

GUO Interim Report May 2008

This report includes information from the May 20th, 2008- July 20th period.

Proposal and Workplan for the 2nd Year

The GUO workplan has been reviewed by the GUO steering committee as well as the OFCM-COG Executive Committee. The final version has been approved. At present the contract continues until October 2008. More funds are needed to carry out the remainder of the plan. A copy of the approved workplan and proposal was sent to COG.

Website

Over the past two months updates have not been made to the GUO portion of the OFCM-COG website, or the GUO portion of the COG website.

Funding

Julie reworked and re-submitted the CWB grant. We received approval to go ahead with the market research project into the area of local organic crackers. In the end of June, Julie conducted one interview and hired Chris Hrynkow. The proposal and contracts have been approved and signed and Chris has begun to work on the survey design portion of the project. Julie will oversee this project and provide guidance when needed. The first interim report to the CWB is due at the beginning of August.

GUO has received 80% (\$14,800 of the \$18,500) of the funding from the Department of Conservation (SDIF) for the GUO project. The funding is available until the end of 2008.

GUO received approval for a \$1000 from the Early Childhood Education Council grant for designing child-related education materials and a workshop. Funding will come available in the beginning of September.

Julie and Sharon (Capacity Building and Farm Mentorship) have compiled a funding database and will decide by the end of July which programs should apply to which funders.

Sponsorship

Julie is set to meet with Organic Meadows Marketing Rep on July 22nd. They will discuss GUO's potential involvement in their fall media release and sponsorship details.

Julie and Sharon have completed the GUO and Farm Mentorship sponsorship packages as well as a database of potential funders. Outreach to potential sponsors will begin shortly. Many thanks to Kris for all the hard work in re-formatting the documents. Laura from COG national has requested that Julie clear (to ensure a good fit) any sponsors that GUO may approach with national office first.

Recipes to Involved Centers

In conjunction with outreach for administrative surveys as well as parent surveys, Julie has contacted most of the involved centers to offer recipes packages. Some of the centers

have asked GUO to meet with them in September or the fall and to bring the packages at that time. Julie will schedule some meetings when possible over the summer.

Farm Mentorship and GUO

Julie and Sharon have had preliminary discussions about the way in which the two projects can work together. A joint plan is due for GUO on November 20th. Julie and Sharon will complete a letter of intent and submit the letter to COG national by August 30th. This summer COG national will issue a call for proposals and release additional funds in October 2008.

Feasibility Study

Kris has been working on the follow-up from the feasibility study. She will continue follow-up in July and August. All responses have been tracked in an on-line database.

GUO Steering Committee

Over the past few months, Julie has been in contact with the committee via e-mail regarding a few documents. Our next meeting will be set in August, if possible in person. Steering committee members will have approximately 3 weeks from the time the GUO strategic plan is sent out to review the document.

Outreach: Tours/Presentations/Workshops

- Tours:
 - Julie is in the process of coordinating GUO farm tours for this summer. Many centers (participating and not) have inquired about tours. At minimum GUO will offer two this summer, perhaps one urban and one rural. GUO will also offer 2 facility tours (likely to bakeries) in the early fall through the CWB grant.
- Presentations:
 - Throughout May, June and July GUO made presentations to the following facilities and or groups J A Cuddy Child Care Centre in Sanford Manitoba, the River Heights Home School Association, heritage Family Resource Centre; Manitoba Children and Nature Network.
 - Upcoming Presentation- Crestview Centre at the beginning of August
- Workshops:
 - GUO has been invited to give a workshop about organic food and the project through the library series (unconfirmed date) and at the Manitoba Childcare Association workshop series in the fall
 - GUO will put in a proposal to offer a workshop for the yearly Manitoba Childcare Association conference. The proposal will be submitted in early fall.
 - GUO (Julie and Kris) will present a workshop at the end of July to a Muslim Summer Camp for kids. There will be approximately 50 kids in attendance as well as staff and parents.

Confirmed New Centers

University of Winnipeg Students Union Child Care, Discovery Children's Centre, Crescentwood and Crestview are the 4 centers that have recently confirmed GUO involvement.