

LiteNews

L · I · T · E local investment toward employment



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Partner Profile:

The Soup Bee

By Erika Frey

This September, one of LITE's newest grant partners, The Soup Bee, is launching an exciting and innovative social enterprise. In 2008, the idea of a catering social enterprise began at West Broadway Development Corporation's (WBDC) Good Food Club Program, and 2010 will see the idea in action.



The Soup Bee social enterprise not only has innovative and tasty recipes, but also promotes and supports the local economy, inner city employment, eco-friendly principles and healthy living!

LITE's community grant will play an important role in helping The Soup Bee get started, "LITE's funding helps us with the employment piece" says Good Food Club coordinator, Tammy Klos. LITE's contribution will enable one member of the community to be hired.

The Soup Bee will hire three or four people in total, providing job opportunities and training to inner city residents. The Soup Bee's mandate is to hire people with low incomes or who are currently on Employment Income Assistance (EIA). The people who are hired will not only learn new skills related to the food industry, but will also have the opportunity to get their food handling certificates and connect with employment resources and workshops. "It will give people the opportunity to become employable and to get resume training" says Tammy.

The Soup Bee will also work in partnership with Agape Table. Soup will be made at Agape Table's kitchen at

All Saints Church on Broadway, and The Soup Bee will hire one of the program's volunteers. Many of these volunteers face social and economic barriers and the job will provide an opportunity to learn new skills in a nurturing environment. The Soup Bee staff will also have the support of volunteer chef, Karen Peters, who is currently helping with the soup recipe creation process.

The Soup Bee's long term goal is to become a self-sustainable social enterprise that will result in long term employment for its employees. "Any extra money we make we will be reinvested in the business and in the future, this social enterprise might become a worker cooperative" says Russ Alexander, The Soup Bee's coordinator.

LITE is proud to support The Soup Bee, a social enterprise that has a promising future in the West Broadway neighbourhood.

To find out more about The Soup Bee visit www.soupbee.ca or visit them at LITE's Ethical Purchasing Expo this September 24th at the Manitoba Hydro Lobby, 360 Portage Avenue.

* UPCOMING EVENTS & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Upcoming Events

14th Annual Wild Blueberry Pancake Breakfast

Friday, November 26th from 7 am –10 am at the Indian and Metis Friendship Centre (45 Robinson St. at Dufferin). Tickets are \$12, \$5 low income

Come join us in celebrating community economic development (CED) in Winnipeg's inner city at one of Canada's largest CED events. Stop by to enjoy local entertainment, to taste delicious locally-sourced and produced food, and to get an early start on your Christmas shopping at our local Crafter's Market!

Volunteer Opportunities

Wild Blueberry Pancake Breakfast

Volunteer the day of the breakfast, sell tickets at your workplace, church, school, or community organization, or help put posters up throughout the city. If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Jen or Erika at litebreakfast@mts.net or 942-8578.

Shop Outside the Box: Ethical Purchasing Expo

Volunteer the day of the expo as a greeter or help put up posters throughout the city. Please contact Erika at 942-8578 or litepr@mts.net if you're interested in volunteering.

Pictured above: The Soup Bee coordinator, Russ Alexander and Good Food Club coordinator, Tammy Klos, testing soup recipes

SHOP the OUTSIDE BOX

2010 Ethical Purchasing Expo

This September 24th, LITE is hosting the 2010 Ethical Purchasing Expo, 'Shop Outside the Box' in the lobby of the LEED® Gold Certified Manitoba Hydro Building at 360 Portage Avenue, from 8:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. The purpose of the Expo is to expand awareness and access to ethical goods and services in Winnipeg.

Shop Outside the Box will give Winnipeggers the opportunity to become better acquainted with local businesses that invest in improving their communities. The Expo will feature a wide variety of local businesses that support socially responsible principles such as worker and community ownership, fair trade, environmental sustainability, local employment, organic products, and locally-produced goods.

"This Expo is a great opportunity to promote my business, so more people can know about it and we can learn about other local businesses too", says Erlin Prieto, owner of Green Bison Cleaning Company, one of the businesses that will be attending the Expo. Green Bison is a new cleaning service that uses environmentally safe cleaning products and employs new immigrants. "With our business, we want to help new immigrants to move on and provide them with a good job and a fair wage", says Erlin. "Also, by using green cleaning products we are polluting less and we are protecting our workers from dangerous chemicals. So, Green Bison is safe for the environment, safe for the workers, and safe for the customers."

This event is made possible thanks to the generous support of The Winnipeg Foundation and Manitoba Hydro.

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Volunteer Opportunities

Presentations

Help us spread the word about community economic development in Winnipeg's inner city. 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?

If you have an idea for a LITE presentation, please contact Erika at litepr@mts.net or 942-8578.

Green Bison is one of the many businesses, cooperatives, and social enterprises that will have booths at the Expo. Held in advance of the fast-approaching holiday season, Shop Outside the Box will be an excellent opportunity to spend some of your holiday budget reinvesting in local businesses and purchasing unique holiday gifts.

Attendees to this year's Expo will also have a chance to sample fair trade coffee at the 10:15 A.M. 'Coffee Break', to witness the Fair Trade Chocolate Tasting Event at 12:00 P.M., and to spend time perusing all of the exciting vendor tables to shop for fair trade and organic clothing, vegan, local, and ethnic cuisine, books, and more!

So, stop by 'Shop Outside the Box' Ethical Purchasing Expo and find out how you can make a difference with your dollar! We hope to see you there!

To find out more about The 2010 Ethical Purchasing Expo please visit: www.lite.mb.ca

Thank you calls

In the second week of January, volunteers will meet to make hundreds of calls simply to say thank you to our fall & winter donors. Don't worry, there is absolutely NO SOLICITING of funds involved!

If you're interested in helping us acknowledge our supporters, please contact Jen at liteadmin@mts.net or 942-8578.

New faces at LITE

We are happy to announce that two new part time staff have joined the LITE team this fall!

Erika Frey will be working as LITE's Public Relations and Events Coordinator and *Christie Fischer* as LITE's Social Purchasing Portal Coordinator. LITE's staff and board look forward to working with Erika and Christie this year!

2010 Run for Rights



This year's Run for Rights was another great success! Thankfully, the weather cooperated and over 300 runners came out to support social justice and human rights. The runners raised \$23,000 for 15 participating organizations!

This year, 41 participants ran on behalf of LITE, raising \$4,000! Thank you to everyone who ran and volunteered on behalf of LITE. We hope to see you again next year!

Thank you to the students and teachers of David Livingstone School and R.B. Russell's off-campus program, Ndinawe Youth Transitional School, for volunteering to help get our spring newsletter out to the community!