



Learn & Go - Working for Change

2012 Report

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LEARN & GO – WORKING FOR CHANGE 2012 REPORT

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LEARN & GO: WORKING FOR CHANGE 2012

OVERVIEW

Learn & Go – Working for Change, is a unique program aimed at providing residents of Saint John's priority neighbourhoods with the skills and opportunities to facilitate social, political, and economic change. The priority neighbourhoods are the South End, North End, West Side, The Village, Crescent Valley, and also Anglin Drive which lies in close proximity to Crescent Valley, and parts of east Saint John around the Glen Falls area. The Learn & Go program was initiated in 2008 and was offered again for the next two more years but not in 2011. During this time residents made a number of changes in their neighbourhoods. Learn & Go was offered in 2012 and organized by the Urban Core Support Network with the help of Vibrant Communities.

Learn & Go was promoted by circulating posters, flyers and brochures and various outreach efforts. A script was circulated through the media, Around the Block Newspaper, Community Newsletters, School Newsletters/talk mail /bulletin boards and information sessions were offered at the Saint John Learning Exchange and with the Old North End (O.N.E. change) organization, in addition to the scheduled public information sessions held on August 30th. Pairs of recruiters from each priority neighbourhood were hired (many were past Learn and Go participants) and they went door to door as well as helping to circulate information at key locations. Many representatives from neighbourhood community centres were very resourceful in establishing/recommending recruiters in each neighbourhood. A facebook page was established in October 2012 which helped raise more public awareness for the program and also provided an outlet for sharing information, team updates and successes.

An Information session took place on August 30, 2012 (morning & evening) and was followed by the three phased program which ran from September 24, 2012 to November 20, 2012 with follow up throughout December 2012. Learn & Go was made possible through financial support from the Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation, who provided \$19,100 to fund the program. United Way Saint John, provided funding of \$1,500.00 which was used for a small honorarium of \$55.50 for each of the twenty-seven participants that completed all three phases of Learn & Go.

The program was designed to help participants develop civic engagement skills and confidence through all three phases. In the first phase, workshops covered topics such as teamwork, working with media, and pitching ideas. The second phase involved groups of participants putting their skills into action by developing specific community projects with the support of mentors from Irving Oil and, the third phase was a formal presentation for teams to present their ideas to potential partners and funders to advance their initiatives.

A number of individuals donated their time as workshop presenters, mentors, and partners to ensure the success of this program.

The success of the program is measured by participant feedback and the projects that evolved out of the program. It is encouraging to note that in a short span of 12 weeks, one of the nine projects presented in the third phase has been successfully completed and the other eight teams are continuing to work on the next steps of their projects.

Thirty individuals participated in at least five workshops. All participants were from the target group, in priority neighbourhoods. Participants attended workshops either during the morning or evening session at the John Howard Society meeting space, 44 Peters Street.

The Project team consisted of a Coordinator, three social work students, a sub-committee, and a steering committee, representing the Urban Core Support Network, Vibrant Communities and community partners including neighbourhood associations and City Leisure services. The Coordinator, a past participant of Learn & Go 2008 and 2009 was hired by the Urban Core Support Network. The steering committee provided ongoing guidance and support, and was a valued sounding board.

We were very fortunate to have three Social Work Students join us for Learn & Go in doing their Social Action field placement for St. Thomas School of Social Work. Cassie McDougall, Samara Carvell and Olivia Newcomb assisted with the planning, organizing and implementing of the project. They supported the Coordinator and assisted with workshops and transportation. They facilitated workshop icebreakers, attended meetings and helped with recruiting, evaluations and follow ups. They were an invaluable asset to the Learn & Go program.

The Three Phases of Learn & Go

Phase I: Attending the Workshops

During the first three weeks nine 2-hour workshops were held three times each week (morning and evening sessions). Some things participants learned during the workshops were how to build their team, ways to communicate with partners, and how to pitch their ideas. During the workshops participants were broken up into neighbourhood groups and then the teams had an opportunity to talk about their ideas together and pick their project that could help their neighbourhood. In some cases there was more than one project per neighbourhood.

Before the workshops were finished each team was matched up with a mentor who was best suited to help them with their idea/project.

Costs associated with transportation and childcare were covered during the workshops.

Phase II: Working With Your Team and Mentor

When the workshops finished, each team continued to work together on their project over the next three or four weeks to develop their idea which would help their neighbourhood. Efforts were made to coordinate the ideas with challenges identified by neighbourhood associations. While each team worked on their project their mentor was available to help with information and guidance. While working with mentors each team set their own work hours and meeting place and times.

During Phase II the Learn and Go program Coordinator checked in regularly with each team to ensure things were moving along smoothly.

Phase III: Presenting Your Idea/Project

This was the final and most exciting phase of Learn and Go!

Each team was given an opportunity to present and sell their idea to decision makers. Anyone who could be a potential partner and have the power to help move a team project forward was invited to attend the presentation. Some projects didn't get a yes before Learn and Go was finished but in many cases that yes came later. When teams are passionate about their idea and continue to work on their project the door to success is never closed.

Participants finished Learn & Go with many new skills which they will use over and over again. That in itself is success!

RECRUITMENT

Recruitment was implemented in the following ways: Neighbourhood recruiters were hired from each priority neighbourhood to go door to door with information about Learn & Go and to invite residents to attend an information session. An "Early Bird" poster was created and distributed in August to community centers/various locations and on city transit buses with the help of recruiters and committee members. The Learn & Go coordinator attended community events and the coordinator and social work students met with groups to explain the program and distribute information, posters and brochures. With help from committee members, schools and community centers were contacted and asked to get the word out to parents and residents. Promotional articles were submitted to "Around the Block", community newsletters and the media.

INFORMATION SESSION – August 30, 2012

The information sessions, offered both in the morning session and evening, were held at the John Howard Society, 44 Peters Street. Snacks and refreshments were available at both sessions. The sessions went very well with attendance at around 12 residents in the morning and about 8 for the evening session. The brainstorming session to determine project ideas for the neighbourhoods went very well and residents had many great ideas for change. These ideas were very helpful during workshops as residents tried to pick their idea/project that would help their neighbourhood. Registrations resulting from info sessions are as follows: Courtenay Bay/Waterloo Village (12) and Crescent Valley (7), Anglin Drive (2), Lower East (1), Lower West (2), and South End (3).

INFO SESSION - BRAINSTORMING IDEAS

SOUTH END:

- Computer access
- Needle cleanup/containers
- Sewing group
- Hockey rink/seasonal activities
- Snow clearing
- Ashtrays on poles
- Dog poop cleanup
- More programs offered at community centre and school

ANGLIN DRIVE:

- Clear path from Anglin Drive to Crescent Valley
- New sidewalks
- Economic Retail store in North End
- Composting
- 4 way stop
- Bus stops
- Chicken Noodle Soup Program elsewhere
- Playground – Splash pool and safety
- Diaper & formula program with Family Resource Centre
- Slow down speeders
- Breakfast program at Princess Elizabeth School or Anglin Drive
- More activities for children and seniors
- Flower baskets on lamp posts
- Community garden on Anglin Drive
- Dumpsters covered or fenced in to make it look nicer
- Spring fire prevention presentations

WATERLOO VILLAGE/COURTENAY BAY:

- Continue trying to add crosswalk on Brunswick Drive
- Move crosswalk closer to hotel (Crown St.)
- Bus stop – Brunswick highrise (return it to original location)
- Early childhood/parenting programs held within Waterloo Village
- Skateboard Park/Skating Rink (liability insurance)
- Long Term Project: Co-ordinate prices at stores such as grocery, etc. (food security topic) around Social Assistance cheque day.
- Kids activities – Courtenay Bay skating rink, touch football, soccer, lacrosse.
- Block party (Courtenay Bay)

CRESCENT VALLEY:

- Enforce stop signs – police presence
- Speed bumps
- Improve playground/age appropriate (Taylor Ave.)
- Dumpsters on Taylor Ave.
- Movie nights
- Spring Fire prevention presentations
- Crosswalk – Taylor @ Patterson Ave.

ADDITIONAL PROJECT IDEAS:

- Benches for uptown area
- Better signage for one-way streets (Charlotte St.)
- Cruise tent available to communities
- Cleaning out Rockwood Park
- Lighting for Rockwood Park

PHASE I - WORKSHOPS

Eight different capacity building workshops were offered to participants over a three week period. See workshop schedule, topics, and facilitators below:

Mon Sept 24	What's Your Neighbourhood Priority/Introduction to Learn & Go	Neighbourhood leaders shared their priorities and neighbourhood plans with participants. Everyone broke into groups to begin the process of identifying project ideas.	Brenda Murphy Cathy Wright Patricia Porter
Tue Sept 25	Uncovering Your Strengths	This workshop helped participants identify their existing assets and how to use them in furthering their project ideas.	Melanie Vautour Judi Chisholm
Wed Sept 26	Leadership 101	Who are your leaders? What is leadership? Have you been a leader?	Betty MacDonald
Mon Oct 1	Building Your Team	Participants learned how to be a good team player and how to divide responsibilities to avoid one person taking over.	Cindy Bishop
Tue Oct 2	Listen! It's Hard!	A communication workshop designed to help participants understand the importance of active listening and tips on how to do it.	Sue Davis Claire Ashton Beth Gilbert
Wed Oct 3	Moving Ideas Forward	Setting short and longer term goals and how to keep focused on a goal, how to keep a team together. Positive networking with partners and your neighbourhood.	Yan Guo Monique St. Amand
Tue Oct 9	Working with Social Media	How to get your message out to others. What works and what doesn't. This workshop explored facebook and You Tube and helped participants look at appropriate use of these two social media tools.	Michele Brideau
Wed Oct 10	Pitching Your Ideas	Prepared participants for presenting their projects to potential partners. How to be strategic in the presentation, what won't work, ways to follow up.	Irving Oil: Kathy Harris Julianne deSoto Cindy Millett
Thu Oct 11	Matching Mentors and Projects	The Learn & Go team helped launch participant groups for the mentorship phase of the program	Brenda Murphy Cathy Wright Patricia Porter

GROUP COMPOSITION

Morning Workshop Groups (location, number of participants and their projects):

- Courtenay Bay (6): Crosswalk on Brunswick Drive
- South End (3): Ashtrays on Poles
- West Side (3): St. Patrick's School Playground Improvements
- Old North End (5): Crosswalk on Main Street

Evening Workshop Groups (location, number of participants and their projects):

- Courtenay Bay (2): Hedge on Crown Street
- Anglin Drive (4): Fundraising for Basketball Court
- North/West (2): Painted panels for Lorne School and West Side Carleton Center Hockey Rink and repainting of hockey rink lines
- Crescent Valley (4): Crosswalk on MacLaren Blvd.
- East (1): Anti-Bully Program at Forest Hills School

The workshops were informative, skill building and interactive. Participants took lots of notes during workshops. They all seemed to enjoy the icebreakers as well as opportunities to break into groups. There was a lot of positive feedback from workshop evaluations with the final workshop when teams/mentors broke up into groups receiving the most positive feedback. Many remarked that they enjoyed that last workshop the most and wished there had been more similar opportunities throughout the workshops

WORKSHOP SUMMARY – 30 PARTICIPANTS

Workshops were evaluated with two methods. At some workshops only one method was used but for others both were used to accommodate both high and low literacy levels of participants. The two methods used were: (1) various shapes to indicate how much or little a workshop was liked/received: star, happy face, hammer, lemon (2) a short three question written evaluation.

Workshop 1: Monday, September 24 - What's Your Neighbourhood Priority

Facilitator: Pat Porter

Neighbourhoods include Waterloo Village/Courtenay Bay, Crescent Valley, Anglin Drive, East Side, Old North End, South End, West Side. Representatives of each priority neighbourhood identified important locations/community centres within their neighbourhoods and the work that is in progress. They talked about resources and future plans. The workshop was very informative and helped the participants think about potential projects based on neighbourhood needs. Twenty-one participants were very happy with this workshop, five liked it and one thought it needed work.

Workshop 2: Tuesday, September 25th - Uncovering Your Strengths

Facilitators: Melanie Vautour & Judi Chisholm

This workshop helped participants discover personal/team strengths. Uncovering strengths addresses assets: things that add value to our life! Five areas of assets are *Human*: things we do, *Personal*: things we feel, *Social*: people we know, *Physical*: things we use, *Financial*: things we have for \$. We all have our own personal skill set. Many participants realized they practice using skills every day of life without realizing it and had fun identifying their skills. Twenty-six participants were very happy with this workshop and four liked it.

Workshop 3: Wednesday, September 26th - Leadership 101

Facilitator: Betty MacDonald

Questions/topics that this workshop addressed are “What makes a good leader? Are all leaders loud and outgoing? What leadership qualities do you have?” This workshop helped participants realize that leaders also need to be cheerleaders ; they invite others to join and keep people motivated. Participants enjoyed breaking up into groups and identifying leaders/leadership qualities. Thirteen participants were very happy with this workshop, and fifteen liked it.

Workshop 4: October 1st - Building Your Team

Facilitator - Cindy Bishop

Building a team is very important and for this workshop brainstorming was a great way to get started. There was no judgment in brainstorming and all participants realized respect is the foundation for effective teamwork. Team members realized they need to have a clear understanding of their purpose-communication is key! They learned that it is important to divide jobs between team members: identify strengths and assets and use them and to also be open to trying new roles. Participants loved breaking into groups and the “building a bridge” ice-breaker. Several wished the workshop could have been longer. Written evaluations were used for this session and all seemed very happy with this workshop.

Workshop 5: Tuesday, October 2nd - Listen! It’s Hard!

Facilitators: Sue Davis, Claire Ashton, and Beth Gilbert

This was a workshop based on active listening and addressed the following topics/questions: What is the difference between hearing and listening? Active listening is the foundation to good communication! Participants saw that active listening takes practice but can be a powerful tool when we remember to use it. They saw that it is important to remember body language & eye contact, reflect back information and emotion - *Body language trumps words!* Through interactive demonstrations they saw that the other person will take the message from body language. A combination of written questions and shapes were used to evaluate this workshop. Nineteen participants seemed very happy with this workshop, two liked it and three thought it needed work.

Workshop 6: Wednesday, October 3rd - Moving Ideas Forward

Facilitators: Yan Guo & Monique St. Amand

This workshop addressed the following topics/questions: What does “Moving Ideas Forward” mean? Define goals, express these goals to others, build your team, make a plan, keep team focused on the goal, network! After taking part in this workshop participants seemed to be more focused and organized. The facilitators tried to get the participants to group up into their actual teams and think about their projects. Participants seemed to have a better idea of what they wanted to accomplish and as a team had formed some concrete steps and plans for their projects. A combination of written questions and shapes were used to evaluate this workshop. Eighteen participants seemed very happy with this workshop and one liked it.

Workshop 7: Tuesday, October 9th – Working with Social Media

Facilitator: Michele Brideau

How to best use the Internet & Social Media

Participants were made aware of security settings and of sharing/not sharing information on social media sites such as facebook and twitter. The facilitator raised awareness with topics such as: *Being good with social media doesn’t mean you have to be good with computers! Remember - social media is not filtered or censored. Once it’s out there, it’s there for everyone to see! Social media can be a very positive way to share your message or event but we need to be careful as well.* Participants really

seemed to enjoy this workshop and found it very informative and educational. Several participants said they wished the workshop could have been longer or in two parts as there is so much more that could have been covered. They also said they wished that it could have some hands on/interactive demonstrations or exercises. A combination of written questions and shapes were used to evaluate this workshop. Twenty-three participants were quite happy with this workshop and four liked it.

Workshop 8: Wednesday, October 10th – Pitching Your Ideas

Facilitators: Kathy Harris, Julianne deSoto, Cindy Millett

The facilitators showed video clips to demonstrate pitch techniques. They demonstrated the qualities of a good pitch with the following topics: *Think about your pitch as telling your story. There are two key elements to your pitch: **Pain Statement:** What problem are you trying to solve? **Value Proposition:** How is your solution going to solve the problem? An effective pitch should be clear & concise, easy to understand, should be appealing to the audience and not leave big questions unanswered. Remember: a pitch isn't just about the words you use! Body posture, movement, expressions, eye contact and how we dress all convey our message. Most participants enjoyed this workshop and remarked that they liked being able to ask questions throughout.* A combination of written questions and shapes were used to evaluate this workshop. Twenty participants were very happy with this workshop and one liked it. Most evaluations were very positive.

Workshop 9: Thursday, October 11th - Matching Mentors and Projects

Facilitator - Pat Porter

During this workshop teams were matched up with their mentors (sixteen mentors from Irving Oil Limited). Teams and mentors enjoyed an interactive ice breaker and then had an opportunity to brainstorm ideas and plans for projects together. Both participants and mentors really enjoyed this workshop in that they were able to meet their mentors and work on their projects with them. Before the workshop was finished mentors and teams had scheduled their next meeting place/time. Both participants and mentors took part in the evaluations for this workshop. Written evaluations were used and all were very positive.

Noteworthy Comments (Participants):

- *Very interesting! It makes me want to go out right now and get started.*
- *It was fun and enjoyed working in groups and with mentors.*

Noteworthy Comments (Mentors):

- *Well organized, participants very engaged, great team effort.*
- *Nice to see how passionate everyone was, presentations.*
- *Well Structured workshop.*
- *Great. I think this program teaches people how to get what they want through a good process.*

PHASE II – WORKING ON PROJECTS

Before participants finished the workshops they were matched with mentors. All sixteen mentors were from Irving Oil Limited. Over a four to five week period participants from the nine teams met with their mentors almost weekly and worked on the ten project ideas. Mentors offered teams support and guidance while teams shared tasks and workload. Each participant seemed to have assigned tasks to complete before their next scheduled meeting when they would put together a new task list. The mentors helped teams stay focused and develop their projects in preparation for a practice presentation. On November 13, 2012 teams were given an opportunity to present their projects to an

audience for some constructive feedback. All but one team pitched their ideas at the practice presentation and getting feedback at that time was invaluable as teams had the following week to make any changes to their project work before the actual presentation a week later. All teams were well prepared to present at the arrival of Phase III.

PHASE III – PRESENTING TO POTENTIAL PARTNERS

In this phase the Learn & Go Coordinator arranged for the different teams of participants to meet together in one evening to pitch their ideas to potential partners. It was an evening of tremendous enthusiasm and support from participants, mentors and potential partners and many partners made specific commitments to further a community project. We estimated Presentation Night attendance at about eighty-five people.

The following potential partners attended the Presentation:

Carleton Community Centre
City of Saint John Leisure Services
City of Saint John Pedestrian and Traffic Services
St. Joseph's Community Health Centre
Irving Oil Ltd
Member of Legislature representatives
City Councilors
Teen Resource Centre
YMCA
Knights of Columbus
Kiwanis Club of Saint John
Main Street Baptist Church
Department of Social Development
Saint John Police Force
District 8 Education: St. Patricks School, Hazen White-St. Francis School & Forest Hills School
Neighbourhood Groups: ONE CHANGE, Crescent Valley Resource Centre and PULSE-People United for the Lower South End.

On November 20, 2012 each group did a three to five minute presentation to those present and then met with individual partners at discussion tables where they had project information to share and could discuss their project in more detail. The evening culminated in brief one minute reports from each project on next steps. Each team had very positive feedback and support from potential partners and returned with inspiring next steps for their projects.

Neighbourhood teams/projects and updates:

- ⇒ **Basket Ball Court Fundraising for Anglin Drive**
Helping to fundraise for the Basketball Court. They are helping to sell tickets for a Christmas Dinner Draw.

Project Update: To keep in touch with the Anglin Drive Tenants Association and continue to help fundraise. One idea is to have a fundraising auction in 2013 and one of the team members has shown a strong interest in helping to plan that event. The project team has invited Greg Evans from department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture to the next playground committee meeting on January 11, 2013 and he has accepted.

⇒ **Crosswalk for Old North End on Main Street**

The crosswalk is looking good and Tim O'Reilly from the City thinks it may be possible for a set of lights to be moved if it is found that North End needs them more than the area that has them now and he will check into that. The crosswalk may not go in until spring because that would be the best time to paint. Sgt. LaFrance will assign an officer for a half hour on some mornings to monitor speeders. They are also reviewing the Shamrock Master Plan to determine how it fits with their project idea.

Project Update: The crosswalk is going in. The signs for the crosswalk have been installed and residents are using the crosswalk. The crosswalk lines haven't been painted yet. The temperature must be 7 degrees or above for three days before they can paint.

⇒ **Painted Panels for Lorne School and Carleton Hockey Rink (2 projects/1 team)**

The project team have been talking to Scott Crawford from ONE Change (neighbourhood association). They have received funding, \$1000 from Lorne School and \$600 from Carleton Community Centre. They've received four more offers of funding. PALS (Partners Assisting Local Schools) has offered to help and the Legion, Branch #2 said they can use their room for fundraising. They are able to have panels not only for Lorne but also Victoria Street. City workers are coming to paint lines on the rink.

Project Update: They will be purchasing supplies and will drop panels and supplies to artists to paint at their homes. ONE Change is helping with supplies and they will meet with them to decide where the panels are going to be. They have met with Chuck Edison from the Carleton Community Centre and talked about re-enforcing the sides of the rink, if a carpenter is needed for repairs, and which panels they can begin painting/installing right away. Carpenters have already been to the sites.

⇒ **Ashtrays for South End**

The team has talked to Kevin Carson from the City and they can have more than five ashtrays due to cost. They should be installed by the end of December.

Project Update: Mary LeSage has invited the team to repeat their presentation at a Pulse board meeting in January 2013.

⇒ **Crosswalk for Crescent Valley on MacLaren Blvd.**

MLA Trevor Holder recommended presenting to Mayor/Common Council to get speed limit changed and said he'd be happy to set that up. Councilors Susan Fullerton and John MacKenzie have also offered to help with this as well. Mr. Holder and Tim O'Reilly from the City said the crosswalk looks promising and would be installed in the spring if it gets the ok. They checked prime time for speeders which seemed to be Wednesday to Saturday and have supplied Sgt. Jeff LaFrance with this information. He will be assigning a task force to monitor speeders and stop signs on the week of Nov. 26th.

Project Update: Still waiting for stats from Sgt. Jeff LaFrance on speeders/stop signs (this is a very busy time as they are moving the police station). Once stats are supplied the team will

contact Trevor Holder to set a date to go up before Mayor/Common Council. The team will also be in contact with Jennifer Carhart, Principal of Hazen White School to begin educating the children on safety and using crosswalks and to try and educate residents as well.

⇒ **Crosswalk for Courtenay Bay on Brunswick Drive**

Project Update: SUCCESS!! The Brunswick Drive crosswalk was installed on November 23rd. CONGRATULATIONS!! With their mentors' guidance and support the team developed their project: They collected data on the number of people crossing Brunswick Drive during peak periods and gathered statistics on residents, small/school aged and autistic children and frequently used neighbourhood schools, resource centers and organizations. The team worked with Saint John Police to monitor speeders and with Tim O'Reilly of the City to point out how badly a crosswalk was needed and why.

⇒ **Hedges for Courtenay Bay on Crown Street**

The Courtenay Bay team has done the research and the math and found out that it will take \$18,000 for the hedges, \$20,000 installed. Andrea Melanson, the teams' mentor, suggested sending cue cards from presentation (in email form) off to Janice Buchanan, Irving Oil Refinery and Karen Leeman, JD Irving. Andrea has offered to assist by sending the cue card info along with an attachment of a few photos for these two companies to respond on their project.

Project Update: The project team members have sent their presentation project info to Andrea Melanson to forward to two Irving companies. They will follow up with Debbie McLeod (Social Development) after the Christmas season to better understand NB Housing and regulations for property and location of hedge. The team wants to first engage the community by fundraising within their neighbourhood (Brian Marks, Social Development, has offered to help with funds and fundraising). Depending on how well they do with fundraising they will consider contacting Kent Stores and other companies for additional funding/donations if necessary. The team will also consider Councillor Susan Fullerton's recommendations when planting the hedges which were to have residents dig the holes for the trees and plant them as this would save money and give residents a personal investment in the trees.

⇒ **Anti-Bully Program at Forest Hills Middle School**

The anti-bully program is going well. Deanna has permission to have evening sessions at the Forest Hills School. Paul Hickey, Vice-Principal of Forest Hills School will train her in anti-bully techniques. Kristine Ward, one of the mentors and her husband will teach her breathing and yoga exercises to use with the participants.

Project Update: Deanna will be meeting her mentors Kristine Ward and Yan Guo as well as Sandra Harrington (YMCA) and June Breau-Nason (Teen Resource Centre) in January 2013 (after the Christmas Season) for a brainstorming session to plan an 8 week program to which should begin in February 2013.

⇒ **Improvements to St. Patricks School Playground**

The team is having regular meetings. They have a meeting on Nov. 26th with Dorothy Shephard, MLA. They have a meeting with PACT, neighbourhood association, on Nov. 27th and will be presenting their ideas on the playground and are hopeful that PACT will want to join in and help. They are looking into more funding and applying for grants. Chuck Edison has offered to meet with the team and tell them about other funding possibilities. They have asked Home and

School to come on board and they have accepted. They are now a team of nine and proceeds from Home and School fundraisers will go towards the playground project.

Project Update: The team had a meeting to present their project to Dorothy Shepherd and was told that if they can raise 50% the Province will match it. They had a Christmas Bazaar and silent auction Dec. 5th at St. Pats and raised between \$600.00 and \$800.00. They will be having a meeting with Chuck Edison to brainstorm more ideas for funding. They will also have a meeting with Barry Freeze to apply for Provincial/City funding. There is a drastic difference in available funding through the LPP fund (Land for Public Purpose) so they will have to determine ownership of the playground before they apply.

STAFF ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Steering Committee:

Regular meetings enhanced planning. The Coordinator for Learn & Go attended all meetings to assist in her role.

Learn & Go Coordinator:

The Coordinator worked within the guidelines of the budget. Building relationships was key especially during Phase I & Phase II. The Coordinator recruited participants, and during the program made sure participants and facilitators needs were met. During all three phases of the program the Coordinator was responsible for supplies, childcare/transportation needs/records of participants and for organizing and facilitating information sessions, workshops and presentations. The Coordinator contacted potential partners and secured spaces for the workshops and presentation. During the program all required forms, letters and certificates were revised or created by the Coordinator.

Social Work Students:

The Social Work students helped with workshop and presentation setup and prepared and facilitated workshop evaluations and some icebreakers. They helped with cleanup and with recruiting and promoting Learn & Go. They participated in workshops, took notes and sometimes helped the Coordinator with transportation. They met with teams/mentors during Phase II and they also helped with inviting potential partners and with team/participant follow ups.

LEARNINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- REGISTRATION PROCESS: despite the verbal information given over the phone there were misunderstandings of the length and commitment of the program. A recommendation for next year is face-to-face interviews and use of visuals in explaining the length of the program. Perhaps have a successful Learn & Go 2012 participant who is interested in sharing their sense of empowerment.
- One participant was a young girl still in High School and another taking her GED so there is interest from students/younger generation as well.
- Have a sign-up sheet to keep a record of partners present for presentations
- Prepare and use a recording sheet for presentation night.

- Invite representatives from the provincial and federal government as soon as presentation night is selected. The location can be announced later.
- RECRUITERS: a) If recruiters leave information at homes when residents are not home it should be a more detailed handout. Without speaking to the recruiters, many residents had no idea what the handout was about when calling the Coordinator. b) Have all recruiters keep accurate records of homes/locations visited for follow up. This would also give an idea of area covered during recruiting and names of individuals to follow up with. c) Have recruiters check in with the Coordinator regularly by phone or email as some recruiters were difficult for the Coordinator to reach.
- The participants seemed very proud to receive their certificates. The gold embossed certificates bought in packs of 15 - at Staples Business Depot looked very professional once printed. The Coordinator developed the template and printed one for each participant adding only the phases they completed.
- Make sure there is a chair available where participants present. (One participant was prone to seizures and asked for a chair to be kept nearby)
- For workshop evaluations using shapes (smiley face, star, hammer and lemon) as well as written questions seemed to work well as some participants were challenged by their literacy levels.

A meeting took place with Irving Oil mentors to seek their feedback and key learnings for next Learn & Go. Here are their comments:

- Have a map of priority neighbourhoods available at the Information Session to help distinguish neighbourhood boundaries.
- Have a structured workbook or binder with more workshop handouts (hole punched for binder) for participants to refer to during Phase II.
- A package of what was covered in workshops would be very helpful as mentors could reinforce the workshop learnings. Also, having an action plan outline with sheets the participants could fill in during project team meetings would help teams stay focused on completing tasks between meetings.
- Some participants were easily overwhelmed. Suggestion was to have an outline of tools available for participants to follow during phase II:
 - ACTION/RESOURCE/DATE
 - SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS /MEETING/ACTIONS
 - PLAN FOR NEXT ACTIONS/EMAIL CONTACTS
- Define who potential partners should be for each project and how/when the teams would be presenting and to whom.
- Have a representative from the organization responsible for Learn & Go and/or the Learn & Go Coordinator attend mentor meetings during Phase II to go talk about the overall process, answer questions, ID stakeholders, and clarify who the teams would be presenting to and how. It would be very helpful to compile a list of potential stakeholders and make it available to mentors.
- Meeting at one meeting place would be much better than alternating between two (North/West Team was alternating between ONE Change and a West Side meeting place). Also, daytime meetings would work much better than evening meetings for most mentors.

- Available meeting places were outlined by staff but some alternative meeting places had to be arranged/booked during Phase II for some teams as many places were closed during Remembrance Day which presented a challenge.
- All mentors agreed that two mentors per team is enough. Having two mentors per team allowed the team to have a mentor present at meetings when the other couldn't make it.
- One mentor commented and all agreed that it would be helpful if one participant from each team could take notes and share them with other team members and their mentor in the event they missed a meeting.
- Mentors suggested a training session could be put into place "how to inspire participants who do not have much initiative". This could help encourage and build confidence as some participants seemed to need quite a bit of pushing and directing to follow through with contacts and project work.
- Mentors suggested holding the presentation at the Irving location 59 King Street in the future if available.
- Share confirmed partners with mentors prior to presentation so teams have the option of including them in their power point presentations.
- Mentors asked if we could share the teams' success as they would be very interested in knowing the end result; if teams got what they asked for.

MENTORS COMMENTS:

Yan Guo & Julianne deSoto: *"Incredible improvement between the dry run and the presentation."*

Gayle Buckley & Sandra McCready: *"Wicked! Awesome presentations, Awesome group!"*

Julie Milton & Dianne Mallais: *"Loved the experience! Passionate group! Empowering!"*

Andrea Melanson: *"The teams really "Shined" on presentation night! Good learning experience and the team was very appreciative and very dedicated. It was cool to see the development; to see the participants embrace technology!"*

Chad Foster & Cori Moore- McDade: *" The presentation was a very positive experience!"*

PARTICIPANTS/NEIGHBOURHOODS

The following table indicates the neighbourhood which participants identify with, phases completed, how many participants received honorarium, participants requiring childcare/transportation, total number of residents who inquired about the program and how they found out about Learn & Go 2012:

Neighbourhoods Represented by Participants:	
North & West	2
South End	3
Waterloo Village/Courtenay Bay	8
Crescent Valley	4
West Side	3

East	1
Anglin Drive	4
North End	5
Participants Workshop Attendance / Total Participants 30:	
Completed all 9 workshops	22
Completed at least 8 workshops	24
Completed at least 7 workshops	28
Completed at least five workshops	30
Phases Completed/Honoraria Received, Participants Requiring Childcare and those who were Past Participants of Learn & Go:	
Phase III	27
Phase II	28
Phase I and kept contact during Phase II	28
Received small honoraria for completing all three Phases (Honoraria funded by United Way)	27
Participants requiring childcare	13 (10 regular & 3 when required)
Participants requiring transportation	17 (14 regular & 3 when required)
Past participants (participants that took Learn & Go before)	5
Residents heard of the program through:	
Recruiters	17
Flyers/Posters	5
Community Centres/Newsletters	6
Around the Block Newspaper	2
Word of mouth	17
Total residents that inquired about the program	47

Note: United Way funding of \$1,500.00 was divided among the 27 participants and a small honoraria was presented with their certificates for completing all three phases of Learn & Go.

STORIES OF PARTICIPANTS – WRITTEN BY SOCIAL WORK STUDENTS

Story # 1 – Courtenay Bay/Waterloo Village Team (Hedge/Fence Project)

Where does your passion for community change come from? What is the motivation behind your passion?

During their third Learn and Go meeting, two young women from the Courtenay Bay/Waterloo Village area in Saint John, brainstormed ideas on how to accomplish their goal of building a fence or planting

hedges along Crown St. to prevent children from running onto the road. They discussed, with their mentor from Irving Oil, the many phone calls they had made and information they had collected since their last meeting. I recognized the passion and dedication for change these two young women had and wanted to know where that passion came from. One of the women believes that having her daughter, now 21 months, was the realization she needed to begin focusing on the changes needed within her neighborhood. Most importantly, she wants her daughter to grow up in a place that is safe and respectable. Having her daughter pushed her to do more and that is exactly what she is doing. For the other participant, her interest in the community came from her mom, who is also very involved within the Courtenay Bay area. She explains that once she became involved she recognized the need for increased safety measures for the children in her community.

Story # 2 – East Side Team (Anti-Bullying Project)

The project team member had been searching for an opportunity to become involved in her community when she heard about the Learn and Go Program from a neighbour. She jumped at the chance to make a positive change. Like many of our participants, the team member wanted to see changes and improvements in her neighbourhood for her children and the many other children living in the area. When she began having children that is when her desire for change started. She knew that she wanted her children to live in an area free from bullying, so decided that Learn and Go would give her the opportunity to develop an anti-bullying program within her area in the East Side of Saint John. She has found that many people are excited about the idea of an anti-bullying program and has had great support throughout the process. Throughout the Learn and Go Project, the team member states that she has built confidence and that she is truly proud of all that she has accomplished so far. Way to go! We wish you great success with your project!

Story # 3 – South End Team (Ashtrays in the South End area)

One of the team members explains that she heard of the Learn and Go Program from another member who lives in her building. Her neighbour urged her to become involved in the program when she expressed interest in making a change within her neighbourhood. She has always had a passion for change and being involved and decided that Learn and Go could help introduce her to opportunities for change within the South End area. Although the project has had its difficulties, she has been able to recognize that she is very adaptable and is a strong agent for change. Learn and Go has allowed this team member to identify strengths within herself and her community and she is committed to the goal of beautifying the South End area. Great job Team South End!

A FEW COMMENTS FROM PARTICIPANTS:

Team Update Phone Call:

While receiving a very positive team update from one project team member recently where she had received an abundance of funding and support she said "I LOVE LEARN AND GO!!!"

The note/card below was presented to the coordinator at the presentation:

Courtenay Bay Hedge Project!
"Raise one Save one"

Pat,
Thank you very much for providing us the knowledge that we have experienced in learn and go.
We had a blast and hope to take part in learn and go next year.

WHAT'S AFTER LEARN & GO ??
Participant Follow Up .. By Cassie MacDougall



When speaking with a participant from the Old North End after the Learn and Go Presentation, she described having a great experience throughout Learn and Go. Her project has been a success so far. She and her partner have received funding to begin beautifying their areas on the North End and West Side. The team member says she plans to recommend Learn and Go to anyone she knows who could benefit from the experience. She appreciated the support she received from the Learn and Go Coordinator, mentors, and peers. She believes that the great people involved in Learn and Go are what contribute to the projects positivity on an individual and community level.

Area of possible improvement for the next Learn and Go: The team member explains that she did not know the projects were leading to a final presentation to potential partners. She wishes she would have been made more aware of the presentation and perhaps more prepared.

A team member from the Courtenay Bay area has gained great success throughout her experience with Learn and Go. Her team's project, a crosswalk, has been completed! She is now looking forward to using the skills she expanded upon through Learn and Go in her new position as the chair person for the Waterloo Tenant's Association. This team member's new found opportunity exemplifies the long lasting achievement that Learn and Go offers for the participants involved.

When asked "What's next?" for the team member from the East Side team and from the South End team, they were both planning on applying for the Power Up program to further work on their skills and assets. They both want to continue being involved and continue on building their confidence and passion for change.

The Crescent Valley team has continued working together as they intend to see their project through to completion. They have received positive support from the City of Saint John, and will be meeting with MLA Trevor Holder following the Christmas holiday. Their mentors from Irving Oil have offered their support to the team if needed despite the formal completion of Learn and Go. Team members identified following through with changes to traffic calming measures in their community as their next steps, and one participant also identified Power Up. Crescent Valley team members also stated they would be likely to continue to be involved in community projects and identified Learn and Go as a stepping stone to this.

Overall feedback about Learn and Go from the Crescent Valley Team: Participants from Crescent Valley identified Learn and Go as a positive experience. Some admitted to feeling nervous at the beginning however stated the icebreakers and workshops provided an opportunity to become comfortable in the environment. Team members also identified their positive experience of working with a variety of community stakeholders and credited Learn and Go for this opportunity.

* * * * *

Participants from the South End developed into a team of two committed women who also intend to see their project through until the end. Learn and Go provided an opportunity to meet with Saint John City officials who committed to placing ten ashtrays in the neighbourhood by the end of December. The group intends to ensure this occurs and will also be presenting their project idea to community members in January to generate more support. In addition to continuing with their Learn and Go project, one woman will also begin Power Up in January.

Overall feedback about Learn and Go from the South End Team: One woman from this team stated she believed Learn and Go provided an opportunity to meet people in her neighbourhood as she is a relatively new resident in the area. These connections have also provided an opportunity to remain involved in the community which she intends to do. Participants also identified the positive experience they had working with the mentors and believed this to be an essential aspect of Learn and Go. Both stated Learn and Go was very positive and they learned helpful skills from the workshops.

* * * * *

Although this project has temporarily been put on hold for the holidays, the team has continued to pursue their goal of improving the playground at St. Pat's Elementary School. Following Learn and Go's Presentation Night, the team met with the Hon. Dorothy Shephard, Minister of Healthy and Inclusive Communities, and stated they received very helpful information and support from her. The project has expanded and has been adopted by the St. Pat's Home and School Association. All of the Learn and Go Team intend to stay involved and a specific committee will be developed in the New Year to continue with the team's progress. Although these team members were involved in their communities prior to Learn and Go, they stated they now have an increased interest to become more involved and identified the Carleton Community Center and West Side PACT as areas of interest.

Overall feedback about Learn and Go from the West Side Team: The team identified the workshops as helpful in the way that they provided useful and transferrable skills. Participants stated they would recommend the program to others and also appreciate Learn and Go's ability to partner with other community members. They stated this is an essential aspect of the program as these partnerships are essential to achieve project goals. Some participants stated it may be more beneficial for Learn and Go to be longer in duration, especially if more workshops were available.

LEARN & GO BUDGET 2012

Budget Item	Budget	Actual	Difference
Salary	\$10,600.00	\$10,600.00	\$0.00
Coordinator Transportation	\$ 400.00	\$45.00	\$355.00
Recruiters	\$1,000.00	\$1,050	(\$50.00)
Meeting space	\$750.00	\$500.00	\$250.00
Office Expenses	\$300.00	\$340.08	(\$40.08)
Printing brochures	\$400.00	\$49.53	\$350.47
Phone	\$200.00	\$215.56	(\$15.56)
Nutrition breaks	\$2,300.00	\$827.26	\$1,472.74
Travel	\$1,300.00	\$525.00	\$775.00
Childcare	\$1,850.00	\$1,850.00	\$0.00
Bus Tokens		\$3,097.57	\$0.00
Total	\$19,100.00	\$19,100	\$19,100

BUDGET SAVING STRATEGIES:

MEETING SPACE

- **Information Sessions/Workshops:** Jody Millet offered the use of the John Howard Society, 44 Peters Street for the workshops. He said they do not charge non-profits rental fees but said a donation would be welcomed. A key was provided for evening workshops along with a short four digit access code for the alarm system.
- **Presentation:** Sharon Grozik of Non-Profit Housing offered the use of the Admiral Beatty, King Steet, for the Presentation Night and Barry Freeze of Saint John Leisure Services supplied 20 additional chairs for seating.

NUTRITION BREAKS

- **August 30th Information Sessions:** A \$50.00 gift card was donated by Superstore towards the cost of the vegetable/fruit trays. Water (4 litre jugs were more cost efficient than individual bottles), coffee and tea were also offered.
- **September 24th – October 11th Workshops:** A variety of nutritional food items were bought/offered as much as possible rather than prepared food trays which were very expensive. Whenever possible food items/fruit were bought on sale and items with a good shelf life so that if any were left it could be carried forward and offered for more than one workshop. These cost efficient strategies helped to stretch the nutrition break budget further.
- **Morning Group Menu:** cereal bars and yogurts, toast/bagels/english muffins with cream cheese/butter/jam/ peanut butter. A different fruit was offered each day as well as water, coffee or tea.
- **Evening Group Menu:** Each week sandwiches were offered for one evening, for the second evening crackers and cheese was offered (a variety of boxed crackers and cheese blocks “portioned” and placed on a large tray) and for the third evening pizza was offered (Big Daddy’s Pizza had the best price – 2 party pizzas = 32 slices, for \$32.11). During the last week of workshops in addition to their usual menu the following food from the morning group was carried into the evening and offered as well; bagels/bread/english muffins and butter/cream cheese, jam and peanut butter. A different fruit was offered each evening as well as water, coffee or tea.
- **November 20th Presentation:** Cheese blocks “portioned” and boxed crackers were presented on trays as well as two large fruit trays and a small vegetable tray. Coffee, tea and water were offered as well.

PRINTING

- **Brochures:** Kevin Watson of Leisure Services, City of Saint John graciously offered to print our brochures free of cost. A graphic artist, Ryan DeCoursey, donated his time to format the revised brochure.
- **Posters:** A pdf file of the promotion poster was sent to Eastward Sales, 150 Union Street via email which they printed off quite quickly and on short notice. The posters were printed in B&W rather than color which drastically reduced cost.
- **Agendas:** The presentation agenda was also sent as a pdf file to Eastward Sales via email in the morning and eighty double sided agendas were ready for pickup that afternoon. Because some logos were in color the price was more costly for the agendas. When it was made known that we were a non-profit organization the cost of \$48.00 was reduced to \$35.00 plus tax.

APPENDIX

STAFF ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Social Work Students:

- ⇒ Helped with recruiting participants
- ⇒ Helped to distribute posters, flyers and information
- ⇒ Helped with set up and food/beverage preparation
- ⇒ Prepared and facilitated most icebreakers
- ⇒ Facilitated and compiled workshop evaluations
- ⇒ Contacted media to help promote program
- ⇒ Helped invite potential partners and make follow up phone calls to confirm
- ⇒ Helped with time management
- ⇒ Took notes and participated in workshops when it was beneficial
- ⇒ Helped with clean up
- ⇒ When able, provided the Coordinator with transportation and support
- ⇒ Helped with preparation and clean up on presentation night
- ⇒ Helped contact and interview participants for follow up afterwards
- ⇒ Met with some team members and wrote brief stories

Coordinator's role:

Of the following list, relationship building is most significant.

Preparation/Housekeeping

- ⇒ Attended all meetings with the steering committee (This was productive).
- ⇒ Pulled out learnings from both 2008, 2009 and 2010 Learn & Go reports
- ⇒ Updated Learn & Go overview for 2012
- ⇒ Revised registration form
- ⇒ Checked with workshop facilitators to make sure their needs were met
- ⇒ Wrote all request and thank you letters as needed
- ⇒ Wrote promotion stories for Around the Block and Community Newsletters
- ⇒ Arranged for workshop facilitators
- ⇒ Invited potential partners and made follow up emails/phone calls to confirm
- ⇒ Designed Promotional Posters for Information Session and Program/Workshops
- ⇒ Set up Facebook Page for Learn & Go Team Updates
- ⇒ Checked out and booked workshop and Presentation locations
- ⇒ The Coordinator was responsible for beverage and food for both the morning and evening groups.
- ⇒ Recruited by meeting with ONE Change walking club
- ⇒ Held information sessions with social work students at ONE Change & Saint John Learning Exchange.
- ⇒ Contacted some past Learn and Go participants for potential 2012 participants.
- ⇒ Attempted to include past participants to help with recruitment by dropping posters/flyers at strategic locations/Community Centres and going door to door in priority neighbourhoods. School newsletters/talk mail and word of mouth was found to be very effective.
- ⇒ Contacted teams for updates and to see if they needed assistance or supplies

- ⇒ Kept attendance/childcare records and distributed bus tokens and childcare funds
- ⇒ Delivered tokens/supplies to teams
- ⇒ Emailed documents to UCSN for multiple copies
- ⇒ Spent the first 5-15 minutes of each workshop going over housekeeping issues, motivating, and clarify issues raised in the groups and to provide time for students to conduct ice-breakers.
- ⇒ Participated in portions of workshops where beneficial

Recruitment

- ⇒ Updated flyer and created a “early bird” poster which was distributed in August
- ⇒ With help from committee members, community centers and recruiters posted posters in various locations and on city transit buses
- ⇒ With help from committee members, contacted schools and community centers to get the word out to parents and residents
- ⇒ Wrote promotional articles for “Around the Block” and community newsletters
- ⇒ Participated in interviews, and contacted interviewees with the outcome
- ⇒ Met with some groups to explain the program and distribute information, posters and brochures
- ⇒ Contacted people who expressed an interest in Learn & Go.
- ⇒ Attended community events
- ⇒ Registered participants using a series of intake questions and gave an in-depth explanation of the program

Transportation:

- ⇒ Bus tokens were purchased to meet transportation needs of participants. They were provided to all participants who expressed a need for transportation during Phase I, Phase II and Phase III.

Working with Projects

- ⇒ Mentors were all employed with Irving Oil Limited, sixteen mentors in total. The social work students sat in with some groups as well. Of the nine teams/ten projects, most had two mentors. One team had three mentors (they were working on two projects rather than one) and one team had one mentor but was always joined by a social work student.
- ⇒ Shared contact information with participants so they could contact the Coordinator if they had any concerns/questions
- ⇒ Attended meetings at team’s requests.
- ⇒ Delivered bus tokens & presentation boards
- ⇒ Helped secure meeting places for teams that had difficulty.
- ⇒ Clarified issues and supplied information to teams/mentors/social students as needed.

Organizing Presentations

- ⇒ Recruited potential partners for each project which is very time consuming
- ⇒ Booked the Admiral Beatty and picked up key prior to presentation night
- ⇒ Arranged with Leisure Services to have extra chairs on site
- ⇒ Made calls and emails to confirm attendance with potential partners
- ⇒ Helped develop an agenda for Presentation Night
- ⇒ Arranged for door greeter for Presentation Night
- ⇒ Arranged for snacks & refreshments

- ⇒ Helped with set up & clean up on Presentation Night
- ⇒ *Made certificates of achievement for* participants and with UCSN staff, presented them to participants along with small honorariums. The certificates listed three phases for those who presented, two phases for those who worked on a presentation, and one phase for those who attended more than 4 workshops and continued to express interest in working on a project.

Follow Up:

- ⇒ Provided ongoing support to participants during all three phases.
- ⇒ Hand delivered certificates to UCSN for participants who missed Presentation Night.
- ⇒ Developed 2012 Learn & Go Report
- ⇒ Updated and worked within the perimeters of the Learn & Go Budget.
- ⇒ Developed a spread sheet to record petty cash expenses
- ⇒ Reconnected with participants for project updates

Learn and Go Promotional flyers, scripts and stories: Pg. 24-26

“Learn and Go - Working for Change”

**Would you like to make a change or improvement in your community?
..If your answer is “YES”, this FREE program is for YOU!**

Learn and Go begins September 24th and offers skill building workshops designed to strengthen leadership skills and develop residents’ ideas for change in their neighbourhoods. The workshops take place three mornings or evenings a week for three weeks, followed by work on projects. Then each team will be given an opportunity to sell their idea/project to decision makers.

Costs associated with childcare or transportation will be covered during workshops.

To register for this FREE program contact Pat Porter at 654-0942.

Learn & Go is funded by the Economic and Social Inclusion Network and sponsored by the Urban Core Support Network and Vibrant Communities.

NOTE: The script above was used to promote the workshops with schools/newsletters/bulletin boards.



Learn and Go – Working for Change

Are there any improvements or changes you would like to see in your neighbourhood? If your answer is “yes” then Learn and Go might be just what you are looking for! Learn and Go – Working for Change is designed to help residents strengthen leadership skills, develop ideas for community initiatives and as a team, work towards achieving their goals. Learn & Go workshops are scheduled to begin in September 24th.

To learn more about this exciting program please join us for an information session on August 30th at the John Howard Society, 44 Peter Street. There are two sessions to choose from. Everyone is welcome so bring along a friend!

Morning: 10 am – 11:30 am

Evening: 6 pm – 7:30 pm

If you need help with transportation to attend a session please call Pat at 654-0942

NOTE: The script above was used as a flyer to promote the Information Session and also (in smaller form) as an information handout for recruiters.

The story below was written by Patricia Porter- coordinator for Learn & Go and submitted to Around the Block during 2012 Learn & Go Promotion:



Small Projects Can Grow!

In 2009 our Learn & Go project was to have fencing installed around two hydro towers near our neighbourhood playground. Our small team of four worked on the project together and with the support of Learn & Go, our mentor Barry Freeze and working with our potential partner “Saint John Energy” the two hydro towers were safely fenced in.

The success of our small project inspired a much bigger project; replacing our old playground with a new state-of-the-art playground. With the joining of community and partners our small group grew larger and our dream of a new playground became a reality. In October 2011 we celebrated the Grand Opening of a beautiful new Anglin Drive Playground with our community and partners!

By Patricia Porter



Learn & Go Pre-registration

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Workshops take place over three weeks on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, starting September 24th at the John Howard Society, 44 Peter Street. Please tell us what time of day works best for you:

- **Morning, 9:30 am – 11:30 am:** Yes _____ No _____
- **Evening, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm:** Yes _____ No _____
- Are you flexible with either time? Yes _____ No _____

Do you have children? Yes _____ No _____

What are your childcare needs to attend Learn & Go? _____

Will you need help with transportation to attend Learn & Go? _____

Is there anything that may prevent you from participating in the program? _____

Thank you for your interest in the Learn & Go program and for taking the time to register with us.



Learn and Go Program Registration

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

How did you find out about Learn and Go? _____

What interests you in Learn and Go? _____

How are you involved in your community? (school, church, programs, etc.) _____

What is a potential project in your neighbourhood that you are interested in? _____

Workshops take place over three weeks on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, starting September 24th at the John Howard Society, 44 Peters Street. Please tell us what time of day works best for you:

- **Morning, 9:30 am – 11:30 am:** Yes _____ No _____
- **Evening, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm:** Yes _____ No _____
- Are you flexible with either time? Yes _____ No _____

Do you have children? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, how many children would require childcare? _____

Will you need help with transportation to attend? _____

Will you need help with transportation on the first day of workshops? _____

Snacks are provided during workshops. Do you have any special dietary needs? _____

Is there anything that may prevent you from participating in the program? _____

Are you okay with having your picture used in connection with Learn and Go? Yes _____ No _____

What do you hope to gain from your experience with Learn & Go? _____

Do you have any thoughts on what you would like to do after Learn & Go? _____

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about yourself such as skills or interests?

Learn & Go Workshops - Childcare/Transportation Support ("R" signifies Registered)					Workshop Number: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
	Name	Childcare	Tokens	am/pm	Received
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					

For Reference Only: Additional numbers /rows would be added to a working form.

Learn and Go Workshop #		Date:		
	Name	Neighbourhood	am/pm	Please Sign Here
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				

For Reference Only: Additional numbers /rows would be added to a working form.

Learn & Go Practice Run - Childcare Support	November 13, 2012

Name	Received

For Reference Only: Additional rows would be added to a working form.

Learn & Go Presentation - Childcare Support November 20, 2012	
Name	Received

For Reference Only: Additional rows would be added to a working form.

WORKSHOP EVALUATIONS
 Representation of Shapes: Star = Super / Smiley Face = Good / Hammer = Needs Work / Lemon = Sucked

SESSION 1
Monday, September 24 - Neighbourhood Priority & Introduction
Facilitator: Pat Porter

Star 21
Happy Face 5
Hammer 1

Noteworthy Comments:

- Awesome!
- Super! Loved it!
- "Learning is the best medicine".

SESSION 2

Tuesday, September 25 - Uncovering Your Strengths

Facilitators: Melanie Vautour & Judi Chisholm

Star 26
Happy Face 4

Noteworthy Comments:

- Love this!
- I like the things we do
- I really like this one.
- Really awesome. Thanks!

SESSION 3

Wednesday, September 26th – Leadership 101

Facilitator: Betty MacDonald

Star 13
Happy Face 15
Lemon 1

Noteworthy comments:

- Great job!
- Empowering
- Informational
- Funny, Fun!
- Excellent

SESSION 4

October 1, 2012 - Teamwork

Facilitator - Cindy Bishop

17 written evaluations

Noteworthy comments:

- Fun, eventful. (3)
- Fantastic!!! (five stars)
- Great day full of lots of great ideas.
- Very inquisitive.
- I learned a lot about being a team.

SESSION 5

Tuesday, October 2 - Listen! It's Hard

Facilitator: Sue Davis, Claire Ashton, and Beth Gilbert

Star 9
Happy Face 2
Hammer 3

11 Written Evaluations

Noteworthy Comments:

- Another great day!
- Very informative, will be putting active listening to good use.
- Excellent & interesting.
- Very well prepared & explained.

SESSION 6

Wednesday, October 3 - Moving Ideas Forward

Facilitators: Yan Guo & Monique St. Amand

Stars 5

Smiley faces 1

13 written evaluations

Noteworthy Comments:

- Fantastic.
- Excellent, hands on in our groups, very organized.
- It was great; lot of ideas on how to move my project and ideas forward.
- I really enjoyed it. Very interesting/helpful.
- It was very helpful in teaching me the steps in reaching my goals.

SESSION 7

Tuesday, October 9 – Working with Social Media

Facilitator: Michele Brideau

Star 11

Happy Face 4

12 Written evaluations

Noteworthy Comments:

- Interesting, well presented, explained clearly.
- Very effective, made me think about what I know.
- It was interesting and I learned valuable skills.
- I loved it. Everyone got to communicate and learn a lot about social media.

SESSION 8

Wednesday, October 10 – Pitching Your Ideas

Facilitators: Kathy Harris, Julianne deSoto, Cindy Millett

Stars 20

Happy Face 1

12 Written Evaluations

Noteworthy Comments:

- Excellent!
- Very helpful
- Awesome! A little scary.
- Well done!

SESSION 9

Thursday, October 11, 2012 - Matching Mentors and Projects

Facilitator - Pat Porter

37 Written Evaluations

Noteworthy Comments:

- I thought it was very effective/helpful.
- Awesome, interactive, fun.
- Very interesting! It makes me want to go out right now and get started.
- It was fun and enjoyed working in groups and with mentors.
- It was very interesting and inspiring. Excellent!

Noteworthy Comments (Mentors):

- Well organized, participants very engaged, great team effort.
- Nice to see how passionate everyone was, presentations.
- Well structured.
- Excellent. Everyone was really engaged & passionate about their projects
- Great. I think this program teaches people how to get what they want through a good process.



A G E N D A
INFORMATION SESSION

Welcome	Brenda Murphy
What is Learn & Go?	Pat Porter
Past Projects	
a. Garbage cans	Tammy Garnett/Gayle Buckley
b. Hydro Tower	Kelly Ann Kelly
c. Crosswalk	Carolyn MacLellan
d. Bus stop	Penni Eisenhauer
New Neighbourhood projects	
Next steps & questions	Pat Porter
Wrap up	Brenda Murphy

Note: This agenda was used for the evening session as well (6 pm – 8 pm)

LEARN AND GO: WORKING FOR CHANGE

What's Your Neighbourhood Priority

September 24, 2012

Agenda

9:30 – 11:30 am

- 9:30 Welcome - Cathy
Overview of Learn & Go - Pat
Getting to Know Each Other – Cassie, Olivia and Samara
- Neighbourhood Priorities - Pat
- Crescent Valley – Anne
 - Anglin Drive – Amanda
 - Old North End – Scott
 - East Saint John – Scott
 - Waterloo Village – Linda
 - Courtney Bay – Carolyn
 - South End – Mary
 - Lower West Side – Jill
- 10:30 BREAK
- 10:45 Thinking about projects- Pat
Meet in small groups by Neighbourhoods
- 11:20 Questions and Wrap-Up - Pat
Evaluation – Cassie, Olivia and Samara

Note: This agenda was used for the evening session as well (6 pm – 8 pm)

LEARN AND GO: WORKING FOR CHANGE

What's Your Neighbourhood Priority

October 11, 2012

Agenda

9:30 – 11:30 am

- 9:30 Welcome and Purpose - Pat
Icebreaker
- Neighbourhood Project Teams – Cathy
- Introducing project to mentors
 - Discuss assets
 - Identify possible obstacles and solutions
- Report back from each neighbourhood team
- 10:30 BREAK
- 10:45 Neighbourhood Project Teams
Making Plans
- What, who and how
- Any questions
- 11:20 Wrap-Up and reminder of key dates- Pat
Evaluation

Note: This agenda was used for the evening session as well (6 pm – 8 pm)



Learn and Go working for change

November 20th, 2012

- 5:30 Refreshments
- 6:00 Welcome – Pat Porter
- 6:10 Presentations from participants – Olivia Newcomb, Cassie MacDougall & Samara Carvell
1. Anglin Drive (Fundraising for Basketball Court)
 2. Courtenay Bay (Hedge/Fence)
 3. Courtenay Bay (Crosswalk)
 4. Crescent Valley (Cross Walk/Speed Reduction)
 5. East Side (Anti-bullying Program)
 6. North End/West Side (Revitalization Projects)
 7. Old North End (Crosswalk)
 8. South End (Ashtrays)
 9. West Side (Improvement of St. Patrick's School Playground)
- 7:00 Discussion Tables with projects and potential partners
- 7:30 Each project shares one next step – Cathy Wright
Congratulations and presentation of certificates – Pat Porter & Brenda Murphy
- 7:55 Thank you and Closing remarks – Brenda Murphy

Thank you

Facilitators

Melanie Vautour
Judi Chisholm
Betty MacDonald
Cindy Bishop
Sue Davis
Claire Ashton
Beth Gilbert
Yan Guo
Monique St. Amand
Michele Brideau
Kathy Harris
Julianne deSoto
Cindy Millet

Mentors

Gayle Buckley
Carolyn Prebble
Julie Milton
Diane Mallais
Vicki Woods
Theresa Guay
Shelly Keddy
Andrea Melanson
Sandra McCready
Wanda Wilson
Kristine Ward
Yan Guo
Cori Moore-McDade
Chad Foster
Julianne deSoto
Vicki March

Potential Partners

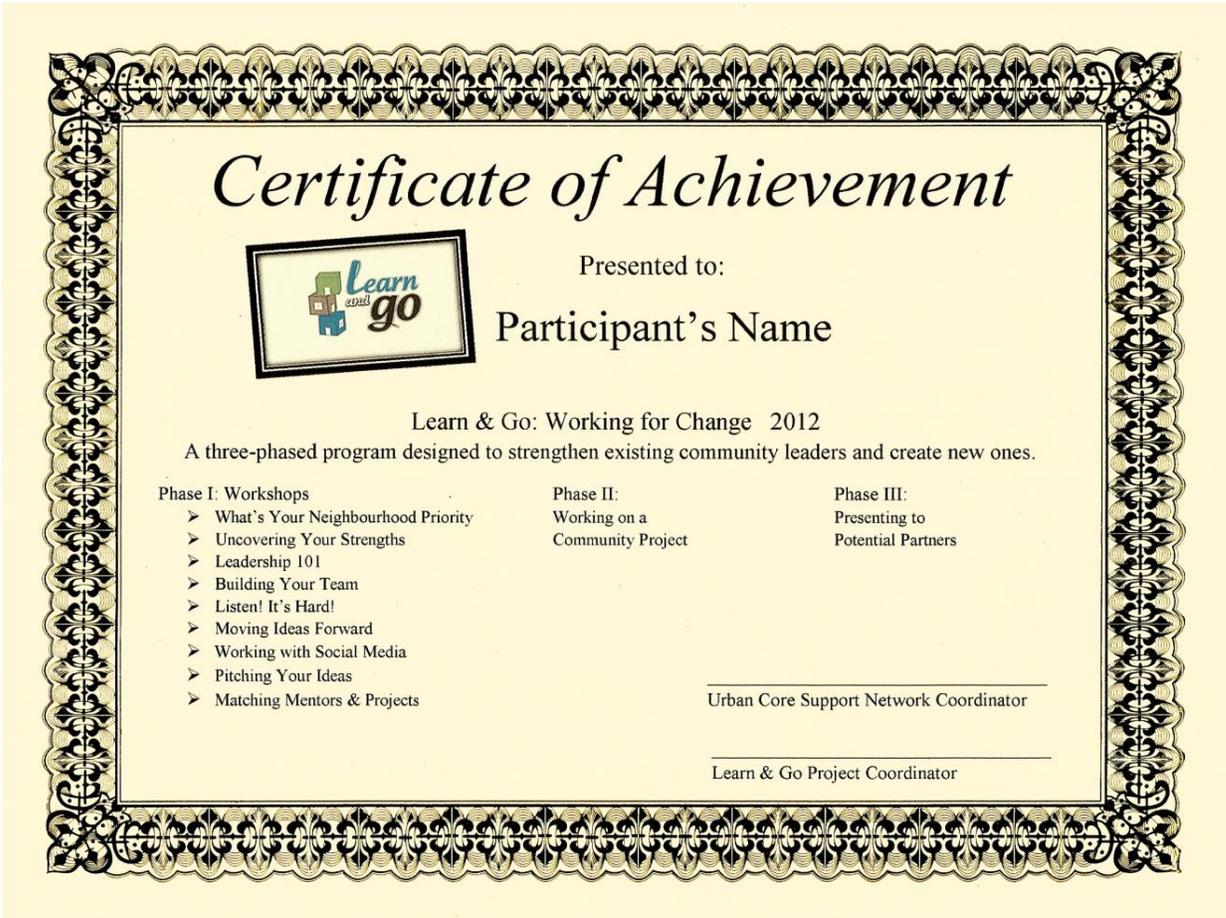
City of Saint John Leisure Services, Community Policing & Traffic,
Province of New Brunswick, Schools, Churches,
Community Agencies, Neighbourhood groups and Local and Provincial elected officials

**Urban Core
Support Network**

Ensemble pour vaincre
la pauvreté
Overcoming Poverty **Together**

 **Vibrant
COMMUNITIES**
Saint John

TEAMS	PROJECTS	MENTORS	POTENTIAL PARTNERS
<u>ANGLIN DRIVE:</u> Julie Sara Shalen	<u>PROJECT:</u> Fundraising for Anglin Drive Basketball Court	<u>MENTOR:</u> Carolyn Prebble <u>SOCIAL WORK STUDENT:</u> Olivia Newcomb	<u>POTENTIAL PARTNERS:</u> Minister Trevor Holder Barry Freeze Brian Marks Debbie McLeod
<u>CRESCENT VALLEY:</u> Sandra Susan Rosie Wendy	<u>PROJECT:</u> Crosswalk/Speed Reduction on MacLaren Blvd.	<u>MENTORS:</u> Julie Milton Diane Mallais	<u>POTENTIAL PARTNERS:</u> Minister Trevor Holder Tim O'Reilly Jennifer Carhart Brian Marks Debbie McLeod Anne Driscoll Juanita Black Cst. Don Metcalf Councillor John MacKenzie
<u>NORTH END/WEST SIDE:</u> Andrea Robin	<u>PROJECT:</u> Revitalization Projects for Lorne School & West Side Hockey Rink	<u>MENTORS:</u> Vicki Woods Theresa Guay Shelly Keddy	<u>POTENTIAL PARTNERS:</u> Minister Trevor Holder Scott Crawford Chuck Edison Sue Anne Mackin
<u>COURTENAY BAY TEAM:</u> Brittnee Shelley	<u>PROJECT:</u> Hedge on Crown Street	<u>MENTOR:</u> Andrea Melanson <u>SOCIAL WORK STUDENT:</u> Cassie MacDougall	<u>POTENTIAL PARTNERS:</u> Brian Marks Debbie MacLeod Tim O'Reilly Dan Weber Councillor Donnie Snook
<u>OLD NORTH END TEAM:</u> Louise Joanne Susan Hexiang (Sara) Liping	<u>PROJECT:</u> Crosswalk on Main Street	<u>MENTORS:</u> Gayle Buckley Sandra McCready	<u>POTENTIAL PARTNERS:</u> Councillor John McKenzie Tim O'Reilly Minister Trevor Holder Pastor John Knight/Baptist Church Scott Crawford
<u>WEST SIDE TEAM:</u> Katelyn Jennifer Steven	<u>PROJECT:</u> Improvement of St. Patrick's School Playground	<u>MENTOR:</u> Wanda Wilson <u>SOCIAL WORK STUDENT:</u> Samara Carvell	<u>POTENTIAL PARTNERS:</u> Mike Wilson Barry Freeze Fred Fuller Chuck Edison Rhoda Coston Krista Turnbull
<u>SOUTH END TEAM:</u> Joan Sara Sandra	<u>PROJECT:</u> Ashtrays on Poles	<u>MENTORS:</u> Julianne deSoto Vicki March	<u>POTENTIAL PARTNERS:</u> Kevin Carson Mary LeSage Carl Trickey
<u>COURTENAY BAY TEAM:</u> Lisa Beatrice Kathy Lena Carolyn Donna	<u>PROJECT:</u> Crosswalk on Brunswick Drive	<u>MENTORS:</u> Chad Foster Cori Moore-McDade	<u>POTENTIAL PARTNERS:</u> Tim O'Reilly Debbie MacLeod Brian Marks Dan Weber
<u>EAST SIDE TEAM:</u> Deanna	<u>PROJECT:</u> Anti-bullying Program	<u>MENTORS:</u> Kristine Ward Yan Guo	<u>POTENTIAL PARTNERS:</u> Janet Towers June Breau-Nason Paul Hickey Sandra Harrington



Below is a link to the Learn and Go – Working for Change facebook page. The purpose of this page was to raise more public awareness and to post updates and success of project teams. You can check visit the page by googling the link below or by typing “Learn & Go” into facebook’s search engine.

[Learn and Go Working for Change | Facebook](#)