wild Blueberry Pancake Breakfast

Friday, November 30th

7–10am

You won't want to miss this annual celebration of CED in Winnipeg's inner-city. Our 11th

year promises to be better than ever, with great food, handy-crafts and entertainment provided by inner-city residents.

CED Leadership Tour

This new event will bring together Winnipeg's corporate leaders with residents at the forefront of CED in the inner city. Date TBA. For more info, contact Nathan at litepr@mts.net

Wild Blueberry Pancake Breakfast

November 30

You can be part of this exciting annual event in many ways. On the day of the breakfast we will need many keen volunteers to pull off such a big event. You can also contribute by selling tickets at your workplace, church, school or community organization.

If you are interested in being an organiser or team captain during the event, consider joining the Breakfast Committee in October. In late October through November we also need help putting up posters, selling tickets and answering phones at the LITE office. To get involved, contact Matthew at 942-8578.

Volunteer Opportunities

Workplace Campaigns

You can spread the word about LITE and multiply your own donation by holding a fundraising campaign in your workplace, school, church or community organization. LITE staff are available to assist you.

LITE Presentations

Use your connections in Winnipeg to help set up a LITE presentation! Do you know of a group at school, church, or work, that would benefit from a presentation about LITE's partners and CED in Winnipeg? Do you know of a business leader who would be interested in supporting LITE? If you have an idea for a LITE presentation, please call Nathan at 942-8578.

Envelope Stuffing Party

In early December volunteers will meet at the LITE office (571 Selkirk Ave) to stuff approximately 1000 envelopes for our pre-Christmas. Please let us know if you will be able to come! Please call Laurene (942-8578)

Thank You Call Party

In the second week of November volunteers will meet at NECRC's office (509 Selkirk — just down the street from LITE) to make hundreds of calls simply to say thank you to our fall donors. Don't worry, there is absolutely NO SOLICITING of funds involved! Thank you call parties are always lots of fun (and there is always good food, too).

SPECIAL THANKS TO

