

Winter 2006

# P4P News

## Latino and Native American Entrepreneur Groups Receive Grants

The Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People has awarded two grants to our local community. The Presbyterian Church awards these grants because they believe Christians recognize their need for independence and self-respect.



Thomas Cox, with the Presbyterian Church in Pocatello, (left), and members of the Mercado Group

Both the *Mercado Project* and the *Snake River Basin Business Association (SRBBA)* will use the grants to assist their organizations in establishing access to small business development for their communities.

The two community groups who received the awards were a grassroots Latino organization formally organized under *The Mercado Project* and the grassroots Native American *Snake River Basin Business Association (SRBBA)*. *The Mercado Project* was awarded a grant for \$18,744 and *SRBBA* was awarded a grant for \$18,256. These two grassroots organizations were started through the efforts of Partners for Prosperity through their working group model of organizing and developing plans to reduce poverty in their communities.

In order to qualify for the grant, community members involved with the *Mercado Project* and *SRBBA* had to show that the Project they were seeking funding for would address conditions that keep people bound by poverty and oppression. The members also had to describe, in detail, the specific steps they would take to accomplish the goal of reducing poverty, and show the direct involvement of the beneficiaries in all stages of the project.

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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.

<http://www.p4peid.org>

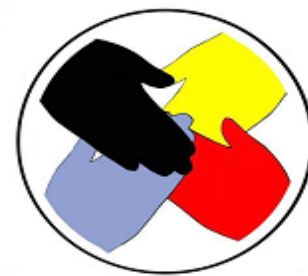
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|            |           |
|------------|-----------|
| Bannock    | Franklin  |
| Bear Lake  | Fremont   |
| Bingham    | Jefferson |
| Bonneville | Lemhi     |
| Butte      | Madison   |
| Caribou    | Oneida    |
| Clark      | Power     |
| Custer     | Teton     |

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



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Partners for Prosperity  
NEW BEGINNINGS FOR EASTERN IDAHO

## Community Asset Mapping

Every community has strengths. Every community has weaknesses. Sometimes communities tend to concentrate on the weaknesses and it is Partners for Prosperity's goal to accentuate the positive and build on the strengths of the community.

P4P began Asset Mapping in Bear Lake County in August of last year. The Montpelier Gem Team approached us about starting there because they were very interested in our outcomes and how they might use the information gathered to improve the economic outlook of their community.

The Asset Mapping process involves visiting as many businesses, organizations and individuals in the community as possible. All are asked the same questions in an attempt to identify what they think is good about their community as well as what they would like to see changed. In Bear Lake County, people like the closeness of the community and the fact that "everyone knows everyone else" and "they all look out for one another." A large percent of the concern for change was indicated in the need for jobs which would allow young adults to stay in the area after graduating from high school.

After Bear Lake County, the P4P Asset Mapping team moved to Caribou County where the common threads of community closeness and concern about the young people again were evident. Caribou County's concern for their youth is that there are not enough activities to keep young people busy and encouraged to make good choices.

Now that the survey process has been completed in the two counties, P4P will write reports compiling the information gathered. Those reports will go back to each community where decisions, if any, will be up to the community based on what the businesses, organizations and residents think, feel, and need.

Speaking for the entire P4P Asset Mapping team, the greatest strength we identified in each of the two communities was the people. We all came away from the experience having built strong relationships and with new and renewed friendships. Thank you for your help Bear Lake and Caribou Counties - partners in prosperity!

Judy McClanahan

## From the Director

It's hard to believe that P4P is nearing the end of Phase 1 of our ten-year plan for poverty reduction! Some of you who are newer to P4P may be wondering what this means. In essence, P4P took a phased approach in the strategic plan by realizing early in the planning process that it would be impossible to address all the poverty issues at once.

During Phase 1 our focus has been on education, empowerment and economic development. We implemented seven working groups and have actively pursued innovative programs. More information about our work during the first two years will be available in our annual report that will be released on April 1, 2006. During the first year of Phase 2, P4P will be conducting additional research to determine our next area(s) of focus. Certainly housing issues seem to be at the forefront of need and opportunity—a critical mix necessary for success. We are also exploring transportation issues

and potential programs, as well as crime and safety and health care. Ultimately any of these areas may be the target of Phase 2—or potentially new issues/programs could develop. The key will be to work on issues that are defined by people in poverty as well as the solutions. After all, we are a grassroots organization and input from people in poverty is critical to success. We are committed to maintaining communication with the Eastern Idaho Region and not only keeping you informed of our progress, but actively seeking input. Please stay involved in this process! We've had some great successes over the past two years and we've learned some important lessons. Most importantly we recognize that "reducing poverty is like eating an elephant. . .you just have to start one bite at a time."

Jessica Sotelo

## Winter warmth

Partners for Prosperity recently formed a unique partnership to donate blankets to residents in the region who might need an extra blanket to keep warm this winter. On November 15, members of the Idaho Community Action Network (ICAN) in Pocatello met with P4P staff at the Booth Barn to make fleece blankets. For every blanket members made to donate, they made one for themselves. Some mem-



Mother and daughter working together to make a blanket.

bers expressed an interest in making additional blankets for police and fire department personnel to carry in their vehicles. At final count, there were over 100 blankets to donate. Partners for Prosperity donated all the materials for the blankets as well as instructions and tools. This service project will hopefully be part of the P4P and ICAN partnership for years to come.

## Economic Summit

Partners for Prosperity, in collaboration with the Northwest Area Foundation, will host the First Annual Economic Summit for Idaho. The theme is "Strengthening Prosperity in Idaho by Building an Entrepreneur Culture". The summit will be a two-day event, tentatively scheduled for March 2006 and will be held on the Idaho State University campus in Pocatello, Idaho.

The purpose of the summit is to address economic issues confronted by people living in the Lowest Economic Quartile (LEQ) in both rural and urban areas in relation to entrepreneurship. The summit will focus on the service region of Partners for Prosperity, which is the sixteen counties of Eastern Idaho and the Fort Hall Indian Reservation, but will also include other areas throughout Idaho. The goal of Partners for Prosperity is to reduce poverty by identifying resources, cultivating partnerships, and implementing action to benefit people living in the LEQ. The Economic Summit will serve as a forum for these resources, partnerships, and people from across Idaho to learn from the workshops and network with one another. The Economic Summit will serve as a catalyst for change by addressing the benefit of increasing entrepreneur education and training, expanding business development resources and proactive entrepreneur policy to the population we serve. Entrepreneurs have historically been able to discover bright niches of opportunity in their communities while benefiting the local economy through job creation and asset building, and this forum will look to increase those efforts.

Based on the work and input from these communities, we propose "Building an Entrepreneur Culture" theme to bring greater emphasis to the strategy for more home-grown economic development. An entrepreneurial culture can be fostered through greater regional entrepreneur education and training, expanded business development resources and proactive policies for entrepreneurs. Nurturing entrepreneurship in communities with adults and youth alike will help to create the perception of self-employment as a normal life goal. In addition, people will learn to identify challenges and pursue economic opportunities in their communities.

Both national and local presenters educated in the field of entrepreneurship and community economic development have been invited to speak and host panel discussions at the summit. Such topics to be covered include:

- ..# Entrepreneur-Focused Education
- ..# Technical Assistance
- ..# Access to Funding

All community members, regional organizations, federal and state government agencies, and educational and financial institutions across the state of Idaho are invited to participate in the summit. For more information on the Economic Summit, please contact Delverne Seaman at (208) 785-0059.

Delverne Seamon

# January 2006

| Monday | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday   | Saturday   |
|--------|--|--|--|--|--|
| 2      | 3  | 4<br><b>Native Vendors Group</b><br>Fort Hall Dome Room<br>5:30 p.m.   | 5  | 6  | 7  |
| 9      | 10   | 11   | 12   | 13   | 14<br><b>Bannock Language Group</b><br>Fort Hall TAFE Building<br>12:00 p.m. |
| 16     | 17   | 18<br><b>Prosperity Preservation Working Group</b><br>D4D Conference Room<br>12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.<br><br><b>Math/Science/Technology K-12 Working Group</b><br>D4D Conference Room<br>3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. | 19   | 20<br><b>Early Learning Working Group</b><br>D4D Conference Room<br>9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon | 21   |
| 23     | 24<br><b>E Commerce Working Group</b><br>D4D Conference Room<br>11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. | 25   | 26<br><b>Adult Education and Training Working Group</b><br>D4D conference Room<br>9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | 27   | 28   |
| 30     | 31   |  |  |  |  |

# Idaho Lifelong Learning

Do you desire to promote "Lifelong Learning" in the State of Idaho?

Do you wish to serve as a support and training ground for teachers, trainers, and staff whose life-work is that of helping, teaching, and training adult learners?

Are you looking to further your education as a lifelong process?

Are you looking to earn continuing educational units (CEUs)?

Then join ILLA . . . ILLA needs you!

Idaho Lifelong Learning Association (ILLA) needed a couple of P4P members and they stepped up to the plate: Terry Busch as President-elect, and Judy McClanahan as Community Education Director. ILLA is a member of the Mountain Plains Adult Education Association (MPAEA). This organization supports those important people who lower poverty through education – through adult literacy, community education and family literacy, higher education, industry training, and continuing education/short-term training.

**ILLA's Mission:**

..# To provide professional leadership in lifelong education on a statewide basis.

..# To serve as an instrument of cooperation among persons and organizations interested in lifelong education in the State of Idaho.

..# To further the concept of education as a process

continuing throughout life.

..# To promote and develop lifelong education in the State by offering opportunities to increase the competencies of professional and non-professional lifelong educators.

..# To gather and disseminate pertinent information about lifelong education.

..# To encourage and assist organizations and agencies concerned with lifelong education to develop appropriate activities and to effectively coordinate their services in



lifelong education.

For a low cost individual membership of \$15 per year, or an institutional corporation fee of \$50, you can receive some excellent benefits:

ILLA Newsletter, a quarterly publication highlighting lifelong learning

Professional workshops

Annual conference – in lovely Sun Valley each October

Member-only scholarships

Professional Development Grants

Access to Members Only area of [www.idlla.org](http://www.idlla.org)

If you are interested in joining, please check out the website, or contact Terry Busch at [terryb@p4peid.org](mailto:terryb@p4peid.org) or 782- 3891 for more information .

Terry Busch

**Partners for Prosperity will be initiating an Earned Income Credit (EIC) Campaign before and during this year's tax season, for low to moderate income individuals and families. We are looking for partners, volunteers and other interested community members who would be willing to assist and help "get the word out" about this important campaign.**

**For more information, call Delverne Seaman or Tom Putnam at Partners for Prosperity's Blackfoot office at (208) 785-0059.**

# MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR TAX RETURN

## CLAIM ALL YOUR *EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT*

### You could be eligible!

Did you work in 2005? You may be eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). If so, you'll owe less in taxes and you could get cash back. Even if you don't owe income tax, you can get the EITC!

..# Were you raising one child in your home in 2005? Did your family earn less than \$31,030 (\$33,303 for married workers)? You can get an EITC up to **\$2,662**.

..# Were you raising more than one child in your home in 2005? Did your family earn less than \$35,263 (\$37,263 for married workers)? You can get an EITC up to **\$4,400**.

..# If you weren't raising a child, did you earn less than \$11,750 (\$13,720 for married workers) in 2005? Were you between the ages 25 and 64? You can get an EITC up to **\$399**.

### Here's how to get it:

..# If you were raising children in 2005, file federal tax return Forms 1040 or 1040A, *not* Form 1040EZ. Be sure to attach Schedule EITC.

If you weren't raising children in 2005, just file any federal tax return.

**Boost your take-home pay!** Eligible workers with children can get Advance EITC in their paycheck. Get Form W-5 from your employer, or call 1-800-TAX-FORM.

### Tax time can pay even more – claim your Child Tax Credit (CTC) refund!

Many families that earned more than \$11,000 may qualify for the Child Tax Credit (CTC) refund – up to \$1000 for each dependent child under age 17. See your tax instructions and get Form 8812.

**Need more information:** Want to find out how you can get your tax forms filled out for free? **Call the IRS toll-free at 1-800-829-1040 and select the following categories:**

First, select "questions about preparing or filing your individual tax returns"

Next, select "questions about preparing or filing your return or questions on tax related rules and regulations"

You will be directed to a person who can answer questions and talk you through the EITC eligibility test.

**Or visit the IRS website:**

[www.irs.gov/publications/index.htm](http://www.irs.gov/publications/index.htm) then select on the left hand side "Forms and Publications" and look for Publication 596 for EITC and Publication 972 for CTC.

**Call the Idaho Careline at 211**, a Careline representative is on hand to answer questions on EITC/CTC and locations of free tax filing sites in your area.

**For free-tax filing assistance**, contact James Todd with the AARP at (208) 782-0189 for date, time and sites in your area.

# Partners for Prosperity Helps to Promote Native American Arts and Crafts Entrepreneurs

For some art and craft vendors, selling their goods and products is a hobby. But for some 30 Native American vendors living on the Fort Hall Indian Reservation, selling their beadwork, jewelry, traditional clothing and other handicrafts is a major source of their income.

However, like most distressed Native American communities, vendors have a difficult time finding a sustainable market in their rural community and lack access to critical resources to successfully manage their "cottage" business.

Partners for Prosperity (P4P) has been providing technical assistance to the vendors over the past six months in an effort to help the entrepreneurs grow their business. Vendors began meeting as a P4P working group in September to discuss ways to increase their business opportunities. The working group formalized into *Creative Hands of the Land*.

Membership in the group is free and open to enrolled members of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes or members of another federally-recognized tribe. Members of the group are asked to attend meetings and participate in events sponsored by *Creative Hands*. The group elected BaNocka Brunette, vendor and Shoshone-Bannock tribal member, to coordinate craft shows and related efforts.

Christelle Edmo, P4P Community Development Specialist/Fort Hall Liaison, and an enrolled member of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, has been working with the vendors to help them organize into a small network. As Edmo explains, "the vendors decided it would be more beneficial to work cooperatively with each other in order to promote their work, to build a support system and to address their specific needs in a network setting." She believes the formation of this group has given vendors recognition as a positive movement toward prosperity in the Fort Hall community. Ms. Edmo recently assisted in the development of a written plan that outlines the group's goals and objectives for the next year. Partners for Prosperity awarded the group \$3,000 in seed money to help the group get started on implementation of their goals and objectives.

Using some of the seed money, *Creative Hands of the Land* achieved early success. The group has sponsored over 10 successful craft shows since October, including a

holiday craft show held at the Holiday Inn in Pocatello. "The Holiday Inn show was a big deal for some of the vendors," says Edmo. "Most of the vendors don't sell their work off the reservation." The group sees more for themselves than hosting craft shows. They would like to increase their financial independence by enhancing their entrepreneurial capabilities with business

**"For us, individual success is secondary to how the community will benefit from economic growth."**

training. They also have a vision for a thriving economy on the reservation. As Christelle puts it, "we see economic success differently than in a non-native society." "For us, individual success is secondary to how the community will benefit from economic growth." Members of the vendor group have expressed a belief that their success will bring money back to the reservation and will help to stimulate the local tribal economy. Edmo shares what she has learned most from the artisans and crafters. "An individual's work is carried

down through many generations." "Whether traditional or contemporary, each piece of work has a story behind it." "Their work is very personal to them." "Their work is also important because they are preserving a culture." Edmo believes strongly in helping the vendors promote their work with culturally-sensitive initiatives that balance culture with contemporary business methodologies.

Partners for Prosperity will continue to assist *Creative Hands of the Land* achieve its vision by offering resources for basic business training, marketing skills training, customer service training, e-commerce retailing and to assist with leveraging funds to build a Native arts and crafts co-op store. These efforts will provide an opportunity for Native American artisan and crafter entrepreneurs to develop a successful small business operation capable of supporting themselves, their families and their community.



Bernadette Bell (left) and unidentified family member, selling their work at a recent craft show.

## Upcoming Events

### Save the Date!

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Hdn|g|g|k|w|w|  
Idl|j|u|x|o|g|#  
Bof|n|w|#|G|

Your Ticket to the Future at EITC

### 4th Annual Multi-Cultural Festival

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Pd|#4|w|#5339#  
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Idl|j|u|x|o|g|#  
Bof|n|w|#|G|



Save the Date!  
March 7, 2006  
Women & Work Conference at ISU  
Call 282-6076 for information

Partners for Prosperity  
First Annual Economic Summit  
March 21—22, 2006  
Idaho State University Campus  
Call 785-0059 for more information