

## Leave a Legacy!

Consider leaving a legacy for Women's Bean Project so that we can continue our valuable work in the years to come.

Please remember us in your will, trust, retirement plan or life insurance policy. Consult your tax advisor for more information and please let us know if you do.

For planning purposes, our tax identification number is 84-1144973.

Thank You!

## Many Thanks to Our 2011 Ready, Set, Grow Matching Sponsor



## Our Mission

Women's Bean Project's mission is to change women's lives by providing stepping stones to self-sufficiency through social enterprise.



Don't Forget to Connect With Us on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.

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Women's Bean Project

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NEWSLETTER OF THE WOMEN'S BEAN PROJECT

# Beansstalk



## A Note from the CEO

Twenty-two years in, Women's Bean Project has a new lease on life. It's not that things were bad before. In fact, things were fine. And that was the problem. I don't want things to be just "fine." I want them to be powerful and life changing. And so, we have just finished a strategic plan in which we have dreamed of what we think Women's Bean Project can—and should—be.

Our newly minted strategic plan creates a vision for our future that is not just about business as usual. Instead, we have imagined a world in which we have created a model for eradicating domestic poverty. We will work toward ensuring the cycle ends with each woman who comes to the Bean Project.

Frankly, this new plan comes from fear—fear that if we continue to conduct business as usual, in twenty years we will be serving the daughters of the women who are with us today. We believe this is an unacceptable option. In fact, to accept it would be egregious.

We know what we have set out to do is audacious. We also know that we have supporters, like you, who will help us. Supporters who will appreciate our desire to have great impact and do what they can to ensure we are able to achieve this vision.

One might call this the Better, Stronger, Faster Plan. We aspire to provide services so effective and long lasting that the impact is felt today as well as in future generations.

I welcome an opportunity to speak with you about our plans for the future. Please contact me any time via phone or email.

Tamra Ryan  
CEO

## What's New at the Bean

### One Woman's Story - Sherri

Sometimes the past stays in the past – and sometimes it follows you. Sherri Thornton, a 2011 Women's Bean Project graduate, knows that your past stays with you, but with hard work and perseverance one can achieve despite those setbacks.

Sherri moved to Colorado from Texas in 2009 seeking to be close to family and gain employment as a Certified Nurse's Assistant as she had in her home state. However, she was unable to land a job after almost a year and a half because of felony records that were more than 20 years old.

Sherri came to Women's Bean Project in May of 2010 and quickly established herself as a hard worker and leader on the production floor. Sherri worked tirelessly to re-establish herself and set a goal to regain her CNA license in the state of Colorado. With the support of our generous donors, Women's Bean Project was able to pay for Sherri to go to CNA school and gave her continuous employment while she worked toward this goal.



Sherri Thornton

Program Director Bob Macdonald notes, "Sherri has been a great example for other program participants- she has modeled our philosophy of doing anything we can to help women who are willing to help themselves."

Now Sherri has set some new goals for herself and her children. She wants to eventually open up a group home for people with disabilities, like her son Rashad. Of this population, Sherri says, "Lots of people can function on their own on a daily basis, they just need a little assistance."

As for advice for new program participants, Sherri has this: "If you have a positive outlook and do what you need to do to change your life, the Women's Bean Project will help you achieve your goals."

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### Maximizing Our Impact - We Are "Going Green!"

If you are a longtime supporter of Women's Bean Project you may notice something a little different about this Summer 2011 newsletter. Normally we send out a remittance envelope to encourage our supporters to make a donation during the summer months.

However, after doing some cost analysis, we determined it didn't maximize your donation money to spend dollars on that extra envelope. So consider this our "ask."

Please consider supporting Women's Bean Project (or continuing to) by making a gift online at <http://www.womensbeanproject.com/donate.html> or sending in a check to WBP, 3201 Curtis St., Denver, CO 80205. Thank You!