Organizational Food Security Capacity Building and Network Development at FoodNet Ontario

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Background

FoodNet Ontario works to increase the capacity of organizations and communities across Ontario to achieve community food security and create sustainable local food systems by:

• Acting as a convener, bringing people, ideas and resources together;
• Facilitating dialogue and collaboration between organizations;
• Educating the public and key decision-makers;
• Identifying and promoting best (and promising) practices;
• Identifying and removing barriers to best practices;
• Encouraging diverse cultures to participate

Relationship Building – Engage with the FoodNet Ontario member network or potential partners to assess interest and information needs

Innovation Stimulation – Synthesize knowledge and information to foster and support new ideas

Community Development – Respond to community needs and work to increase overall capacity

Knowledge attainment – Learn the most effective or efficient methods to lower food insecurity in communities.

Evaluation - Support the development and implementation of an evaluation plan of FoodNet Ontario initiatives

Knowledge Translation – Develop a range of resource materials that draw on research and advocacy tailored to needs of members

Social Media Revitalization

• Administered Social Media; specifically Twitter - @FNOntario
• Interacted with food security organizations and programs daily
• Promoted innovative and interactive food security projects
• Added over 200 twitter followers; promoting membership
• Published Food Security based blogs

Networking Events

• Urban Agriculture in London film viewing & food security panel
• Growing a Local Food Strategy: A Day of Dialogue among Community Leaders and Decision Makers
• Field-to-Table Farmers’ Meeting: Getting Healthy Local Food Into Communities
• Community Food Solutions Resource Fair: Affordable, Healthy Options in Toronto

Capacity Building

Redeveloped Program Database

• Applied research strategy to identify current food security projects, programs & initiatives
• Engaged with leadership of organizations to understand scope of initiative
• Developed communication template to add programs & members
• Added over 200 projects, programs & initiatives from all across Ontario
• Developed new membership

Event Listing

• Supplied membership with food security and food system development events
• Shared resources from e-news and other food security news subscriptions
• Participated in webinars and social media campaigns

Key Definitions

- Types of Program/Project/Initiative

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<th>Types of Program/Project/Initiative</th>
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<td>Community shared agriculture</td>
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<td>Emergency Food (e.g. food banks)</td>
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<td>Farm start-up assistance</td>
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Next Steps

• Coordinating Committee to execute Strategic Plan
• Advocate and champion FoodNet Ontario
• Continue to develop resources, program database & projects
• Utilize social media to re-establish FoodNet Ontario
• Enhance communications and engage members

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank my preceptor Lorna McCue for the opportunity to work and learn with FoodNet Ontario, my faculty advisor Dr. Amanda Terry for her guidance, and my wife Vivi, for the love and support all year long.