






opportunity 
 service 
 transformation 
 empowerment 
 sustainability 

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women's
 BEAN PROJECT
where a woman earns her future

SAVE-THE-DATE
WBP Annual Holiday Open House
 December 2-4, 2016
 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM (Friday)
 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM (Sat/Sun)
 3201 Curtis Street
 Denver, CO



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Bean Profile

Name: Hayley Morris, Manager, Ten Thousand Villages Cherry Creek

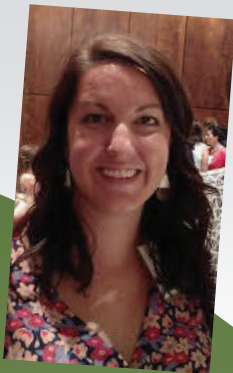
How did you get involved with WBP? Though Ten Thousand Villages focuses on supporting marginalized artisan groups in developing countries, we absolutely recognize the need for sustainable business solutions and job training programs here in the United States. We proudly partner with Women’s Bean Project across the country to support these initiatives here in the US by carrying their products in most stores.

What was your first impression of WBP? I had always known that WBP made fantastic products and that the mission of the organization resonated with conscious consumers everywhere, but being able to see the facility and meet the women working in the program was so inspiring.

What do you wish other people knew about the Bean Project? I wish everyone knew about the holistic and well-rounded programming WBP provides apart from manufacturing their products.

What would you tell someone who is thinking about getting involved with WBP?

Volunteer, donate and get involved! You will become a part of the life changing work that happens every day at WBP and subsequently, your life will be transformed in the process!



Team Wazee Digital is learning as they teach



Through Women’s Bean Projects’ new Corporate Partner Program, Team Wazee Digital is experiencing firsthand what it’s like to step into the lives of the women we serve by teaching a computer literacy class. By following the set curriculum, Team Wazee Digital provides a lead instructor and employees serving as mentors for the class, allowing them to engage one-on-one and see the meaningful impact of their partnership.

For more information on how your company can get involved and make a lasting impact, contact Luanne Hill, Development Manager, at 303.292.1919 ext. 113 or email luanneh@womensbeanproject.com.

WHAT’S INSIDE:



The stories we mostly want to tell are those of our women.

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Maximize your impact. CO Gives Day on Tuesday, December 6, 2016.

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It all started with a simple idea.

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where a woman earns her future

Beanstalk

THE NEWSLETTER OF WOMEN'S BEAN PROJECT

FALL 2016 ISSUE

We are Women’s Bean Project



“Hello, my name is Charlotte. I was hired at Women’s Bean Project in May 2016. My cousin brought it to my attention that maybe this program is what I need based off of her own experience. She is one of their success stories. Throughout my life, I felt unwanted, like I was nothing and would never amount to anything. I was exposed to drugs even before birth and was just looking to survive. My life is different today because Women’s Bean Project gave me something that nobody else would...a chance. Now I feel wanted, needed and I’m starting to believe in myself. I’m something to someone and that’s important to me. My goals are to stay sober and never relive my past.”

~Charlotte, Current Participant

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CREATING MORE JOBS

Since our last newsletter we have been busy making changes to our transitional employment program in order to hire and serve more women. We hired 11 new program participants on May 23, 2016. They have all completed their first 60-days of employment which concludes the training and probationary period.

Each woman has been working on goal-setting and making progress on obtaining her basic needs related to housing, food, health care, counseling and child care. The May hires have also completed basic computer training, are receiving financial literacy services, have been matched with a mentor, and are attending multiple team building sessions and a weekly life skills class.

Our goal of never turning away a woman who needs our services allows us to hire more throughout the year (May, July, September and November). This provides more opportunities for women to learn the necessary job readiness and life skills needed to obtain permanent career entry-level jobs.

inside next issue:

New products
 Ready, Set, Grow
 A word from our CEO
 From the kitchen
 Program updates
 Bean profile

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“Hello, I’m Tanna. I first became involved with Women’s Bean Project in May 2016. Before applying to Women’s Bean Project, I couldn’t find a job, was homeless and had recently gotten myself clean from heroin. I need the opportunity at the Bean Project because I have a felony and need help building my skills so I can get a job and figure out how to not let my past hold me back. Women’s Bean Project has helped me build my self esteem and teach me new skills. I recently enrolled in a housing program, and along with the support I have gained I have hope for a permanent job and a better future.”

~Tanna, Current Participant

Hello, I’m Keba. I was laid off of work for a year and felt like I lost my way. During that time, I applied for jobs online, but nobody would hire me. That’s when I walked into Women’s Bean Project and applied. Everything about the program sounded like it was speaking just to me. I knew I needed to learn better job skills and to work on areas of my life that were holding me back, like my self-esteem. My goals for the future are to get a permanent job and have the stability I need for myself and my son so that I can get off of food stamps. Women’s Bean Project has given me hope and self-worth.

~Keba, Current Participant

A Word from Our CEO

When it’s time to change

Twenty-seven years ago, Women’s Bean Project was founded with a simple idea: that teaching women to work while actually working was the cure for poverty. The reaction from our community when we started was interest in the novelty of what we were doing, but little belief we could make much of it.

In the beginning, we were a mission that happened to have a business. As a business we were always at risk of not being able to fulfill orders, of losing money, of making big and costly mistakes. Yet being a mission with a business wasn’t sustainable. Eventually, to survive, we had to become much more business-minded. We had to document processes, understand our true costs, get safety certifications, and communicate clearly the benefits of our work. In short, we had to become a real business, with an infrastructure, documentation and protocols. We’ve had to learn to take the business just as seriously as the mission. And because there weren’t many other groups running social businesses, we had to invent ourselves.

This transformation taught me that the more we treat ourselves like a business – the more we require the systems that it takes to operate a multi-million dollar consumer packaged goods company, the more the phone rings with prospective partners interested in carrying our products, the more there is acceptance and momentum for what we do. As a result our products can now be found in nearly 1,000 stores across the country, and can be purchased online through some of the country’s largest retailers.

Our increased focus on running a better business has also allowed our mission to grow. By being clear that sales create jobs, we can translate for our retail partners the number of additional women their orders have helped to employ. We’ve also found that these retail partners have wanted to be involved with us in other ways – by volunteering, providing pro bono support and even hiring our graduates – ways that would have never been possible without having a solid business relationship first.

We have accomplished all of the above while also demonstrating some of the best social outcomes in the country. From program graduation, to job placement and job retention rates, the results our women are achieving far exceeds our peers in transitional employment. And so it is from this position of strength that we are doing a refresh!

We’ve been fortunate to hire Sterling Rice Group to help us examine food trends and shifts in how people eat today. Over the coming months we will begin introducing new products that will capitalize on these shifts, create opportunities for our current customers to try something new from Women’s Bean Project, while we enlist new customers to begin supporting us. In 2017 you will also see an update to our appearance and packaging of our products to be more current and fit better into the variety of locations where you can now find Women’s Bean Project products.

Thank you for coming with us on this journey. I feel fortunate to have so many long-time supporters and look forward to hearing your thoughts about our reimagination.

Warmly,



From the Kitchen

Quinoa Black Bean Pumpkin Soup



Quinoa Black Bean Pumpkin Soup makes for a hearty and filling meal full of healthy and nutritious ingredients. Gluten-Free and Vegan too.

- 1 20 oz. can black beans, rinsed & drained (could also use cooked WBP Marian’s Black Beans)
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 5 cloves garlic, diced
- 1 onion, diced

- 1 red chili pepper, diced
- 3 cups cubes pumpkin
- 1 tsp ground cumin
- 1/2 tsp dried oregano
- 1/2 tsp crushed red pepper flakes
- 1/2 cup quinoa
- 5 cups vegetable broth
- handful cilantro, diced
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 avocado, cubed
- 1 lime, cut into wedges

- Heat oil in pan over medium heat and cook onion for a few minutes. Add garlic and red chili pepper and cook until aromatic.
- Add pumpkin and spices and cook for a couple minutes.
- Add 2 cups of the vegetable broth and quinoa. Bring to a boil and cook for 5 minutes before adding the remaining vegetable broth. Bring back to a boil.
- Add beans and bay leaves. Bring to a boil, reduce heat and simmer for 5-10 minutes.

Served garnished with cilantro, avocado and lime juice. Makes 4 servings.

Recipe courtesy of Vicky Berman: www.avocadopesto.com

Support WBP on Colorado Gives Day!

Colorado’s largest one-day online giving movement, presented by Community First Foundation and FirstBank, is coming up and we need your support.

On Tuesday, December 6, 2016, thousands of donors will come together to support Colorado nonprofits like ours. Last year we raised \$60,000. **This year, our goal is to raise \$70,000.** Your support helps us fund the program activities that ensures each woman’s success while at the Bean Project. Our goal is to never turn away a woman who needs our services and is ready to change her life. With your support, we can accomplish that!

Pre-schedule your donation beginning November 1st at www.coloradogives.org/WBP.



engage with us socially



The mission of Women’s Bean Project is to change women’s lives by providing stepping stones to self-sufficiency through social enterprise.



5 our guiding principles

OPPORTUNITY.

We help women help themselves. We provide opportunities for our participants to discover their talents and develop skills to join the workforce and build a better life.

SERVICE.

We strive to “do well by doing good.” We are a social enterprise that believes it is a basic human right to live a stable, healthy life. We serve our supporters, partners, participants and communities by delivering quality products with innovation and efficiency.

TRANSFORMATION.

Our efforts transform more than the individual woman. The seeds of hope in one woman weave threads of success that expand to families and communities with a reach that touches individuals worldwide. From program participants and vendors to customers, donors and volunteers, their transformations make a difference.

EMPOWERMENT.

Using the tools we provide, women are empowered to change their lives. Our supporters are empowered with the knowledge that they have contributed, not only to the self-worth and self-sufficiency of disadvantaged women, but also to the broad-reaching benefits our communities reap.

SUSTAINABILITY.

Instead of a one-time handout, women acquire the tools needed to sustain themselves and their families for a lifetime. We believe in nurturing economic sustainability for our program participants and partners, being ever-mindful of our impact on the environment.