


CED ON THE STREET

Experiences with Inner-City
Community Economic Development

Overview of the Project

- Shifting Organizational perspective - Moving from a charity model to a social justice model with amalgamation of two faith based service groups
- Services Canada Job Creation Project: Community Action Research – doing research “with” NOT “on” or “for” the Victoria Street Community
- Five Portfolios: CED; Aboriginal Supports; Community Liaison; Mental Health and Wellness; Lifeskills (The Art of Living)

Community Action Research

- Starting the process: Building trust
 - Individual Interviews
 - Focus Groups
 - Results
 - Pilot Projects
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The Voices of the Victoria Street Community

Individual Capacity Building:

- Recognize each individual's inherent value – strengths based approach
- Develop culturally inclusive programs and services
- Integrated and wholistic process
- Recognize the importance and diversity of spirituality
- Recognize wellbeing includes: physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, intellectual.

Community Capacity Building

- Mentoring and Education: Provide ways for the street community to “give back” ie through mentoring and educating on street survival and the reality of addictions
- Empowerment: Shared leadership – nurture grassroots leaders and ensure members of the street community take part in decision making at all levels
- CED initiatives: Community Garden, Artists’ and Crafters’ Co-op Development; Social enterprise development ie landscaping/gardening, construction, services for Elders, etc.

Organizational Capacity Building

- Society (Board, Management and Staff) commitment to CED and social justice approach
- Cultural competency training and proactive hiring strategies to increase cultural diversity of staff
- Celebrate the small successes, but commit to long term process

Organizational Capacity Building, cont'd

- Long term strategic planning
- Strengthening existing and continuing to build new partnerships to sustain capacity
- Long term sustainability