

Local Investment Toward Employment

L.I.T.E. NEWS

Published by volunteers of the LITE campaign

Vol. 3, No. 1 June 2002

LITE subscribes to these Community Economic Development Principles

- ▶ Use of locally produced goods and services
- ▶ Production of goods and services for local use
- ▶ Local reinvestment of profits
- ▶ Long-term employment of local residents
- ▶ Local skill development
- ▶ Local decision-making
- ▶ Public health
- ▶ Physical environment
- ▶ Neighbourhood stability
- ▶ Human dignity
- ▶ Support for other CED initiatives

To find out more about these CED principles, please visit our web site at www.lite.mb.ca

LITE's AGM

LITE invites you to attend our fourth Annual General Meeting.

Date: Monday, June 17, 2002

Time: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Place: SEED Winnipeg, 400 Logan Ave.

Presentation by:

Ashok Salwan, Odd Jobs for Kids.

There will be door prizes and refreshments. Also, the Board of Directors for LITE will be elected. Everyone is welcome to attend.

June 2002 • Volunteers produce LITE News for sponsors, partners, supporters and donors to the LITE campaign. If you'd like your name added to our mailing list, call 942-8578, fax 582-2801, e-mail lite@mts.net or 509 Selkirk Ave, Winnipeg MB R2W 2M6. This newsletter printed with the assistance of Credit Union Central of Manitoba and Assiniboine Credit Union.

Your donations at work

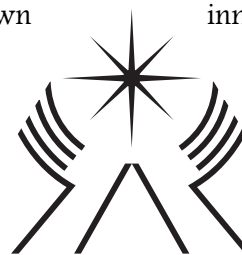
This past year you helped us raise over \$135,000! With so many important causes, both in your own communities and all over the world, we are very honoured that you chose to entrust your donations to LITE.

Most of our administrative costs have been covered each year by generous grants from The Co-operators, so your contributions to LITE go directly to some very worthwhile community projects. Your donations are helping to train and employ local area residents, develop low-cost housing and build healthy communities in the inner city and West Broadway areas.

Here are some of the ways that we are putting your donations to work:

- Many low-income families in Winnipeg received Christmas hampers this past year that contained groceries and baking purchased in the inner city at Neechi Foods Community Store, Native Women's Transition Centre Catering, Andrews Street Family Centre Catering and Lord Selkirk Family Centre Community Kitchen. Over \$45,000 of food items were purchased and donated to the Christmas Cheer Board for their hampers.
- Inner-city youth will gain job experience, learn new skills and learn about their communities through a \$5,000 contribution from LITE to both Odd Jobs for Kids and Youth Opportunity Project.
- Aboriginal young people are learn-

ing from experienced carpenters how to renovate homes in the inner city through a \$50,000 grant from LITE to the



L · I · T · E
A Project of SEED Winnipeg

North End Housing Project for their new and innovative Aboriginal Youth Training Project.

- A resident in the Spence neighbourhood will be hired and trained as Assistant Editor for West Central

Streets with LITE's contribution of \$5,000. West Central Streets is a community newspaper for local residents to express their views on health, safety, employment and other important community issues.

- Residents in the West Broadway neighbourhood will receive help to find employment with LITE's contribution of \$1,000 to West Broadway Neighbourhood Skills Bank.
- Refugees from Afghanistan received blankets purchased from the Northern Star Workers Co-operative and donated to the Mennonite Central Committee.



Two of the hundreds who enjoyed last year's Pancake Breakfast



Neechi Foods Community Store

Join us at the LITE AGM!

LITE is holding its fourth Annual General Meeting on June 17 from 6:30 – 7:30 pm at the SEED office at 400 Logan Ave. Holding an AGM gives us a chance to meet some of our supporters and tell you how we put your donations to work. We would love to have you join us this year. Here are 8 really good reasons to attend.

1. Have a chance to win great door prizes.
2. Enjoy some good food and save yourself from cooking supper.
3. Meet some hard working and dedicated LITE volunteers.
4. Hear about the community work of some of our partners.
5. Learn more about community economic development.
6. Help design a creative new LITE poster.
7. Enjoy some community entertainment.
8. Share your ideas with us.



Members of the David Livingstone School Choir

Aboriginal Youth Housing Renovation Employment Project — A Report Card

By Margita Tobolkova , North End Resident and freelance writer and broadcaster with CBC Radio 1

The North End Housing Project (NEHP) expanded their renovation work last year and needed more workers. A former Youth worker with an Aboriginal inner-city agency approached NEHP to hire and train Aboriginal young people.

A housing renovation crew of six Aboriginal men was hired. They have all had previous conflicts with the law. So, one of the challenges was the work ethics. Larry Morrisette, an Aboriginal man himself, is the social worker for the crew. “We take a soft approach with attendance, and we’ve never had anyone leave the project. The men have the will to work”.

On-the-job training is provided by Aboriginal coaches who are qualified tradespeople, and they give the youth encouragement, understanding and support.

The results are better than expected. The hope was to finish two houses in six months. Instead, three houses were finished in four months. The crew is getting their first report cards, which cover 27 aspects of renovation work, hours worked, and proficiency. High school credits for appropriate subjects, such as math, are being negotiated.

NEHP’s treasurer, Lawrie Deane, commented that the current funding comes from various agencies, including \$50,000 from LITE. Lawrie is looking to double the funds so the project can be expanded. The very best to all in this noble endeavour.

Thank you Winnipeg Foundation!

This generous and unique organisation chose to award LITE with a \$30,000 grant this year! The money will be used to help LITE engage in year-round activities and secure staff on a full-time basis.

Your LITE donations have already been working year round for many years, and staff funding from organisations such as the Winnipeg Foundation allows us to put your donations directly into innovative community projects.

Watch for more news from LITE and our partners, as we continue to support inner-city revitalisation, employment, job training and skill development in the North End, Spence and West Broadway areas.

Thank you WEC students!

Four social work students from the Winnipeg Education Centre conducted some research with LITE partners to explore community capacity-building ideas. Thank you Susan Tottle, Margaret Klein, Rhonda Bartle, Lori Armitage and Professor Jean Altemeyer for your interest, hard work and insightful research.

University Students Fundraise for LITE

In mid-October Ian Grant and Kris Ade (both University of Winnipeg students) were attending a show at the Pyramid Cabaret. Kris remarked to Ian, a sometimes DJ, "Wouldn't it be neat if we threw a party here?"

The rest, as they say, is history.

Soon after that fateful evening, what began as a fanciful idea was becoming a concrete reality. Almost immediately arriving at the conclusion that any party they were going to throw should be a not-for-profit, they quickly began searching for causes to support. No sooner did they begin looking than they stumbled upon LITE. With a little work, they familiarised themselves with the organisation, and knew that it was the perfect cause to celebrate.

Combining their efforts, Ian and Kris put together a solid list of urban groove performers that would headline a benefit concert for LITE. Never having organised an event of this magnitude before, and unsure of how successful it would be, they forged ahead regardless.

Throughout, they never lost sight of their objectives: raise money for LITE's Christmas campaign; increase awareness about the organisation and what it does; and have fun while tackling the first two objectives.

And, four months later, it can be concluded that it was more than just successful. It was a blast. The event brought together over three hundred university students, and raised close to five hundred dollars. Thanks Kris and Ian for your hard work!

A very special donor

LITE received a really big boost last year when a very special supporter who wishes to remain anonymous called to offer a donation of \$50,000.

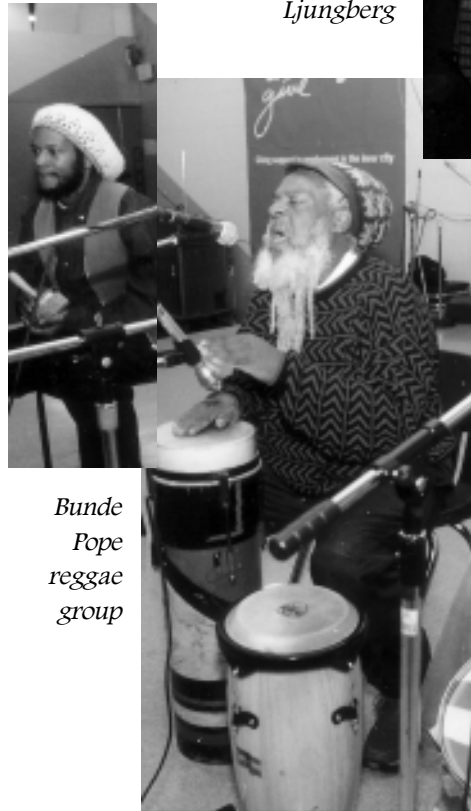
This donor supports a lot of causes, but has always had a special interest in working with Aboriginal people in the inner city. She wonders what will happen to our world if we don't give inner-city children a chance. Her dream is that someday everyone can live in a decent home.

Our donor has generously supported LITE for several years, but decided that now is the time to give a special large donation. "There is an urgency to help the inner city grow into a healthy place for children and their families. I really like the community economic development focus of LITE and the housing work you support. I think we should all be more generous and share what we have with our inner-city neighbours."

Thanks to this donor's generosity, a special project of North End Housing got off to a great start this year. She hopes her example will encourage others to support LITE in strengthening community economic development in Winnipeg's inner city.



*Assiniboine
CEO Al
Morin and
A-Chan-
nel's Jon
Ljungberg*



*Bunde
Pope
reggae
group*



Sweet Grass Roads drummer

LITE Community Partners

Andrews Street Family Centre Catering employs up to 10 local residents each Christmas season to make 1200 dozen cookies for Christmas Cheer Board hampers. Call Ruth Cook at 589-1721.

Lord Selkirk Family Resource Centre Community Kitchen is a group of residents who meet on a weekly basis to cook together and take home food to feed their families. Every year the group provides baking for Christmas Cheer Board hampers. Call Hazel Enslow at 586-1595.

Native Women's Transition Centre Catering provides employment and training to 15 women who live at the centre to provide baking for Christmas Cheer Board hampers. Call Bernice Monkman at 989-8240.

Neechi Foods Community Store is a worker co-operative that provides employment, training and collective business ownership to seven inner-city residents and is widely known for its leadership in community economic development. Call Elaine Clarke at 586-5597.

North End Housing Project renovates houses and employs local residents, and creates decent and affordable housing that contributes to the health and well being of individual families and the community. Call Mary Williams at 953-1890.

The Northern Star Workers Co-operative consists of women from the North End who have been trained to design, sew and market their own Aboriginal "Star" blankets, wool parkas, and other products. Their goal is to provide long term employment for local residents by achieving long term sustainability. Call Irma Pierre, 944-1440.

Odd Jobs for Kids operates in the West Broadway community and provides youth with neighbourhood jobs in local businesses and with residents. Call Linda Williams at 783-1995.

West Broadway Neighbourhood Skills Bank works with residents in the West Broadway Neighbourhood to help identify the barriers they face in finding work and to promote their employment. Call Jo-anne Spence at 975-1988.

West Central Streets is a non-profit community newspaper that gives voice to the interests, struggles and strengths of the people in the community. Call Erika Wiebe at 944-4542.

Winnipeg IDA Pilot Project provides low-income residents with the information, training, support and resources they need to save and build assets for the future. Call Louise Simbandumwe at 586-7827.

Youth Opportunity Project provides life skills training, leadership development and pre-employment training to 75 students in three inner-city schools. Call Betty Edel at 582-5800.

New Partnership for LITE!

LITE is lending a hand to the North End Community Renewal Corporation this summer to run their 3rd annual Picnic in the Park. The picnic gives North End children the chance to spend a fun-filled day with their friends and families playing games, listening to great local entertainment and eating hot dogs. The best news is that all the activities and food at the community picnic are free of charge! Last year the picnic attracted 600 local residents and this year even more are expected. Any donations of toys, games, or art supplies we can use as prizes for the children's races and games would be greatly appreciated. Please call LeeAnne at 942-8578 or drop them off at 509 Selkirk Avenue during business hours.

**Picnic in the Park • St. Johns Park
Saturday, August 24 • 11 am to 4 pm**



RB Russell student entertains at the breakfast

Help Spread the Word about L.I.T.E.

It started with a great idea — building capacity in Winnipeg's inner city — and spread from caring people to supportive groups. You are a part of a growing number of people who have embraced that idea during the past eight years and have raised half a million dollars, which has been given back to the community to build hope.

Help spread the word and keep momentum building as more houses are renovated, more youth are employed and more inner-city people are thriving.

You can take LITE's campaign of hope into your workplace, church or community club. We'll give you brochures, a video and other materials to help you spread the word among your colleagues, friends and neighbours.

Call 942-8578 for more information or to make a donation. You can also visit our website at www.lite.mb.ca.

To make a donation or volunteer, call LITE at 942-8578. Mailing address: 509 Selkirk Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R2W 2M6. Visa and MasterCard accepted by phone.

