

## Measuring Up Fund FINAL REPORT TEMPLATE

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AUG 31 2009

### Section One - General

1. Community Name: \_Vanderhoof
2. Primary Contact Information:

Name & Title:	Susan Armstrong Program Manager	Organization:	Nechako Valley Community Services Society
Phone:	250-567-9205	Fax:250-567-3939	
Street Address:	157 West Victoria St	Mailing Address:	PO Box 1249
City:	Vanderhoof	Postal Code:	V0J 3A0
Email:	sarmstrong@nvcss.ca	Website:	<a href="http://www.nvcss.ca">www.nvcss.ca</a> <a href="http://www.thebeancoffeehouse.com">www.thebeancoffeehouse.com</a>

3. Attach a summary of all related activities. Please include specific details about activities undertaken as a result of receiving your Measuring Up grant. Attach copies of any materials developed as a result of your activities. (2 page maximum)

Here are some points to focus on when writing your summary:

- Why these activities are important for the community;
- How these activities are helping to improve local accessibility and inclusion;
- The successes and challenges experienced in accomplishing these activities and;
- How these activities will be continued after the grant is complete.

4. Attach a list of members of you Measuring Up Committee:

5. Have you hired people to help complete this initiative?

Yes (please complete this section)       No (please skip this section)

How many people were hired? \_\_\_\_37\_\_\_\_\_

Do any of the people you hired have a disability?

Yes       No

Were the people you hired paid with monies from your Measuring Up grant?

Yes

No

### Section Two - Evaluation

Evaluate your achieved activities (500-word maximum):

- What worked well?
- Were there things you would change?
- Did you meet your goals?
- Were there any unexpected results?

### Section Three - Financial Information

Please provide updated budget information in the format below -

Expenditures	AMOUNT	IN KIND RESOURCES		MEASURING UP FUND
		Amount	Source	Amount
Wages	60,778.51	20,000.00	Co-operators	7,500.00
Benefits	12,401.93	26,247.00	NKDF	
Utilities	4271.63	300.00	Local businesses & individuals cash donations	3040.00
Mortgage	2293.82	750.00	Royal Bank	
Equipment	41,986.59	4,000.00	Neighbourlink	2920.00
Supplies	36,297.35	1716.00	HEAL	
Administration	4067.77	4,500.00	Integriss	
Miscellaneous	1392.27	1,000.00	Kinettes	440.00 (advertising)
Property Improvements	50,987.34	2,500.00	Communitas	1100.00
		16,725.00	In kind various sources	
<b>Totals:</b>	214,477.21	77,738.00		15,000.00

### Section Four - Other Information

1. Attach any other information, media, stories, pictures or comments you would like to include, that reflect on your initiative.

Included is a photocopy of numerous newspaper articles and pictures that featured the Bean and the Greenhouse project. In addition we have had two radio interviews, one



on CBC Radio and one on Wolfe Radio (local station) and have had displays at Measuring Up Conference in Prince George, at Royal Bank Community Week and Vanderhoof Fall Fair. A loyal Bean customer has created a Facebook group highlighting the Bean and forthcoming events. All of the produce raised has been 100% utilized by Neighbourlink in their food bank program.

#### Section Five - Report Declaration

I certify that:

- To the best of my knowledge all the information contained in this Report and any attachments is true and complete.
- Measuring Up, 2010 Legacies Now and the Province of BC are being given appropriate recognition as a funding partner as per the Guidelines provided in the Contribution Agreement.
- I have submitted the Final Report in accordance to the approved deadline.

#### Authorized Representative:

Name (please print): Susan Armstrong

Position: Program Manager

Signature: 

Date: May 27, 09

#### Mail completed AND signed Final Reports to:

Measuring Up Fund  
2010 Legacies Now  
400 - 1095 West Pender St.  
Vancouver, BC V6E 2M6  
Phone: 778-327-5123  
Email: [measuringup@2010legaciesnow.com](mailto:measuringup@2010legaciesnow.com)

## **Measuring Up Fund Final Report**

### **Summary of Activities**

We will be reporting on activities since our interim report, thus covering May 2009 – August 2009. The Bean continues to be a popular gathering spot, well utilized by the community. We had a summer student work full time at the Bean gaining valuable experience with the public and with mentoring individuals with disabilities. We have begun to cater meetings and other events in the community and were strongly complimented on our first catering event. The Bean is working in partnership with Nechako Healthy Community Alliance to cater an upcoming event that wishes to be as “green” as possible and we will be attempting to access local foods and reduce our environmental imprint as we cater the event. We have updated and revised the look of our Bean website which was launched at the end of the summer. The yard of the Bean has been greatly improved following massive house renovations and customers now look out on new lawn, a greenhouse, and fully bloomed raised beds.

The summer has seen the birth of Nechako Valley Community Organics, our greenhouse project. Erection of the greenhouse was completed over several weeks. This phase, overseen by a volunteer consultant, was completed by a full complement of disabled adults with support staff. Bar-be-ques were held during the days that we were in full day construction, and community members dropped by to observe and participate.

Following a radio interview highlighting the project, Canfor donated two skids of lumber and Lazer Transport and Co-op donated the transport and unloading of this lumber. With these donations we were able to build many raised beds and a deck expanding seating options at the Bean. Planting, pruning, weeding and watering has been handled by disabled employees with the supervision and support of other staff. Our first year of growing has been fantastic! We’ve been able to maintain organic horticulture and have had good outcomes with all of our plants.

Produce has been supplied to Neighbourlink who have informed us that they chose to continue to buy fresh produce – they have a budget item for this – in addition to utilizing what we have provided. The amount of fresh produce available through Neighbourlink (an organization that runs a food bank, community kitchen and free weekly lunch) has doubled and yet has met half of the present need. Economic downturns have had a significant impact on those already impoverished and those who were on the margins. All of our produce has been utilized by Neighbourlink. Individuals are allowed to select what they need.

The Nechako Valley Food Network organized a first annual greenhouse tour with Nechako Valley Greenhouse Project being a first stop on the tour. Twenty people attended, and the manager of the greenhouse gave a background talk on the purpose of the project, its funders and provided a tour of what we were growing. The visit lasted for

thirty minutes with much discussion and enthusiasm before the group moved on to tour three other greenhouses.

In July the Royal Bank in Vanderhoof invited NVCSS to be present at their branch throughout the week providing information on all of our programs. We created a new display board and pamphlets on all of our programming including the Bean and the Greenhouse for this week. Community members had an opportunity to meet the greenhouse manager, look through photo albums and ask questions. At the end of the week, employees of the Royal Bank honoured NVCSS by nominating us as the community non-profit who was most creating change in Vanderhoof and donated \$750.00 to us.

In late August, the Bean and the Greenhouse staff were present at a display table at our annual fall fair. This three day event which attracts thousands of people from the region is a fantastic opportunity to highlight these two projects, to deliver the message that people with disabilities contribute to our community in vital ways and to encourage business through the Bean. Disabled staff were present throughout these three days and coffee, cold drinks and snacks from the Bean were sold.

Both of these projects are being supported by NVCSS financially and administratively and have been commenced with long term sustainability built in. We will continue our partnership with Neighbourlink and will need to make some business adjustments to ensure the Bean's financial health (see evaluation section).

## **Evaluation**

The construction of the greenhouse and creation of raised beds went extremely well in generating much enthusiasm, increasing the breadth of skills for developmentally delayed employees and highlighting the project in the community. The location of the greenhouse – on the grounds of the Bean – is highly visible in our town, and many community members dropped by and pitched in volunteer help over the weeks that we were in construction mode. The radio interview that was done on the greenhouse project generated incredible community support resulting in in kind donations and small monetary donations from businesses and individuals. The Bean has a faithful customer base, the community meeting room is utilized regularly and free events (music, poetry nights etc) are attended to capacity.

We learnt from launching the Bean that we needed to prepare our potential disabled employees better so that they felt equipped to engage in learning new skills. We did much more talking with them regarding the greenhouse project, and incorporated painting pots, planting flowers etc., in social activities with them prior to the greenhouse kit arriving. This preparation – and a project that requires less public involvement – resulted in a much higher degree of participation from disabled employees (thirteen versus four).

We are very proud of the fact that we have created two physically accessible buildings within one year in a town that has significant accessibility issues. Witnessing a wide variety of individuals with mobility aids access both the greenhouse and coffee house is a strong endorsement of what these projects are all about.

We have met our goals of increasing employment for persons with disabilities, creating an alternative gathering place for the community and increasing access to fresh food for marginalized persons.

It has cost us more to run the Bean than anticipated – our staffing costs and supply costs are higher than what we had estimated in our business plan. We continue to strategize and brainstorm on how to reduce costs and/or increase business. The lack of physical space in the coffee house – partially due to keeping adequate flow area to not compromise accessibility – has meant that we have not yet been able to expand into serving light lunches. We literally do not have the physical room for a cooler.