



opportunity service transformation empowerment sustainability



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Producing desired results. We employ more women each year who never thought anyone would ever hire them.

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Creating a framework for success. Graduates have skills necessary to obtain a career entry-level job.

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Turning 25 with a fresh look. The Bean Project will soon be launching a new website.

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where a woman earns her future

Beanstalk

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WOMEN'S BEAN PROJECT

SUMMER 2014 ISSUE

turning 25 with a fresh look

Twenty-five years is a long time, so it's not surprising that Women's Bean Project has witnessed a lot of change and we are so grateful that so many of our supporters have been with us on this journey. We are very excited to let you know that we will soon be launching our new responsive website design after almost 9 months of conceptualization and development! To completely re-design, re-create, and move everything and everyone over to a new design and integrate our databases has been a large undertaking, but a great experience nonetheless. A few of our goals with the new website were to make it faster, easier to navigate for users, create a better online giving and ecommerce/shopping experience, mobile friendly (responsive design), tell the story of our mission and those of the women served by the Bean Project, and easier for us to manage and update. Most of all, we wanted to help our supporters, customers and partners get to know us better.

We are excited to get your feedback once the site launches – because that's what really matters – is you!

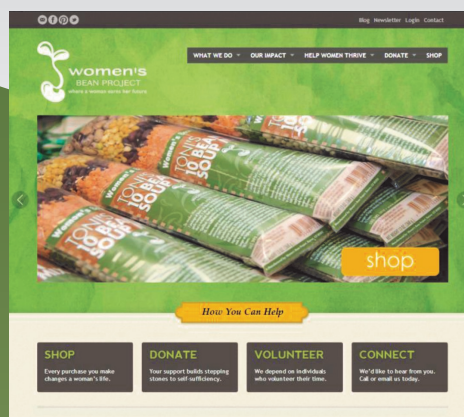
We feel good about the fact that our website has the ability to grow with us as we continue to serve more women.

inside next issue:

- Program outlook
- How you can make a difference
- Bean profile
- A word from our CEO
- Holiday planning
- From the Bean kitchen

addressing barriers: CHANGING LIVES

Over the last 25 years, you have helped over 700 women move out of dependency and into personal responsibility and self-reliance. When you account for her family, that equates to thousands of lives that have positively been impacted. What we wish you could see is the women who aren't here — nearly three hundred women each year we have to turn away because we don't have the capacity to employ them. Even though we are hiring more women than ever before in our history with better results than we have ever seen—we still turn away four out of five qualified applicants. Our products are the tangible proof of our cause, but product sales only cover 70% of the cost of employing the women in our program. That's because there are so many other needs, in addition to job readiness skills that a woman must have met before she can truly work towards self-sufficiency—the intangibles such as basic needs services, interpersonal and life skills that the Bean Project provides. They cost money to support, but their value in a woman's life is immeasurable.



I am Women's Bean Project: thanks to you, my future is bright

We love to see how your support has changed the lives of the women we serve and helped create new futures – for themselves, their families, their communities and our economy.



Nancy, one of our 2013 graduates stopped by the Bean Project recently to say hello and share how happy she is and how much her life has changed because of your support. When Nancy came to the Bean Project a year ago, she was homeless, lacked proper dental care, was financially broke, had no self-esteem or confidence and in general, was struggling in her life.

While employed at the Bean Project, Nancy found her own housing, received dental work through Smiles for Success, built up her self-confidence and self-worth, obtained a job at Christian Living Communities through the assistance of her mentor, and has become self-sufficient and happy.

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NURTURING SUSTAINABILITY 60 women's lives will change!

Thanks to you we raised more than \$270,000!

2014 marks 25 years that the Bean Project has been helping women earn a future through transitional employment and our annual graduation celebration and fundraising luncheon honors all of the women we have served. Close to 800 people (the most ever) came together on May 8th for our 9th annual **Ready, Set, Grow!** event - and what a huge success it was because of our awesome supporters!

The event is an opportunity for our community to celebrate the hard work and accomplishments of our graduates - and for their efforts to improve their lives and the lives of those around them. To date, **Ready, Set, Grow! 2014** has helped raise more than \$270,000! Proceeds from the event provide life skills training for 60 women! These skills truly make a difference in the program participants lives. See the impact of your donation for the women we serve at the Bean Project: <http://vimeo.com/womensbeanproject/celebrating25years>.

Table captains are the lifeblood of **Ready, Set, Grow!** and it is never too early to think about next year. To volunteer or for more information, contact Luanne Hill at 303.292.1919 ext. 113 or email her at LuanneH@WomensBeanProject.com.

She proudly carries in her purse a *Certificate of Achievement* that her employer, Christian Living Communities, recently gave her – along with her 2nd promotion in a year.

You can see the transformation that has taken place in Nancy by her beautiful smile and your support.

a word from our CEO

funding our future

Your support ushers women with significant barriers into the economic mainstream and creates a viable way to address chronic unemployment, recidivism, welfare dependency, and a host of other challenges.

This June marks my 11th anniversary as CEO of Women's Bean Project. It's hard for me to believe so much time has passed! A lot has changed at the Bean Project since 2003. In eleven years I've seen hundreds of women pass through the Bean Project's doors onto better lives of employment, self-worth and self-sufficiency. We've employed more women than ever before and improved our outcomes consistently—to a 77% graduation rate and 100% job placement rate. I'm so proud of our team and these accomplishments.

And yet, our work is not done. There continues to be hundreds of women in our community whose lives would be transformed if we were able to hire them. There are children whose futures could be re-written if their mothers had the skills to get and keep employment.

Women's Bean Project creates employment for women because through employment we are able to change lives. That's why we exist—thanks to you.

We believe after 25 years we have proven the model of running a business with tremendous social benefit and we are determined to do a better job of addressing the needs of marginalized women in our community.

Therefore, this year—our 25th anniversary—we are launching Bean@25, a \$2.5 million campaign to raise money to fund our future. With this fund we will invest in Women's Bean Project so the Bean Project can invest in more women and families, helping them break the cycle of chronic unemployment and poverty.

Bean@25 represents an audacious fundraising goal; one that is unprecedented for this organization. For our donors, it represents a new kind of investment. The Bean Project is ready and we look forward to entering this new chapter with you!

where a woman earns her future producing desired results

Because of YOU, we employ more women each year who never thought anyone would hire them or give them a second chance.

The most recent group of women have moved on to career entry-level jobs and we are making plans for our new hire screening session and interviews in July and bringing on board the next group of women.

Because of YOU we are preparing to hire 35 more women who will have the opportunity to change their lives by moving out of

dependency and into personal responsibility and self reliance through employment, as well as stabilization and personal development services.

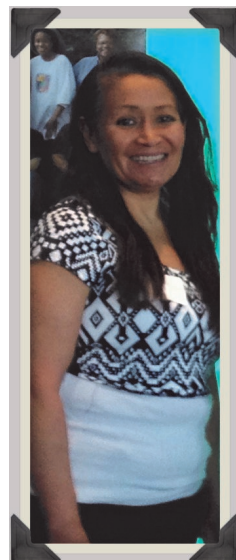
What if we could hire every woman who applied and stop poverty and unemployment in its tracks?



"To date, I have mentored 10 women and have seen firsthand that transitional employment and mentor programs work. The women who walk in the Bean Project's door are not the same women who graduate nine months later. They are empowered with the necessary work and job readiness skills to find and keep employment and more importantly, the confidence and self esteem to be role models for their children and their community." ~ Gail Fritzingler, Women's Bean Project Mentor, Board Member & Donor

"I think my great personality helped me get the job at the Bean Project. I was so happy and excited for a new chance in life. My goal is to get a great job and stay there for a very long time. I now know that I can stand on my own two feet. I am strong!"

We are so proud of Nancy and all of the women who have moved on to becoming the women they were meant to be thanks to you.



from the kitchen

Spice-Rubbed Tenderloin using Uncle Bob's BBQ Rub

Denise Plante, KOSI 101.1 FM 'The Murphy & Denise Show

- 1 package of Women's Bean Project's Uncle Bob's BBQ Rub
- 2 (1-pound) pork tenderloins
- 1 cup prepared hickory barbecue sauce
- 3/4 cup ketchup
- 1/3 cup orange juice
- 1 tbsp soy sauce
- 1 tsp hot sauce



Cooking Instructions

Rub Uncle Bob's BBQ Rub mixture on the tenderloins, coating all sides and place the meat in a baking dish. Cover and refrigerate for at least 45 minutes.

Meanwhile, use this time to make the barbecue sauce. In a medium saucepan, mix all sauce ingredients and bring to a simmer. Cook over medium-low heat, stirring occasionally, for 10 minutes. Remove from heat.

Set the meat on a hot grill, searing it on both sides (about a minute each side). Then move the meat from the direct flame and close the grill. Cook until a meat thermometer inserted diagonally into the center of each tenderloin registers 160 F (about 20 to 30 minutes). Remove the meat from the grill. Cover it with aluminum foil and let it stand for about 10 minutes.

Slice and serve with the sauce on the side. Enjoy!

change sticks creating a framework for success

Graduates of the Bean Project have the skills to obtain a career entry-level job, as well as the strength and resilience to overcome personal barriers; enabling them to stay employed and create a new future for themselves, their families, our community and our economy.



Since launching the mentor program in 2010:

- 77% program graduation rate has reached all-time high
- 100% of graduates secured employment
- 80% of graduates retained jobs 6-months after graduation

In addition to the hands-on learning that occurs on the production floor, the women meet weekly with their mentor.

One-on-one guidance with:

- Personal & professional development
- Goal setting
- Computer skills
- Background explanation
- Resume writing
- Job exploration
- Job applications
- Interview skills

The mentor program provides the framework for the women to transition from Women's Bean Project into career entry-level employment.

engage with us socially



5 ways to help a woman thrive

when a woman thrives, her family gains.
A Women's Bean Project program participant creates a better life for herself and her family.

when a woman thrives, our local business community gains.
A business that hires a Women's Bean Project graduate gets an employee that is productive and engaged.

when a woman thrives, our families and friends gain.
A customer who buys Women's Bean Project's jewelry or gourmet food enjoys a quality product that's lovingly handmade.

when a woman thrives, we know we have made a difference.
Each Women's Bean Project donor has the satisfaction of knowing they have made a difference in the lives of an individual woman, her family and her community.

when a woman thrives, our local economy gains.
Our community is enriched when we reduce chronic unemployment and dependence on assistance, equipping women to lead productive, self-sufficient lives.