

opportunity  service  transformation  empowerment  sustainability 



3201 Curtis Street
Denver, CO 80205

Direct: 303.292.1919
Toll free: 888.292.3001
Fax: 303.292.1221
Email: info@womensbeanproject.com
www.womensbeanproject.com

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
DENVER, CO
PERMIT NO. 56



Alberta was at home raising her children with no prior work history and lack of education.

PAGE 1



Empowering women one bean at a time. 100% job placement for 2014-15 graduates.

PAGE 2



Our roadmap to success. 220% return. 100% success. Your impact matters.

PAGE 3

where a woman earns her future

Beanstalk

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WOMEN'S BEAN PROJECT

SUMMER 2015 ISSUE

bean profile

Name: Erin Egglund, WBP mentor, 5-years

Experience as a WBP mentor: My mentoring experience over the last 5 years has allowed me to apply my lifelong tenet that everyone has the right and responsibility to paid employment. Whether it is the most basic of jobs that restores a person's confidence in being able to support themselves or fulfilling a passion within a particular industry, all placements are considered a success in my world.

What have you learned from the experience? To never pre-judge a person; get to know them first and allow them to get to know you...you may not be cut from the same cloth, but you can always find common ground and find respect for each other's ways, however disparate they may be.

What type of impact do you feel you have made and/or can make? I consider myself a facilitator as a mentor, merely tapping and channeling each woman's talents, passions and determination. As we all know, no one can motivate another person, only help find their internal drive. I'd rather have a graduate look back on her experience at the Bean Project and think about how she has found and stood upon her own two feet rather than giving me or someone else credit for something she really just needed a little boost with.



inside next issue:

A word from our CEO
New 2015-16 Program Participants
Your impact makes a difference
Holiday planning
From the kitchen
Bean profile

new website: BUILDING STEPPING STONES

Twenty-six years is a long time, so it's not surprising the Women's Bean Project has witnessed a lot of change. We are grateful you have been with us on this journey.

After much planning and hard work, we are very excited to announce that we launched a new website in February with an entirely updated look and feel and functionality, focused on better telling our story and serving our customers. From one woman's idea 25 years ago to create a safe and accepting work environment, a sense of self-worth and a chance to earn a small wage, our social enterprise has evolved in many ways. Our mission to provide stepping stones to self-sufficiency through social enterprise has remained the same. To date, we have served over 800 women through transitional employment, teaching them the job readiness skills and life skills needed to move into career entry-level employment and to create better lives for themselves and their families. We are beyond thankful to all of you who have joined and supported us along the way.

Please visit the site at www.womensbeanproject.com and engage with us! We are excited to get your feedback on our new website. Let us know what you think.

I am Women's Bean Project



While my husband (who had recently been diagnosed with a seizure disorder) was looking for work and volunteering, I was at home raising our four school-age children, with no prior work history or a GED.

We were on the TANF program for temporary assistance. I tag-teamed with my husband to do volunteer jobs, a requirement for receiving assistance. I learned about the Bean Project from a family member so I went and applied.

During the application process, I learned about the program, the products they produce and the work they do. We had a working "hands-on" interview with a team of five.

Once I completed the interview process, I waited for the phone call to see if I was accepted into the program.

continued on page 2

CHANGING WOMEN'S LIVES You made a difference

Thank you for your generous donations and pledges to Women's Bean Project at Ready, Set, Grow 2015!

We raised over \$200,000 and honored our graduating Class of 2014-2015. Each of our graduates has worked very hard to prepare and plan for her future, and our donors have provided the support needed to create the program activities and a safe and accepting environment in which she can flourish. Thanks to your support, all of our graduates secured jobs in the community prior to graduating the Bean Project.

Thank you Table Captains! All of YOU are ambassadors for Women's Bean Project and by introducing your friends, families and co-workers to the Bean Project, you have helped create the program support that leads women to affect lasting change in their lives.

Sixty-four percent of those who gave at Ready, Set, Grow were new donors. Welcome!

In the coming months, we look forward to keeping new and longtime supporters apprised of our work and the women's successes. Thank you for being a part of the work of changing women's lives. Each woman who graduates creates a ripple effect that extends beyond her to her family, friends and our community.

continued from page 1

I have learned more than ever before since being hired at the Bean Project, such as production skills, math skills, sanitizing a work area for food handling, and managing a team. I hope to work at a company where I will continue to learn and gain new skills, as well as have the opportunity for advancement. I would recommend this program for other women who want to gain skills, continue working on their education and receive employment training.

“While at the Bean Project, my goal was to work at Denver Public Schools in their food service division.”

~Alberta, 2014-15 Program Graduate

My hard work and attention to detail was quickly recognized by the staff and I became a lead in production and supervised other Women's Bean Project program participants on the baked goods line.

I was able to accomplish my personal goals – securing stable child care and making dental appointments for myself for the first time in years!

Today, I am working at Denver Public Schools (DPS) and just received a promotion to Cook Level II. I love my new job and have Women's Bean Project to thank for all they have done for me.

~Alberta, 2014-15 Program Graduate

a word from our CEO

the road to a new future

Gosh! We have a lot of good news to share. As we wrap up another fiscal year (our 26th), we are excited to announce our second consecutive year of 100% job placement for graduates.

And, as we complete our one-year follow up with last year's graduates, we are thrilled to report that they are all still employed. We couldn't be happier for their successes. These graduates have changed their lives and are reaping the benefits of maintaining employment. They've received promotions, increased their pay, regained custody of their children and obtained stable housing.

As we prepare to hire the next group this summer, we look forward to having the graduates visit and share their stories with the current program participants.

Every graduate will say it hasn't always been easy, and, as she beams about her success, she will tell them how good she feels about her accomplishments.

While she will give much of the credit to the Bean Project, I will smile and know that we merely gave her the hand-up. She took it and made a future out of it.

No hand-up would be possible without our donors whose support provides the Bean Project with the resources to invest in the women. The women and I thank you!

Warmly,

empowering women one bean at a time

It's an exciting time of year at Women's Bean Project. Our last group of program participants just graduated and 100% of them have found permanent employment in their field of choice! We have been actively recruiting new applicants to join our 9-month transitional employment program and are hosting a large group hiring event to bring on 40 new women who have faced various barriers to employment.

We hire women who come from all walks of life and different backgrounds who are struggling to get or keep a job. These women develop hands-on job training by working in our food manufacturing and jewelry businesses. In conjunction, the women attend program activities that are designed to help them develop life skills for long-term success. Our goal is to empower each individual woman to change her life and to create a better future for herself, her family, our community and our economy.



Pictured above: 2014-15 program graduates. Not all women pictured.

from the kitchen

Cranberry-Orange Brownies

Take our yummy Cindy's Sinfully Chocolate Brownie Mix and add a little orange, Craisins and walnuts for these scrumptious and delicious treat.



- 1 package Cindy's Sinfully Chocolate Brownie Mix
- 4 oz. butter
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup walnuts
- 4 teaspoons orange liquor
- 1/2 cup Craisins
- 4 oz. white chocolate
- Orange zest from one orange

Start by grinding the walnuts in a food processor until they are very fine. Grease an 8" x 8" x 2" pan with nonstick spray. Firmly press the walnuts into the bottom of the pan to create a crust. For the brownies, start by melting the butter; place it in a medium mixing bowl, add the mix and two eggs. Next, zest one orange into a the bowl with the brownies, and add the orange liquor. Using a spatula, mix everything together by hand, and pour the mixture into the pan with the walnut crust. Bake in a 350 degree oven until the brownies start to pull away from the sides or a toothpick comes out clean — approximately 25-30 minutes. Cool on a cooling rack for about 15 minutes. Finally, melt 4 oz. of white chocolate and drizzle over the top of the brownies. Cool until the chocolate hardens. Cut and enjoy!

Our Roadmap to Success

Women's Bean Project offers a viable way to address chronic unemployment, recidivism, welfare dependency, and a host of other challenges. Taxpayers save \$1.31 for every \$1 spent by Women's Bean Project, reducing the burden on government to pay for programs.



More than 7 in 10 women graduate the Bean Project



- 100% Job Placement Rate for graduates.
- 100% Working in jobs in their targeted field.
- 100% Financial Sustainability as a business.
- 100% Transparency for donors, retailers and employees.

220% Return: According to the recent Mathematica Jobs Study, for every dollar a social enterprise spends, the **return on investment is \$2.23** in benefits to society as a whole.

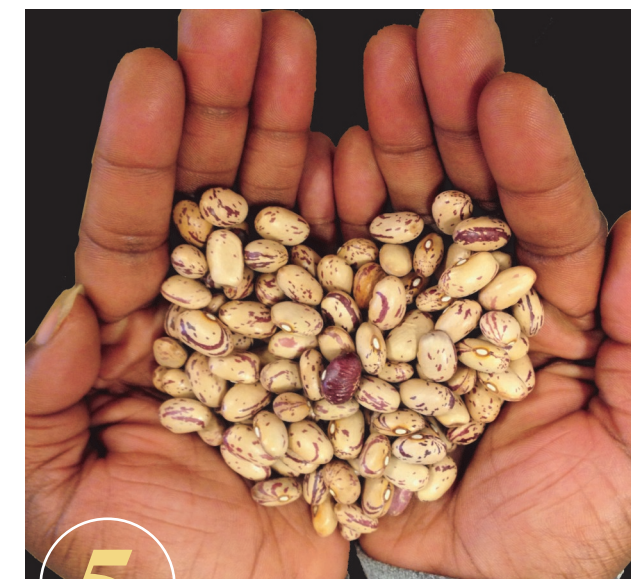
220% RETURN. >>>> 100% SUCCESS. >>>> 1 WOMAN AT A TIME.

80% graduate from the program. Graduates go on to lead successful, self-sufficient and fulfilling lives, earning a new future – for themselves, their families, our community and our economy.

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.