

SAVE-THE-DATE

WBP Annual Holiday Fair

December 4-6, 2015
 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM (Friday)
 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM (Sat/Sun)
 3201 Curtis Street
 Denver, CO



bean profile

Name: Amara Martin, Dress for Success Denver, Program Director & WBP volunteer

Experience as a WBP volunteer: For over 5 years I have coordinated a job readiness series at the Bean Project. Every year, I love watching the women transform through the program. When we start classes everyone has their 'armor'. It can be fear, shame, lack of confidence, etc. As we move through classes she drops off pieces of the armor. Then by the end of the series, she is able to look herself in the mirror and see her true self. At that point, she is ready to find a job. Not just any job, but one that will provide her needs and fulfill her soul.

What have you learned from the experience? That change is inevitable and every women has the potential to own her life and her choices. She can craft her next chapter by working hard, staying focused and being true to herself.

What type of impact do you feel you have made and/or can make?

It's my purpose to help women discover their value. Everyday I work with women who have been beaten down by their circumstances and situations. I want them to see past that and focus on 'what now?' We provide job search tools and teach them how to build self-confidence; which leads to a path of self defined success.

inside next issue:

Ready, Set, Grow Graduation Luncheon
 Year end campaign recap
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new website: GIFT GIVING MADE EASY

Our objectives were to make our website fast and easy to navigate, to create a better online shopping experience, to be mobile friendly and to tell the story of our mission, impact, program, partners and the women served by the Bean Project.

As an online customer, you will enjoy:

- Account specific login through 'My Account'
- Ease of online navigation and order placement
- Ability to purchase products as gifts and add a special gift
- Option to make all types of online donations with a gift note or in honor of note
- Ability to place orders 24/7, 365 days a year
- Account management, order history and tracking at your fingertips
- Email confirmations of orders and shipments

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.

We Are Women's Bean Project



"The stories we most want to tell are those of the women – women who, against all odds, have turned their lives around. Too often, the women who come to the Bean Project buy into the notion that society puts in front of them; that they aren't good enough to be hired by an employer who will care about them, to earn enough money to finally move off of assistance, to have a life they and their children can be proud of."

The women of the Bean Project have taken what life has presented to them, some of it their own making, much of it not, and created a mess that they are working to correct."
 ~Tamra Ryan, The Third Law.

We hope that by sharing their stories of struggle, survival and, sometimes, triumph, we will give these women a voice.



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 8, 2015.

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When everyone starts the classes, they have on their full 'armor.'

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where a woman earns her future

Beanstalk

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WOMEN'S BEAN PROJECT

FALL 2015 ISSUE

THE FUTURE OF THE BEAN Happy Engagement Party!

As we prepare for this year's holiday season, we are also celebrating a couple of milestones: In July and August we hired the largest group of program participants ever, due, in part, to receiving the largest single order in our history.

We are excited about the future prospects for our business and feel we are poised for growth. We look forward to having you join us on this journey.

To celebrate our recent achievements and share our future plans, we hope you will join us on Wednesday, October 14th from 4:00 - 6:00 PM at 3201 Curtis Street, Denver.

Please RSVP by October 9th to Luanne Hill at 303.292.1919 ext. 113 or email lunanneh@womensbeanproject.com.

“I think my life has changed since coming to Women’s Bean Project because they gave me a second chance at life. Previously, I was homeless, unemployed and suffered from depression and substance abuse. I now feel better about myself and those around me. My hope for the future looks a whole lot better now than it did before the Bean Project.”

~Angela, Current Participant

“I have seen how difficult, but necessary, it is to stare adversity in the eye. And despite setbacks – because setbacks always occur – a path to a new life can be created.”

~Tamra Ryan, CEO

“The Bean Project is changing my life. I am so excited for all of the resources they have available to me and my family.”

~Abok, Current Participant

“I came to Women’s Bean Project after being in prison because I know that I can change and benefit from the program. The Bean Project has given me hope and determination to stay sober and build a better life for myself so that I can one day see my kids and give back to the community.”

~Yolanda, Current Participant

“I was fighting a federal case and needed to change my life. I have now created a more stable living environment for my children. I want to go to college to become a child psychologist and give my children the life they deserve.”

~Brienne, Current Participant

a word from our CEO

starting with a simple idea

Twenty six years ago, Women’s Bean Project was founded with the simple idea that teaching women to work by actually working was the cure for poverty.

The reaction from the community when we first started was interest, but perhaps little belief we could make much of it. As a business, we were always at risk—of not being able to fulfill orders, of losing money, of making big and costly mistakes. In the beginning, we were a mission with a business. But this mentality wasn’t sustainable. Eventually, to survive, we had to become much more business-minded. We had to document processes, understand our true costs and communicate clearly the benefits of our products as well as our mission. We had to ensure we were a sustainable company in order to sustain the mission. The more we have treated ourselves like a business with a mission, the more the phone rings with prospective partners interested in carrying our products. Our increased focus on running a better business has allowed our mission to grow. Sales create jobs and we can translate for our partners the number of additional women their orders have helped to employ. We’ve also found that these retail partners

want 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 the business relationship. Today, companies like Walmart and Starbucks are calling to work together. We have a seat at the table because we have found a way to operate a business with solid business principles and do good at the same time. The more people buy Women’s Bean Project products, the more lives we can change. In fact, we have just hired our largest group of program participants in our history, due in large part, to having just received the largest single order ever.

In short, we have discovered that our mission succeeds when our business is strong. Thank you for holding us accountable and for supporting us as we get better.

Warmly,

maximize your impact: creating success together

In its sixth year, the 2015 Colorado Gives Day is Tuesday, December 8, 2015. This is the annual statewide movement to celebrate and increase philanthropy in Colorado through online giving. Your gracious gift during Colorado Gives Day to Women’s Bean Project will give hope

to a woman who is on her way to becoming self-sufficient and empowered to create a brighter tomorrow. You will help a woman move up the path toward personal and economic self-sufficiency through comprehensive and effective programs to teach the job readiness, interpersonal and life skills needed to be a better employee, parent, and member of our community. **Pre-schedule your donation starting November 1, 2015 at**

www.cogives.org/WBP and help us ensure the women of the Bean receive the support they need to successfully secure a job in the community before they graduate at Ready, Set Grow on April 27, 2016. **Our goal is to raise \$100,000 during the 24-hour online giving campaign and you can help!** To motivate donors to give on Colorado Gives Day, Community First Foundation and FirstBank have partnered to

create a \$1 Million Incentive Fund, which proportionally increases the value of every dollar donated. For example, if a nonprofit organization receives 10 percent of the total donations made on Colorado Gives Day, that same nonprofit receives 10 percent of the \$1 Million Incentive Fund. **Pre-scheduling begins November 1st so set it in your calendar as a reminder.** No matter where you live, you can give to help a woman earn her future!



from the kitchen

Spicy Black Bean Soup

Take our delicious Marian’s Black Bean Soup mix and add some garlic, poblano peppers and chipotle peppers to give it just the right spiciness.



- 1 package WBP Marian’s Black Bean Soup Mix
- 7 cups chicken stock or water
- 1 large onion, diced
- 1 poblano pepper, diced
- 4 chipotle peppers, in adobo sauce
- 1 1/2 teaspoons black pepper
- 1 tablespoon chicken base/bouillon
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 2 tablespoon lime juice
- Sour cream
- Cilantro

Rinse and sort beans. In a pot, add water or stock, chipotle peppers, soup spice packet, salt and pepper. Cook for 2 hours or until tender. Remove 1 cup of the cooked black beans and puree in a food processor. Sauté onion, poblano pepper and garlic, and add to the pot along with the pureed beans. Stir in the chicken base/bouillon and lime juice. Garnish with sour cream and cilantro.

It’s more than a bowl of soup

It’s one of America’s favorite comfort foods through the long, cold days of winter, however, there are so many reasons to eat soup all year long. Just as soup nourishes the body, Women’s Bean Project has been nourishing women’s lives for 26 years by helping them thrive through our gourmet food manufacturing and handcrafted jewelry making businesses. It’s more than a warm bowl of Toni’s 10 Bean Soup. It’s about changes, hope and life-long transformations for thousands of women struggling to break the cycle of poverty and chronic unemployment.

Each product, created by the tireless hands of a woman hired at the Bean Project, is made with the highest quality ingredients and the highest quality of care. Each woman works in our transitional employment program to receive immediate income and support services to overcome barriers to employment. She learns the job readiness, interpersonal and life skills needed to create a brighter future for herself, her family, our community and the economy.

When you eat a bowl of Women’s Bean Project’s soup or chili, you’re experiencing a breath of hope from the woman who, against all odds, built stepping stones to self-sufficiency and turned her life around.



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.