



**WOMEN'S
BEAN PROJECT™**

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BeansTalk

THE NEWSLETTER OF WOMEN'S BEAN PROJECT

REAL WORK. REAL FOOD. REAL PROMISE.™

NEW! Three New Popcorn Flavors



CALENDAR



**Every 1st Friday of the month
First Friday BeansTalk Tour**

Join us from 12:00-1:00pm to sample our products, learn about the history of Women's Bean Project, tour our facility, see the women working, hear from our CEO and a program participant, shop in our store, and so much more! Light lunch is served and RSVP is required. Visit our website for more info.



**Every 4th Thursday of the month
Afterhours BeansTalk Tour**

You'll get an after hours tour of our facility from 5:30-6:30pm and have light snacks and adult beverages on us. This is a great opportunity to network while getting a glimpse of our facility and learn about the history of Women's Bean Project. Come mingle with others in our community and shop in our store. RSVP is required. Visit our website for more info.

INSIDE

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EXPANDING OUR REACH



This spring Women's Bean Project has added some powerful new program components to benefit our women and grow their personal and interpersonal skills and strengths. We have engaged a new partner, Ruth Neubauer, LCSW, to deliver "My Journey," a weekly life skills program. As a group, the women share and learn from each other and re-discover their strengths.

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YOU DID IT!



Ready, Set, Grow is our annual graduation celebration and fundraising luncheon. The purpose is to raise the funds for the upcoming groups of women who come to Women's Bean Project ready to work hard and break the cycle of chronic unemployment and poverty for herself and her family.

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Another exciting new addition to our programming is a partnership with a local organization called Community Educational Outreach (CEO). CEO will offer adult education classes designed to address academic gaps and job readiness needs of our participants. Their work will begin with a baseline assessment of each of our women followed by twice a week math and literacy classes targeted to the individual needs of each participant.

Finally, we are thrilled to have added ongoing classes in Artistic Expression run by Denver artist Sandy Maynard. Sandy's class is designed to help women who have experienced trauma access and process emotions in a safe non-threatening environment through art.

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It costs approximately \$18,000 per woman to meet her basic needs and ensure deep-rooted and long-lasting retention in her job readiness and life skills abilities. Sales of the products the women produce bring in 65% of these revenues. The other 35% is contributed by you and other generous donors to Women's Bean Project. **Thank you!**

Ready, Set, Grow 2017 raised \$215,000! Your generosity has provided for 34 women to earn their way towards personal and economic self-sufficiency. **The goal at Women's Bean Project is to hire every woman who wants to change her life and is ready for change.**

LETTER FROM THE CEO

Change is risky. What if I fail? What if it costs me more than I thought? What if people don't like me after I've changed?

I knew these are questions the women ask, even if they don't ask them out loud. I've said before: Change is hard. Lately, as we've reached the final stages of rolling out our new logo and packaging, we've asked ourselves the same questions, reminding me that change IS hard.

But change can also be rewarding. We see the rewards with the program graduates as they complete their tenure at Women's Bean Project and move on to jobs they'd have never thought possible just a few months earlier. We see it as they become re-engaged with their children, or move back into the community from a halfway house. We watch them blossom with new-found confidence as they achieve greater and more meaningful success. As these events occur, we try to encourage the women and celebrate their accomplishments, because even though the changes can be internally rewarding, it always feels good to get external validation.

That is how I've felt over this past month as we rolled out the new logo and packaging. I received many emails from all of you complimenting the new logo (Thanks!), but the best email I received was from one of our graduates. In her message Chelly said, *"I love the new logo. It's definitely a great representation for what Women's Bean Project has allowed me to do for myself. Thank you for giving me the tools to change my and my family's lives."*

As mentioned previously, the changes we've made to our packaging are about functioning better on store shelves and getting stronger sales in an increasingly competitive consumer packaged goods marketplace. I'm thrilled to report that in the first few weeks of pitching the new packaging to prospective customers we have already closed a handful of new accounts with over 100 stores. What great news for our ability to hire more women!

There is still much work to do as we modify all of our processes to accommodate our new packaging, but I am encouraged that even though change is hard, we will finish in a stronger place.

Thank you for joining us on the journey and for your continued support.

Warmly,
Tamra Ryan



FROM THE KITCHEN: EASY SLOW COOKER ROOT BEER PULLED PORK SANDWICHES

With this easy pulled pork slow cooker recipe all you need to do is toss three ingredients in the slow cooker and 7-9 hours later you have a crock pot full of delicious pulled pork and you won't even have to break a sweat!



Ingredients:

- 1 tin Women's Bean Project BBQ Spice Blend (2 oz.)
- 3-4 lbs. boneless pork loin (trim fat as desired)
- 18 oz. bottle BBQ sauce
- 1-2 cans root beer

Instructions:

1. Rub pork loin with BBQ Spice Blend and place in slow cooker with the layer of fat up.
2. Pour root beer over pork. Cover and cook on low until well cooked and the pork shreds easily, 7 to 9 hours. Note: the actual length of time may vary according to individual slow cooker.
3. When cooking is done, pour off any excess liquid in the slow cooker and shred pork loin with a fork.
4. Add as much or as little BBQ sauce to shredded pork, or serve on the side.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Become an Ambassador for Women's Bean Project! As an Ambassador, you are challenged to bring at least 10 attendees to tours over a 12-month time period. Bring them all at once, one a month or a few at a time, whatever works in your schedule. The goal is to introduce our community to Women's Bean Project. We have wonderful name recognition in our community, yet many do not realize what actually happens within our walls. We invite you to help us spread the word.

Contact Luanne Hill at: luanneh@womensbeanproject.com or 303-292-1919 ext. 113.

APPRECIATION NIGHT



Jossy Eyre Society members, Seed to Sprout funders, and Ready, Set, Grow 2017 Table Captains gathered to celebrate and honor all the opportunities made possible through their continued support. This support allows us to hire every woman who needs our services. **Thank you!**

BEAN PROFILE: NEW DIRECTOR OF PROGRAM OPERATIONS



In early March Women's Bean Project added a new Director of Program Operations, Pam Brier. With Pam's arrival we have had an opportunity to take a fresh look at the program offerings and develop new programs and partnerships to fill in critical needs.

As the Director of Program Operations, Pam takes the lead in the development of program curriculum design and direction, and actively promotes the integration of the program and business operations of the organization.

On a daily basis Pam is actively engaged with the support and case management of all of participants as they set and work toward their personal goals.

Pam is also in charge of community outreach and engagement, recruiting partners, stakeholders, and volunteers who provide support and opportunities to our participants.

Please help us in welcoming Pam!

Pamb@womensbeanproject.com