

SECOND HELPINGS (FOOD RECLAMATION PROJECT) WORKING GROUP MINUTES

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH FROM 9:30-11:30, CDC QUINTE MEETING ROOM, 65 STATION STREET, BELLEVILLE

IN ATTENDANCE: Kelly Mathieson, Ruth Ingersoll (Co-Chair), Steve Van de Hoef (Co-Chair), Susan Kiley Mullaly, Beverley Bell-Rowbotham (Data Analysis Coordinator), Nicole Chevalier, Brandi Hodge, Student, Kellie Brace, Maribeth deSnoo, Wendy Anderson (Coordinator)

REGRETS: Ashley Harnett, Brandi Hildebrand,Carolynn McGinnis, Stacey Stanford, Cynthia Peters, Heather Barker, Erin Rivers, Amy Kyle, Tammy Kay

MANDATE:

Second Helpings (Food Reclamation Project) Working Group is responsible for identifying and implementing one or more actionable projects that will improve access to healthy food by children, youth and families in Hastings-Prince Edward.

Item	Discussions/Motions	Recommendations (things to go forward to the Network)	Action (including Person Responsible and Completion Date)
1. Welcome and Introductions	Wendy Anderson is taking minutes. Round-table introductions – Ruth summarized how the working group came to be – HPE identified with 2 nd highest rate of food insecurity in Ontario – led to collaboration between the Children and Youth Services Network and the Food Security Network – piloted Second Helpings food reclamation project.		
2. Review of Agenda			
3. Accept Minutes from July 10 th	Accepted as presented.		

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4. Introduction of Mara Shaw	Ruth introduced Mara Shaw, Executive Director, Loving Spoonful, Kingston, and talked about the field trip that a number of members took to Loving Spoonful last year.		
5. Mara's Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2008, idea behind Loving Spoonful began with reclamation of perishable food – a dynamic individual took this on and got things started – she left in 2012. Project grew from distribution of 20,000 pounds a year, now up to 40,000. • Although food banks were intended to be a stop gap, people are still relying on them today. As a result of differences relating to politics and personalities, Loving Spoonful operates as a separate entity from the food bank – currently work with 20 food suppliers. • A desire to look at more than food reclamation has resulted in six additional programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Grow a Row – gardeners, 16 businesses, farmers grow food for donation – over 10,000 pounds last year. ○ Preserve Reserves – preserves donated food – 3,000 pounds – mostly freezing but pickling too – a learning opportunity – supporters (e.g., Finlay Foods) lend freezers. ○ GROW Project – builds knowledge in schools – six school gardens - front lawns – classroom programming teaches growing food for donation, diversity of seeds, community. ○ Community Gardens – supported by instruction on soil, yields, etc. Vandalism can be a problem – some gardens don't have water supply - fire department does what it can to help. Community harvest markets are not always that effective considering the huge volunteer effort involved. 		

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<p>6. Q & A/Discussion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Community Kitchens - cooking classes – public health showed that people don’t know how to plan a meal, when food is ready, timing, cooking for one – all demographics are benefiting from these classes; youth, immigrant families, singles, St. Vincent de Paul clients, etc. Working with community health centres. To have most impact on population, classes are demographic-specific. Capacity an issue – challenge to reach everyone who could benefit from training. ○ Policy/education – food charter adopted by City of Kingston – L&A haven’t adopted – offers a vision of a just food system that supports farmers, makes food accessible and protects the environment. Food Policy Council of KFL&A trying to animate. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loving Spoonful has developed an annual report – to help put food security on people’s radar during municipal election period – universal measurement a challenge so partners were invited to submit individual reports – 8 contributed. • Twenty-seven participated (average day in May) in a one-day count – 964 meals were served – 242 people benefited + 5,000+ meals and snacks in schools. Took to City Council. Raised awareness about poverty. Trying to garner support to fill gaps – to supply meals on weekends, for example. <p><u>Food reclamation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funded mostly by grants and some donations – United Way demonstration organization – just finished a Trillium Grant – Community Foundation, Rotary, Kinsmen, churches, etc. A lot of grant-writing. 		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working board of 8 people fundraise. Examples: themed event in February, Food Fiesta every summer. • Started out wanting produce and restaurant surplus – grow a row provides 1/3 of food – ½ is from grocery stores. • Biggest challenge - coordinating who will take what, who will drop off, knowing when recipients are open? Need someone focused on having things happen right every day. Once expectations are established on behalf of recipients, a no-show by a volunteer can have serious impact. • Not easy to find food donors – not all can work with Food Donation Act. • Testimonials are highly effective in recruiting support. • Building upon one-to-one relationships is also very effective. • Grow a Row a great outreach vehicle for support and volunteers. • Second Helpings is working on a list of donors/recipients. Can we leave coordination up to donors? Mara responded that this works in some cases. Encourage stand-alone donations – one-to-one connections. Volunteer knows to go the donor on Thursday and do drop-offs. Work this into a corporate model. • Would you advise coordinating with churches? Mara recommended investing time on the biggest donors – grocery stores, caterers, etc. Churches may have people willing to volunteer but many struggle to recruit volunteers for their own projects. • Why incorporate? Loving Spoonful saw potential to do more and become advocating voice for food security – under social planning council for a year while working on incorporation. There was no organization that would fit and food recipient programs were tapped out. A grant started the dynamic person off – then Trillium. 		

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<p>7. Reflecting on Our Past Year</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial vitality and organization capacity – has Loving Spoonful been able to do some of those things? Hold one-on-one meetings with donors. Look at large programs (e.g., Toronto) to see who large sponsors might be. Tap into environmental stream – reducing food waste – to recruit like-minded organizations. You don’t have to have a staff person – try securing a part-time person seconded from a community agency. • Keep yourself at capacity – but be dynamic – knock on doors – have everyone at the table do two places. • How to get to rural population who don’t have transportation? Leave food at schools/health unit, community pantries, etc. to pick up and take home. Unclaimed food becomes an issue. Perishables are challenging. • Volunteers receive 45 minutes of training (usually in groups) on food handling/safety; i.e., best before, expiry dates, transportation, etc. Rule of thumb: don’t leave food you wouldn’t serve to your own family. Meat and dairy are most sensitive. Take meat to a chef who can cook it properly. Provide coolers, have extras handy. • Revenue, budget – 2,008 \$7,000 grant, 2012 \$99,000, 2013 \$110,000, 2014 \$160,000. Doing a lot of different things, not just food reclamation. Hoping for \$200,000 in 2015. Ideally, staffing would include general coordinator, volunteer coordinator, and cooking coordinator. Biggest expenditures are salaries, insurance and audit. • See what you can get the community to do by itself – needs appropriate staffing at all times in order to make it viable. • Marketing – 2013 \$1200, 2014 \$5000 – banners, logo – certainly worth it. • Working under an umbrella allows for tax receipts – huge benefit if infrastructure already set-up. Gives you an opportunity to start small. 		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mara stated that it would be a challenge to accomplish a food reclamation project on a County basis. Loving Spoonful has found that no one outside of the city will accept donations. Suggests coordinating with existing food programs – a coordinator in each community perhaps. • Second Helpings needs to collaborate with Vital Signs in Prince Edward. • Loyalist College is our one donor. Mara advised that we need to recruit new donors on a regular basis because donors often drop off. Also want to try and retain existing. Long-term donors become more efficient - school cafeterias for example often have the prepared food packaged and ready to go – volunteers simply pick up and deliver at end of the day. • Mara suspects there may be a CFB Federal policy on food donation which may be why we're struggling to connect with Trenton. She has experienced the same thing in Kingston. • We may not want to take on more without funding. Mara asked us to send something regarding collaboration if we wish to proceed with partnership. • Consider recruiting volunteers through sign-up pledges – we want to start something in 2016 - our plan is X – allows time to plan. • Mara will share kit of marketing ideas. • If you have monetary donations, Mara recommends spending it on developing a strategic plan, and hiring someone to do up the plan. <p style="text-align: center;">Need to plan!!!!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mara can recommend a good facilitator – Rob Wood from 8020 Info Inc. • Mara was thanked by everyone for her helpful information and time. 		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ruth asked everyone to jot down ideas for moving forward - for discussion at next meeting. Steve reminded everyone that project evaluation still remains outstanding on our work plan. 		
8. Next Meeting Date	A doodle poll will be issued.		Regrets to: ruth@cdcquinte.com steve.vandehoef@gmail.com wanderson@hpedsb.on.ca
9. Adjournment	11:30am		