

LiteNews

L · I · T · E local investment toward employment



in this issue

2006 Breakfast: Celebrating 10 Years!

by Sara Stephens

LITE had many great reasons to celebrate at the 2006 Wild Blueberry Pancake Breakfast in November. It was our 10th year celebrating this event, bringing together our wonderful community partners, crafters, volunteers and donors.

We found some dedicated folks who have attended all ten LITE Breakfasts, including Judy Wasylcia-Leis, Andre Goussaert, Tim Sale, Doug Martindale, Russ Rothney, Sharon Taylor, Lillian Thomas, Jean Altemeyer, Erika Wiebe and Louise Simbandumwe. Nearly 700 guests came out to help us make this a successful event. As always, our volunteers were ready to help and have fun, with over 80 people volunteering to keep the Breakfast running smoothly.

Assiniboine Credit Union is an important factor in the success of each year's Breakfast. They provided us with many volunteers on the morning of the Breakfast. Corey Malo, Database administrator at ACU was involved on the Breakfast planning committee. Lisa Delorme Meiler, an ACU employee, designed our beautiful Wild Blueberry Pancake poster this year and helped us out with printing. ACU also sells tickets for the Breakfast.

We raised over \$6000 in donations and ticket sales, and contributed \$6400 toward Community Economic Development initiatives. Thank you to everyone for making our 10th Breakfast a success!



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Unclaimed Winning Ticket

This beautiful painting of Louis Riel (see photo) was completed at the 2006 Wild Blueberry Pancake Breakfast by one of Graffiti Art Gallery's Inner City Images artists. LITE planned to give the painting away in an auction, but no one claimed the lucky ticket! If you had the winning ticket, we would love to hear from you. The winning number was 601040. If we don't hear from the winner by June 30th, LITE will hold an auction for the painting.



New Face at LITE

LITE continues to work toward supporting Community Economic Development in Winnipeg's inner city by building capacity and providing jobs. This year, LITE welcomes a new Executive Director who is strongly committed to LITE's vision and goals.



Laurene Enns

LITE'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

When I first moved to Winnipeg 13 years ago, I knew that I wanted to live and work in the inner city. While working on my Conflict Resolution Studies degree at Menno Simons College (University of Winnipeg), I lived in the West Broadway neighbourhood. I had lots of fun getting to know my neighbours, many of whom I still see from time to time.

As I came to be friends with several of the kids on my block, I began to notice barriers that stood between them and their goals and dreams. The desire to work, to provide for one's self and someday a family, is strong with the youth. Even the very aspect of having options is enough to change someone's life.

I was lucky enough to become Coordinator of the First Jobs for Youth program at Spence Neighbourhood Association shortly after university. The program is unique in that it was initiated and designed by the youth of the neighbourhood themselves. I grew along with the youth as they faced both obstacles and successes.

I connected with LITE while they were funding the First Jobs for Youth program, and I am excited to be here! I am passionate about my work because I know first-hand how LITE is helping to provide opportunities for growth in our city's core. I hope that I get to meet many of you very soon!

 Lite gratefully acknowledges the support of the Winnipeg Partnership Agreement and the Winnipeg Foundation.

LITE Annual General Meeting June 19th, 2007

Please check our website for information on our AGM date: www.lite.mb.ca
LITE donors and volunteers welcome!

LITE's New Location at 571 Selkirk Avenue



LITE is settling into its new office at 571 Selkirk Avenue — between McGregor and Andrews. You can find us here or contact us at lite@mts.net or 942-8578.

Thank You to LITE's Donors

LITE appreciates the support of our wonderful donors! In the past, LITE has published the names of donors in the newsletter, and we would like to continue to do this in the future.

We are revising our donation materials and records to ensure they are in accordance with new privacy legislation that came into effect in 2007. When these revisions are complete, we will be able to publish donor names again. We would like to thank all our donors. Your support helps LITE and our partner organizations to build capacity and provide jobs in the inner city. **Thank You** — we couldn't do it without you!

LITE's New Website!

LITE has updated its website to offer more news and information about who we are and what we do. Volunteers, donors, partners and organizations will find up-to-date and exciting news about LITE and how they can get involved.

LITE is also now registered with CanadaHelps, so you can now donate online!

For more information or to make an online donation, visit LITE at www.lite.mb.ca or CanadaHelps at www.canadahelps.org

Shaw Cable Employees Support LITE

By Terri Proulx

Shaw Cable Systems has been looking for ways to support LITE. Employees held a workplace campaign just before the 2006 holiday season, and they are hoping to hold a much larger campaign this year.

Shaw employees have showed their support for LITE in other ways too: they have attended the Wild Blueberry Pancake Breakfast for the past couple of years as well as the Run for Rights and previously, the Dine and Dash.

Why does Shaw want to hold a large workplace campaign for LITE? Pam Pearch, a Shaw work-order control clerk, says, "Shaw really does believe in 'people power'. Good, stable jobs are important and we want everyone to have that."

Shaw Winnipeg employs 800 and is still growing. The company continually looks for ways to give back to the community through various programs. Every Halloween, you can see Shaw volunteers out and about in Winnipeg's more economically distressed

neighbourhoods. They turn on the yellow strobe lights of the Shaw vans and hand out candy to the kids in a program called "Pumpkin Patrol."

"Shaw has a large customer base in Winnipeg and part of what we try to do is find ways to give back. This is in keeping with our values," Pam says.

LITE and Shaw are both looking forward to the Shaw workplace campaign this year. In their search to support community development, we hope to be Shaw's LITE at the end of the tunnel.



LITE Volunteers – Many Hands Make LITE Work

by Sarah Stephens

LITE volunteers are an important part of every LITE event. At our annual Wild Blueberry Pancake Breakfast this year, students from the Community Development/Community Economic Development class at Red River College showed their community spirit!

Instructor Lisa Caldwell and students braved the early hour to offer their energetic support to this event. The Breakfast offered students the opportunity for hands-on experience interacting with community members and staff of community-based organizations. The class



helped to make sure everything went smoothly, from taking tickets in the pancake lines, to helping the crafters, to wiping tables to protect us from sticky sleeves.

I met with students after the Breakfast to talk about their experiences as volunteers, and as students in CD/CED. Students said that being at the event was a great opportunity to network with other community-minded folks, and to reconnect with old friends. They enjoyed the

good vibe at the Breakfast while making important connections for future employment in the community.

The students in the CD/CED program share a common passion for community work. The program was viewed as being more practical than University, providing hands-on experience as well as theoretical grounding. With a mix of students of different ages, ethnic backgrounds and levels of experience, the students have a lot of learning and experience to offer one another!

The program offers the students four practicums, each a month long and done in a different organization. This gives the students a chance to gain hands-on experience in different work settings, which can help them to choose a direction, and open their eyes to options they might not have known about.

All the students agreed that the dedication and creativity of their instructor, Lisa Caldwell, was inspiring as well as instructional. Her efforts to provide them with as much learning and experience as possible – including their participation in LITE's Breakfast, are much appreciated. Her program is obviously working; with high retention of students and a 92%

employment rate upon completion. These students leave the program with the skills and experience to enrich community organizations.

With such a strong program and the power of a group of like-minded people, it's no wonder these students made such enthusiastic and helpful volunteers. The future of community-based organizations is bright as these skilled, energetic and caring students forge ahead in their work to help build healthy and happy communities. A big **Thank You** from LITE for your hard work, and all the best for the future.

For more information on the CD/CED course at Red River, please contact: Lisa Caldwell, Program Co-ordinator, CD/CED Red River College A310-B-2055 Notre Dame Avenue Winnipeg, MB. R3H 0J9 Tel.(204) 632-2236 Email: lcaldwell@rrc.mb.ca

Do you have a passion for community and a desire to help out in a fun and friendly atmosphere?

Contact us at 942-8578 to find out more about the many ways you can help LITE build community capacity!

Help LITE to keep in touch

LITE is currently updating information for LITE volunteers and donors. We would like to have email addresses for all LITE volunteers and LITE donors, to help us to stay connected and provide current information. If you have moved, or have an email address

you would like to provide to us, we would love to hear from you! Please email your current information to lite@mts.net, or call us at 942-8578. We look forward to getting to know you better.

RaY of Hope for Youth in Crisis

by Alex Merrill

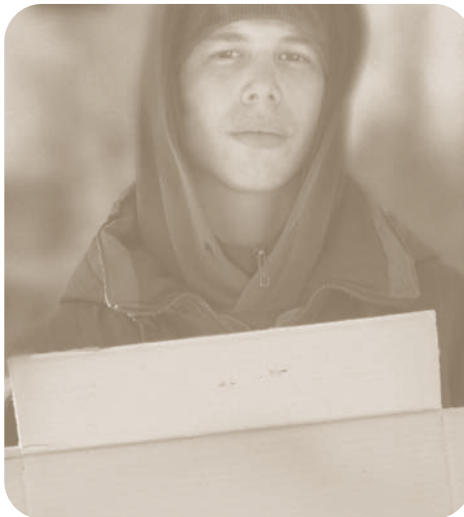
Life on the street can take a huge toll on youths' lives. Among other things, it can cost them the self-confidence needed to find and keep a job.

Helping youth develop the skills and self-esteem needed for employment is the idea behind a project of Resource Assistance for Youth (RaY), one of LITE's new partners this year. RaY is a community based street level organization assisting youth and young adults find a way back from a life on the street.

RaY offers a range of services and programs such as street outreach, housing assistance; emergency youth services and prevention, each designed to meet the needs of youth at risk and youth in crisis.

With LITE's and other organizations' funding this year, RaY is working with youth in the West Broadway area to develop and find work, as part of their Emergency Youth Services program.

This is a "pre-employment program," says Program Manager Liz Manning. "We are taking skills that the youth already have and showing them that they can use them in other venues." For example, says Manning, "Squeegee kids have a lot of skills in areas like customer services and customer relations."



RaY has an odd jobs program where youth do short-term jobs in the neighbourhood. The idea is simple: Even an afternoon of shovelling snow or cleaning a yard can be the encouragement a youth needs to pursue other odd jobs and eventually take on longer term work.

The youth are also doing an environmental scan of the neighbourhood, interviewing employers in the West Broadway area to find out what they are looking for in employees.

This will help them develop confidence in approaching employers at the same time as it gives them a chance to 'network', a major skill needed in job-hunting.

RaY's program will also include further training opportunities, offering training programs free of charge to participants, such as First Aid & CPR and Food Handling.

They also want to provide one-on-one assistance to youth who have prepared their resumes, to help them connect with potential employers or apprenticing opportunities.

For more information about RaY, see their website: www.rayinc.ca

Gordon Bell Students Organize Fundraiser for LITE



Gordon Bell High School students raised money for LITE in March with their annual Human Rights Coffee House. Students sang, played music, danced, rapped, and did stand-up comedy. Pictured are David Bryan and Joe Wasylycia-Leis, lending their musical talents for a great cause. Thank you to everyone who participated! (photo credit: Alex Merrill)

Events Calendar

Run for Rights – 6th Annual

KILDONAN PARK

8:30am – Registration

9:30am – Start time

For pledge forms, contact LITE at lite@mts.net or 942-8578

We need runners and volunteers!

People Mentoring People: Andrew Street Family Centre

by Eileen Johnson

What a busy hive of activity as I saw as I walked into Andrew Street Family Centre to meet with Dilly Knol, Executive Director.



From parenting programs to skills development to child care and pre-school for 3 - 5 year olds, it is clear that the dreams of several local residents are coming true.

Dilly and I spoke about the beginnings of Andrew Street Family Centre. The community itself surveyed the neighbourhood, going house to house, asking the residents what THEY wanted in the community. The responses led to a plan

that turned an old building and eyesore on Andrews Street into the very successful centre.

What I found exciting was the reciprocal aspect of the centre. Many folks in the neighbourhood not only access many of the programs, but volunteer at the centre. And that 'giving back' takes many different forms, from helping paint, renovate and maintain the building, to teaching others to sew, cook, type, do carpentry and reception duties. Many who access the programs learn new skills they can use to find jobs. Just being able to write a resume can be a HUGE accomplishment.

At Christmas, Andrew Street hires six community people to bake 1200 dozen (that's 14,000!) shortbread cookies which LITE purchases and then donates to the Cheer Board Christmas hampers. Each baker is paid, but more than that, they have the opportunity to learn new skills or to have existing skills recognized.

Andrew Street Family Centre also cooks at LITE's Annual Wild Blueberry Pancake Breakfast. Approximately five people from the Centre are employed for that event.

Andrew Street Family Centre provides a vital service to this community, including a gathering place for the entire family to participate in the broad range of programs for all ages.

It is a real network in the community of people mentoring people. WOW!

2006-2007 LITE Community Partners

2007 GRANT PARTNERS

\$10,000
Employment Support
Project - Resource Assistance for Youth (RaY)

RaY is a community and street level organization committed to helping youth and young adults find a way back from the street. RaY takes a harm reduction approach to all its interactions with youth in need, supporting them to seek the resources they need to sustain themselves.

\$3,000
Community Garden Preserves - St. Matthew's-Maryland Community Ministry

This project emerged from the four community gardens that have been operating in the neighbourhood for over ten years. Participants will preserve the garden produce, and learn new food handling and business skills while marketing their products. The project is an exploratory step towards a long-term, self-reliant community economic development initiative.

\$5,400
First Jobs 4 Youth

The First Jobs for Youth Project provides 8 - 10 youth in Spence neighbourhood with pre-employment training that assists them in finding their first jobs as well as job placements. This includes both community-based work experience, and employment training through Spence Neighbourhood Association's Skills Bank, the local employment agency. This training includes life skills, information on employment standards, and workplace health and safety.

\$10,000 **Childminding Program –** **West Central Women's** **Resource Centre**

The Childminding training program was set up to address the lack of safe occasional childcare resources in the neighbourhood. The program offers training, employment and respite childcare to ensure women can participate in community meetings and events. This program trains and employs local women in childcare and provides a venue that offers and models positive parenting education and support.

\$5,000 **Housing Renovation** **Trainee – Ogjiita Pimatiswin** **Kinamatwin Inc.**

OPK provides Aboriginal ex-offenders with the opportunity to work, acquire new technical skills, gain basic life skills, attend traditional Aboriginal ceremonies and adjust to employment.

\$6,000 **West Central STREETS**

West Central Streets is a non-profit community newspaper based in the neighbourhood bounded by Notre Dame Ave., Carleton St., Portage Ave. and Arlington St. The purpose of the paper is to give voice to the interests, struggles and strengths of the people in the community. A team of 20 residents are hired at market rates each issue to distribute the paper door to door. All community people who contribute to the paper are paid an honorarium. An inner city graphic artist is hired at market rates to do design and layout of the paper.

\$4,000 **The Point Community** **Newsletter**

The Point is a community newsletter in the North Point Douglas neighbourhood. The mission

statement is: "to promote the formation of a strong and cohesive community by providing information and communication among all who live and work in North Point Douglas, and to project a positive image." The newsletter also strives to develop and promote employment opportunities for local residents in the production and distribution of the paper.

2006 PURCHASE **PARTNERS**

\$2,500 **cookie purchase** **Andrews Street** **Family Centre**

The Andrews Street Family Centre employs up to 10 local residents each Christmas season to make 1200 dozen cookies for Christmas Cheer Board hampers. The community kitchen co-ordinator trains residents in food preparation, health and safety standards, food handling, packaging, purchasing and teamwork. Individuals are encouraged to take a one-day food-handlers certificate. The community kitchen serves as an important training ground for many residents for future employment opportunities.

\$1,000 **cookie purchase** **Food Connections Project –** **Wolseley Family Place**

The Food Connections Project blends pre-employment programming and community economic development. This project has four components: a cooking class, a breakfast club, a community store and a catering business, and it employs up to ten community members. The Food Connections Project provides supported employment to single parent moms with little or no employment experience who participate in Wolseley Family Place.

\$500 **honey purchase** **Fort Whyte Farm**

Fort Whyte Farms provides 50 youth with training and knowledge in various farm and business skills every year. Eight students are employed full-time during the summer, and about 25 work on the farm for a stipend on a weekly basis during the school year. Students learn bee-keeping, honey collection, processing, and packaging, vermacomposting, gardening, aquaponics (underwater agriculture combined with hydroponics), bison meat cutting and packaging, and the marketing and sale of their products.

\$2,500 **cookie purchase** **Native Women's** **Transition Centre**

The Native Women's Transition Centre is a long-term residential safe house for Aboriginal women and their children. The centre's catering provides employment and training to 15 women who live at the centre to provide baking for Christmas Cheer Board hampers. Training includes preparing budgets, purchasing, food safety and handling and cooking.

\$40,000 **hamper food purchase** **Neechi Foods** **Community Store**

Neechi Foods Community Store is a full-range grocery store and Aboriginal specialty shop on Dufferin Avenue. Neechi Foods is a worker co-operative that provides employment, training and collective business ownership to 7 inner-city residents. Neechi has been in business since 1989 and is widely known for its leadership in community economic development.

\$5,000 **blanket purchase** **Northern Star** **Workers Co-operative**

Local women from the North End have been trained to design, sew and market their own Aboriginal "Star" blankets. These women have also learned all aspects of operating a small business. The goal of the Northern Star co-operative is to provide long term employment for local residents by achieving long term sustainability.

\$1,000 **cookie purchase** **We Yone Cooking Group**

This group of 5 women from Sierra Leone gather together to cook and bake for social activities such as dances and other outings. The name "We Yone" Cooking Group means "Everybody's Cooking Group", as the group is growing and will soon have 8 members from different cultures. The women also gain income through catering for events and activities.

Assiniboine
CREDIT UNION

MGEU
Manitoba
Government
and General
Employees'
Union

CKWW
95.9 FM

present

The 6th Annual

ATHLETICS
MANITOBA
RUN MANITOBA

Run for

RIGHTS

Raise money in support of Winnipeg organizations working for social justice and human rights



walk, cycle, run, wheel or blade
the 5 or 10 KM route along the Red River on Scotia Street (Kildonan Park to St. John's Park and back)

Saturday, June 9th 2007
at Kildonan Park

Registration 8:30 - 9:00 AM
Start time 9:30 AM

Collect pledges for one or all of the following: Amnesty International, Canada-Haiti Action Network, CanPalNet, Engineers Without Borders, Institute for Community Peace Building, LITE, No Sweat Manitoba, RESPECT/WREN, Welcome Place, Fazhan International Program, TSepong HIV/AIDS Clinic, Ndinawemaaganag Endaawaad, Saphalo Education Foundation, North End Community Renewal Corporation.

Call Janine at 475-3816 or email runforrights@mts.net to register and receive pledge forms

To fundraise for LITE, please call 942-8578 or email lite@mts.net