

Individual & Family Economic Stability Team Notes – September 16, 2010

Team Goal: Carroll County becomes one of the top three counties in NH by supporting the achievement of individual and family economic security.

Attendance: Ann Hamilton, Henry Spencer, Christine MacDonald, Cimbria Badenhausen

Form Buy Local Steering Committee

The team has decided to form a steering committee to get the buy local effort off the ground. The group is reaching out to a number of business and community people to ask them to attend the next meeting (Oct. 14) to work with the team to launch a buy local effort. The initial commitment will be for 4-6 months with participants welcome to stay on the committee after that point. Henry will talk to Mark Guerringue (Conway Daily Sun), Pat Kittle (Minute Man Press), Tim Scott. Christine will talk to Chris Delisle (Windy Fields Farm). Cimbria will talk to Jenna (J-town deli/Valley Originals), Maureen Westrick, and Colleen Cormack (Cormack Construction). Also mentioned as good contacts were Bill Stockman (Spider Web), Chuck Henderson, Josh Arnold, Dan Kennedy and Denise Roy-Palmer.

“Working” name and buy local definition

- The group reviewed some of the buy local information that has been gathered and decided that it made sense to not recreate the wheel but to use the successful models already in existence. They decided to use the Balle (Business Alliance for Local Living Economies) organization’s definition of local and to purchase their buy local campaign kit.
- They decided to use the name Buy Local First Carroll County as their draft name. The group would like to have Carroll County in the name to stay consistent with the regional efforts of Carroll County United but to not exclude businesses adjacent to Carroll County (thinking of Fryeburg, Maine for example.)
- The team thinks it would make sense to invite the coordinator of the Seacoast Buy Local effort to come and talk with our group. The Seacoast effort is also regional and the group would like to hear from another NH group. Cimbria will reach out to the coordinator about that as well as ask if she will share her budget and their membership structure.
- The team continues to think about how to track the effort including the idea of ‘punch cards’. They will reach out to existing businesses using them to see how they work.

Other (time bank/time dollar discussion):

The idea of a time bank effort is something to think about down the road. It is another way to help individuals and families to be sustainable. The Center of Hope had run a similar effort a number of years back which waned when the funding for a coordinator ended. They probably still have some of the materials about it or even the software.

Next meetings: Thursdays, October 14 & November 18, 2:00-3:30 pm