

Raising Incomes Committee

July 23, 2009

Present: Arin Norris, Mindy Niehaus, Roberta Heiman, Vicki Boerner, Luzada Hayes, Jill Marcum, Cindy Klassy, Jan Davies, Jessica Rakestraw, Ellen Hageman, Barbara Dicken, Natasha Goodge, Ginny Smith, Ellen Hageman, Kat Isbell



improving access to
community services, education and training
leading to employment resulting in self-sufficiency

Discussion Re: Committee Structure for Project

Target: To have a business venture that *makes opportunity and profit*, training women for a *livable wage* in order to make it possible for other women to obtain a microloan to start their own venture and learn how to be successful

Possible committees and interested persons were discussed and prioritized with next steps determined. **Components of the planning for this project include:**

- **Research** – which will feed information to the other committees and support their work; looking for information on
 - Business venture ideas in other communities that have been successful;
 - Best practices in developing and operating such a project:
 - How did they make it work?
 - What did they do wrong; what didn't work?
 - What problems arose after they started?
 - Identify groundwork that has already been laid locally.
- **Business Venture** – What kind of business? A service or a product? What potential partners are there in the community?
- **Microlending** – small grants to start businesses
- **Programming** – aspects needed as part of this project in the areas of
 - Training – job skills, HR & business plan, business operation & accounting skills, learning transferable skills, learning to turn an idea into a business reality, etc.
 - Services – child care onsite, transportation, clothing, housing, other basic needs, etc.

Ideas for Moving Forward

- Next Meeting - *Have brainstorming session on business venture ideas, including reports from members who have researched other ideas*
- Group Members Researching Other Communities:
 - Roberta – World of Good, Designs by Lucinda, and will find another one on her own
 - Jill – St. Patrick's Center
 - Cindy – Women's Bean Project
 - Mindy – recycling building supplies idea, Eco-Depot or Re-Store ideas
 - Cassie Freimiller – student who has done research behind the scenes; Arin has information gained so far
- Group Members Researching Types of Businesses Most Needed in Our Community:
 - Barbara – will ask opinion of the Chamber of Commerce, Small Business Center, and GAGE
 - Natasha – will ask opinion of WorkOne Southwest, Grow Southwest Indiana, & Sustainable Communities Coalition

Who's Not at the Table?

- Need people who have started a business to be part of this group
- HR personnel

Next Meeting: Aug. 27, 2009 – 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Old National Bank, Blue & Gold Room