The Canadian CED Network www.ccednet-rcdec.ca

GRANDVIEW, MANITOBA PHONE: 204-546-2809

Tiny Treasures Children's Centre Inc.

ED initiatives often emerge when the status quo simply will not meet the needs of local people. CED leaders then work with community residents to identify the need and create a solution. The story of Tiny Treasures Children's Centre in Grandview is one of these stories.

The process began when a local mother on maternity leave realized that there would be nowhere to send her child when she returned to work. The community came together, conducted a needs survey, and with great dedication and determination worked to build a licensed child care program. The community opened their child care centre six months later.

Tiny Treasures is the only licensed child care centre in Grandview and is an important community resource. Tiny Treasures offers parents a safe place to leave their children while they go to work, a place that gives them peace-of-mind and gives children a quality, developmentally appropriate play-based learning environment which supports their holistic development. Tiny Treasures has space for 30 children. The children can be preschoolers, school-age or infants over 18 months.

Tiny Treasures is a non-profit corporation managed by a volunteer board of directors. The Province of Manitoba sets the fees, with subsidies available for qualifying parents. Tiny Treasures supports more than children and families in Grandview. Tiny Treasures has created jobs and training opportunities in this small, rural community and currently employs 5 full-time as well as casual staff.

The Province of Manitoba requires that 2/3 of the staff have their Early Childhood Education II (2 years at a community college) and the director has an Early Childhood Education III (college certificate plus a specialization such as management, infant care etc). However, meeting the proper educational requirements can be a challenge in rural Manitoba. Staff can be hired as Childcare Assistants but they are required to submit an educational plan (to receive their ECE II) if they want to keep their position in the child care program. Tiny Treasures has a volunteer program which allows high school students work in the program. This program has several advantages. Young adults get to learn first-hand what is involved in the child care

profession, and they receive a credit toward their diploma while doing meaningful work as a volunteer.

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nities, including Grandview, makes it challenging to meet the proportion of trained staff. The advantage Grandview has is its' proximity to Dauphin and Assiniboine Community College. Students can go to college full time or take their courses via distance education. Although distance education is a long process, it is effective. The Province of Manitoba offers an intensive program titled Competencybased Assessment/Prior-learning assessment (CBA/PLA). The benefit of CBA/PLA is that coursework can be completed at the students own rate, but they need to be employed in

a program while doing the course work. This program has proven to be a great success with rural communities.

Tiny Treasures recently doubled the size of the program. This too was done with the community

coming together and working for the improvement of services for children and families. Grandview's Tiny Treasures is an example of how small rural communities can work together and have a positive

> impact on parents, their children's well-being as well as an impact on the employment and economic well being of their community. It is a well known fact that communities with quality child care programs have the ability to attract new residents to move into the community. The last census shows an increase in population and the number of new businesses recently opened. This is a very positive occurrence when many small rural communities are facing

declining populations and businesses. Tiny Treasures is one piece of the solution to ensure Grandview remains a healthy thriving community for families and businesses.

CED in Manitoba CED is Community Economic Development This profile is one of 50 stories of Manitoba communities working to build fairer and stronger local economies, reduce poverty, and revitalize neighbourhoods.

Not all of the initiatives use a fully comprehensive CED approach, but each represents an important component of a CED solution. Read all our profiles of CED at www.ccednet-rcdec.ca/CEDprofiles