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SAVE-THE-DATE!

Ready, Set, Grow!

Annual Graduation Celebration & Fundraising Luncheon
Wednesday, April 29, 2015
11:30 am - 1:00 pm
Donald R. Seawell Grand Ballroom at
The Denver Center for Performing Arts Complex

RSVP by April 8th online:
<https://readyssetgrow2015.eventbrite.com> or call Luanne Hill at 303.292.1919 ext. 113 or email luanneh@womensbeanproject.com for more info.

Columbine Classic

Benefits Women's Bean Project
run. connect. empower.
Sunday, May 3, 2015
4 mile / 8 mile race
Aurora Reservoir

Register online using code: **WBPCLASSIC** and receive **\$5 OFF**
www.columbineclassic.org

table captains make a difference

For nine years each Ready, Set, Grow! event has been unique, poignant and motivational. 2015 marks the Bean Project's 10th anniversary of the event, and this year is going to be extremely special. Women's Bean Project is seeking Table Captains to host tables at the event. The success of Ready, Set, Grow! hinges on the participation of friends like you. First, a Table Captains introduces nine other people to Women's Bean Project and then extends an invitation to join them at the luncheon to celebrate graduation and the work the Bean Project has been doing in our community for 25 years. Family, friends, neighbors and work colleagues make excellent potential guests. The luncheon is free to you and your guests. Although everyone will be asked to consider a contribution, Table Captains do not have to ask for money, and there is no minimum or maximum gift level. We help table captains by providing stories, tours and other ways to connect prospective guests to the mission.

As Table Captain, your job is to recruit the guests and familiarize them with Women's Bean Project beforehand and our job is to inspire your guests to give. The best invitation for your guests is a personal one. We will provide all of the tools you'll need to invite your guests.

If interested in participating this year, call Luanne Hill at 303.292.1919 ext. 113 for more information.



inside next issue:

- Launch of rebranded website
- Preparing for new program participants
- A word from our CEO
- Program outlook
- From the kitchen
- Bean profile

corporate sponsors: IMPACTING THE FUTURE

After approximately nine-months in the program, the women at the Bean are ready to graduate and move to career entry-level jobs in our community.

This monumental step not only brings the graduates great pride and optimism about their future, but aids our community by creating new taxpayers and decreasing the women's need for public services. On April 29th, *Ready, Set, Grow!* once again brings downtown Denver to life, and we are currently seeking corporate sponsors to help support our celebratory event. Attended by almost 800 affluent, influential community and business leaders, our 7 different sponsorship levels - ranging from \$1,000 - \$20,000 - offer an ideal opportunity to promote your brand to this engaged audience. An added bonus, Women's Bean Project is a participant in the Enterprise Zone tax credit program, and offers corporate sponsors a 25% Colorado state income tax credit on cash contributions of \$250 or more. For more information on getting involved as a corporate sponsor in this empowering event, contact Luanne Hill at 303.292.1919 ext. 113 or LuanneH@womensbeanproject.com.

I am Women's Bean Project



My name is Chaka and I am Women's Bean Project. Before being hired at the Bean Project I struggled deeply with grief, sadness and depression. In 2010, I lost my job as a result of losing my mom to a long illness. After her passing, I thought I could never love again or feel a sense of self-worth because she was my backbone and positive strength...I loved myself through her.

My healing began when I started working at Women's Bean Project in July 2014. The program offered me a fresh start. I have developed more self esteem and confidence and am also a better mother to my three sons.

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**YOU MADE A DIFFERENCE
Year-end campaign success!**

Thanks to you, we raised \$240,000 in our end of year campaign - up 22% from last year!

We owe the success of our campaign to your generosity.

The funds raised equates to over 29,000 hours of job readiness, life skills classes and interpersonal development. These skills ensure each program participant meets the essential requirements to create a better future for herself and her family. Each program component provides a crucial skill needed to get and keep employment upon graduation from our program. In 2014, for the third year in a row, 100% of graduates found employment. Approximately 80% of the women who graduate are still employed after a year. This wouldn't be possible without your investment in our program. Your contributions allows us to provide a variety of life and job readiness skills training, support the women while they work to meet their basic needs, and pay them a wage while they are working on these important needs. Whether she is working on her basic computer skills, studying to get her GED, learning how to present herself in Dress for Success classes, or working one-on-one with her mentor, your support allows us to pay her a wage to earn while she learns.

It truly makes a difference!



Filled with grief, sadness, depression and the loss of her mom and job, Chaka's life changed.
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Snapshot of 2014-15 Program Participant Demographics and Stats.
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where a woman earns her future

Beanstalk

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WOMEN'S BEAN PROJECT

FEBRUARY 2015 ISSUE

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One of my biggest obstacles when I started the Bean Project was trying to get my drivers license which I failed multiple times. After much support from my case managers, they encouraged me to take time during the work week to study and to keep taking the practice tests, which I did.

After 10 attempts to pass my exam at the DMV, I finally earned my license and am now able to take my family to and from school and work.

“One of the things I’m most proud of was getting my license. That changed my life and my feeling of independence.”

~Chaka, 2014-15 Program Participant

I have learned a lot of different skills since I have been at the Bean Project. I started at the bean line, where I packed the beans and then I went to baked goods, where I packed cookies, brownies and cornbread mixes. Now I am making baskets and jewelry.



I am a better person as far as negative things and have learned to let them go. I believe in myself more than I ever have before and am a better woman today than I was this time last year.

I have grown to love myself and have confidence in myself and I owe it all to Women’s Bean Project.

a word from our CEO making a difference

It’s February and we are mid-way through this program cycle. The program participants hired last July will graduate on May 1st.

With graduation and their transition to new employment imminent, many of the women are beginning to feel stress about the unknown. Because they are in the midst of the program, it’s hard for them to see how much they’ve changed. However, as an observer, it is obvious.

Chaka, who, after her mother pass away, slipped into a deep depression and felt no self-love, has begun to realize her worth. By loving herself she can be a better mom to her three sons, a better partner and a better employee. She arrives every day with a smile on her face, ready to work. It’s delightful to see, yet also bittersweet because I know that in just a few months she will move on and become a great employee for someone else.

But that’s the point, isn’t it?

At the Bean Project we see the women at their low point. Yet we also have the opportunity to witness their resiliency, to watch them pick themselves up and begin to realize they are worthy of a better life and that life is within their grasp.

When I first meet the women we hire I see anger and hurt. I see women who are afraid to imagine anything better for their lives. And yet, they arrive at the Bean Project hoping for a chance, that maybe this will be the program that changes everything. They arrive with nothing to lose and their lives to regain. Fortunately, most of them do.

Thank you for coming with us on this journey. Your contributions make a real difference in women’s lives and their futures.

Warmly,



Ready, Set, Grow!

Graduation Celebration and Fundraising Luncheon

celebrating our graduates

SAVE-THE-DATE

Ready, Set, Grow!, our annual graduation celebration and fundraising luncheon, is an opportunity for our community to celebrate the hard work and accomplishments of our recent graduates and their efforts to improve their lives. Ready Set Grow! is more than the Bean Project’s primary annual fundraiser, it is a time for community members to be inspired by how hard the women in our program work to transform their lives and create better futures for themselves, their families, our community and our economy. The event is free to the public and includes lunch, but RSVP is required. Your support will help us serve more women who are chronically unemployed and impoverished to receive the necessary job readiness, life skills and interpersonal skills needed to become self-sufficient and to get and keep a job in our community.

The event will be held on April 29th at the Seawell Grand Ballroom in the Denver Performing Arts Center from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm. **RSVP online at <https://readyssetgrow2015.eventbrite.com> or call Luanne Hill at 303.292.1919 ext. 113.**

from the kitchen

Whether you're looking for a delicious dinner, comfort food, gluten-free options, or a warm-you-up dessert, our products will please any palate.

Garlic & Herb Toasted Cheese Garlic Cheese Bread

This easy to make garlic bread will sure please any palate. Serve as an appetizer or with soup, chili or Italian dish.



- 1 package WBP Garlic & Herb Dip Mix
- 1 lb. softened butter
- 16 oz. loaf of Italian or French Bread
- 1 lb. softened butter

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Prepare infused butter recipe listed on package, but do not chill. Cut a 16 oz. loaf of Italian or French bread in half horizontally. Spread infused butter over bread. Place on a baking pan and heat in the oven for 10 minutes. Remove from oven and sprinkle with finely grated Parmesan cheese. Return to oven and broil for 2-3 minutes or until edges begin to toast and cheese bubbles. Make 1-inch thick slices and serve immediately.

2014-15 Program Demographics & Stats



- 66% of the women have felony convictions
- 69% of the women are recovering addicts
- 55% of the women have a GED or HS Diploma
- 38% of the women live at a halfway house
- 17% of the women are homeless (staying w/ friends or family)
- 86% of the women had health insurance at time of hire

While employed at Women’s Bean Project

- 100% now have health insurance
- 66% are in the process with or have received dental care
- 46% are in the process with or have received vision care
- 43% are in the process with or have secured housing
- 31% have received I-I GED/ESL tutoring services
- 22% are in the process of becoming forklift certified

As of January 2015

engage with us socially



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.