

P4P News

Spring 2005

All Working Groups for Phase 1 Implemented Final two underway

MATH, SCIENCE, & TECHNOLOGY K-12 WORKING GROUP

Our **Math, Science, and Technology K-12 Working Group** will continue this month. Our next meeting for this Working Group will take place on March 30 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the city offices, council chambers room in Blackfoot at is 157 N. Broadway. This group will look to discuss the assets as well as some of the gaps in relation to Math, Science, and Technology K-12. The group will also discuss local and state initiatives that may be potential partners in our Working Group effort. Any person who has an interest in any of these areas is welcome to attend the meeting. A light breakfast will be served. Please contact Tom Putnam for more information.

PROSPERITY PRESERVATION WORKING GROUP

Partners for Prosperity will be holding the next **Prosperity Preservation Working Group** meeting on Wednesday, March 23, 2005 at 1:00 pm at the Blackfoot City Hall building at 157 N. Broadway, Blackfoot. The purpose of the Prosperity Preservation Working Group is to explore programs for leadership, mentorship, and wealth retention. By meeting together, people from across Eastern Idaho who have an interest in these areas will be able to provide input as well as create actions on how to improve, increase, and enhance the capacity of the issues associated with Prosperity Preservation. All who are interested are invited to attend and participate. People or organizations with an interest or experience in banking, financial lending, leadership development, or mentoring, are encouraged to attend this meeting. For more information, please contact Christelle Edmo at 785-0059.

Welcome from the Director

Who is Partners for Prosperity (P4P)? After receiving our first newsletter many of you called and asked us that question. Since we welcome new participation at any time it might be important to give a brief history of P4P for those of you who have recently joined us. P4P started as the result of a strategic planning effort in the 16 counties Eastern Idaho and the Fort Hall Indian Reservation. At the invitation of the Northwest Area Foundation community members were asked to define poverty and to develop a ten year strategic plan to reduce poverty. This was a competitive process for a multi-million dollar award to implement the plan. Over an 18 month period over 1000 people throughout the region identified priority areas and contributed ideas. The initial members adopted the name of Partners for Prosperity: New Beginnings for Eastern Idaho.

In December of 2003 the Eastern Idaho region was selected to receive long term funding and technical support from NWAFF and we began implementing the plan in April 2004. Our plan focuses on 2 main areas: research and community development. We conduct poverty research in

Contents

- Adult Education and Training Working Group Update3
- Prosperity Creation Working Group Update.....3
- Primary and Secondary Working Group Update.....3
- Staff Member Spotlight2
- Fort Hall Sub Committee2
- Early Learning Working Group Update.....3
- Up Coming Events CalendarInsert



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Partners for Prosperity serves Idaho's Eastern Counties and the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation.

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- Butte
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- Clark
- Custer
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- Power
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<http://www.easternidahoprosperty.org>

Partners for Prosperity: New Beginnings for Eastern Idaho (P4P), is a non-profit organization serving 16 counties in Eastern Idaho and the Fort Hall Indian Reservation. Although not a direct-funding organization, P4P is dedicated to increasing personal and community prosperity by bringing community members together, providing technical resources and assistance and helping to incorporate solutions to the problem of poverty in our region.



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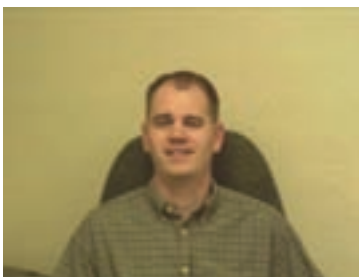
order to create systemic change. How can we change something unless we understand it? We utilize multiple methods that are especially aimed at including people who have been traditionally excluded from this type of work. One of the ways we learn about poverty is by interviewing people in poverty to learn about their situation, the causes and the solutions. We promote information sharing and are in the process of creating a database that will provide information on poverty indicators such as housing, transportation, food security, education, employment, etc. We have several partners in the database project because we value relationship building and partnership formation as the keys to poverty reduction.

The second area we focus on is community development. We convene and facilitate working groups to address the priority issues identified in our research. During phase 1 we are focusing on education, economic development and empowerment. We have working groups in early learning; math, science and technology; adult education and training; prosperity creation (wealth creation); prosperity preservation (leadership); primary and secondary data (research); and prosperity indicators (areas not addressed in phase 1).

In this newsletter you will read updates from each of the working groups. We have some exciting projects underway and we look forward to an exciting second year of implementing the plan. New members really are welcome at any time. If you come you have the opportunity to share ideas and knowledge as well as learn about exciting community development projects that will ultimately reduce poverty in our region. Welcome aboard!

Jessie Sotelo

Tom Putnam



My wife and I moved to Eastern Idaho in 1998 to attend Idaho State University. I am a native of Montana and my wife is from Southeastern Utah. After graduating from ISU, we felt that Eastern Idaho was our home and wanted to stay here and raise our family. We have two children, one three year old and a four month old. Since graduating from ISU, we have lived in the Idaho Falls area and really enjoy the people and the quality of life that Eastern Idaho has to offer.

I have been involved with P4P since the very beginning of the planning phase. It has been both challenging and incredibly rewarding to see the great efforts that have been made by people in Eastern Idaho who are committed to making our efforts of increasing prosperity a success. One my favorite aspects of this organization, is our desire and philosophy of forming strong, regional partnerships with many people and organizations. Only by working together can we truly build the capacity of communities and individuals in increasing prosperity. I look forward to our continued involvement in this great effort.

FORT HALL SUB-COMMITTEE

Partners for Prosperity continues to build relationships and collaborate with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes to cultivate prosperity. P4P is working with members of the Fort Hall community to develop opportunities for individuals who have been traditionally excluded from achieving economic and personal success. A working group was formed in November 2004 to begin exploring community development ideas with participation from tribal programs. As a result, plans are underway by the Fort Hall Small Business working group to develop the following initiatives: a Native American Business Center that will act as a business association and chamber of commerce for native businesses; community outreach and healing efforts; culture preservation projects; and business establishments to promote cooperative working environments for native business owners and

arts and crafts vendors. In January, Juan Linares and Viki Kimsal from Northwest Area Foundation (NWAf) were invited by members of the Fort Hall Small Business working group to visit Fort Hall. Juan and Viki visited several landmarks, including small businesses on the Reservation owned by tribal members. Following the tour, a dinner was hosted for the NWAf guests, where tribal Business Council chair, Nancy Eschief-Murrillo and tribal council member, Marlene Skunkcap, welcomed the guests. Over 50 people from the Fort Hall community and P4P staff with their families attended the dinner. Singing from the Spring Creek drumming group and traditional dancing followed dinner. The guests and P4P staff were invited to join in on several traditional dances. It was a great opportunity to build relationships among cultures. Contact Christelle Edmo for more information.



In January of this year, P4P sponsored a diversity training conference with Don Coyhis, of White Bison. In this exercise, participants learned to be most effective in community development work, everyone must work together.

ADULT EDUCATION & TRAINING WORKING GROUP

The **Adult Education and Training Working Group** has been working very hard. We have identified needs in our 16 county region which relate to education, training and employment; identified the barriers that prevent adults from being able to meet those needs, and developed strategies for achieving desired, measurable outcomes. The Group set some objectives from those strategies and is working on activities to be accomplished in the near future. The Group will explore programs and opportunities in adult education and training which will meet the needs for a skilled workforce in the business community and will provide long-term employment that also pays a living wage. We are continually looking for new members and encourage you to attend if you are an adult who is interested in education, training and workplace learning and increasing skills of the working poor. Please contact Judy at mccljudy@isu.edu or 785-0059 for more information and to find out how you can become involved as Eastern Idaho progresses toward earning a living.

PRIMARY & SECONDARY DATA WORKING GROUP

The **Primary and Secondary Data Working Group** has been meeting monthly since October. The goal of this group to understand poverty from the point of view of those who have or are living in it. We have spent a great deal of time discussing the best way to engage conversations with the people in the area and now are working to define what information needs to be obtained through research efforts. The group has begun to develop a methodology that will allow the P4P research staff to effectively analyze the interviews conducted during our planning phase.

P4P staff members have met with members of the Latino and the Native-American communities to assess some of the special research needs. The next meeting of

The **PROSPERITY CREATION WORKING GROUP** meets once a month at The Blackfoot City Hall from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. The group plans to meet the second Thursday of every month. The next step for this group is to start a sub-committee on E-commerce opportunities for small businesses and community members. If you are interested in becoming involved in this group, please contact Sonia Martinez, Christelle Edmo, or Tom Putnam at (208)

MERCADO PROJECT SUB-COMMITTEE

The **Mercado Project subcommittee** met with the North West Area Foundation in February. Juan Linares from the Northwest Area Foundation provided guidance on conducting an Interfaith Action-Community Talent Inventory. The group decided to do outreach in the community using this method. Some members of the Mercado Project will attend a Hispanic Leadership summit in Nampa on April 8th and 9th sponsored by the Hispanic Caucus. Partners for Prosperity will sponsor a workshop for women of color in the Prosperity Creation Work Group. The workshop will provide training on communication and relationship building. A workshop for men of color will be planned for this summer. Contact Sonia Martinez for information.

EARLY LEARNING WORKING GROUP:

The **Early Learning Working Group** subcommittees continue to work on issues affecting our region. Our subcommittees include Strengthening Families, Early Learning, Quality Childcare, and Public Awareness and Advocacy. Each subcommittee is busy each month in determining projects and issues that will enhance and increase the capacity of Early Learning.

One exciting event in conjunction with the Strengthening Families subcommittee is the A to Z museum resource fair. A community-wide group meeting will take place where families will be fed lunch, have the opportunity to engage in literacy activities and draw for door prizes. In addition, each child in attendance will receive a free book. Please contact Tom Putnam for more information.

the Primary and Secondary Data Working Group is scheduled for March 14, 2005, at 11:30 in the P4P conference room in Blackfoot. Anyone in the region, regardless of your research background, is welcome to attend this meeting. For more information, contact Ramona Higley at: 785-0059 or higramo@isu.edu.