

# **Updates and More Success from the 2010 NCW Community Success Summit**

## *2009 Success Updates*

**Name: Maggie Coon**

**Organization: Twisp Public Development Authority/TwispWorks**

**Briefly describe one major factor that helped move your success forward in 2010:**

The support and enthusiasm of our community is undoubtedly the most important success factor. Folks have been extraordinarily generous in contributing their time and vision to creation of our newly completed Master Plan. Most recently, it's been amazing to see people stepping up to volunteer their energy, for example, to launch our new demonstration garden. The seeds of future success are being sown.

**Name: Jennifer Korfiatis**

**Organization: NCWEDD**

**Briefly describe one major factor that helped move your success forward in 2010:**

A strong attitude of collaboration among key partners including WVC and GWATA- among others. Each entity has openly discussed joint opportunities, sharing of resources and creative ideas for moving entrepreneurship and innovation forward as an initiative in NCW. Without this collaboration and trust, this would not be possible.

**Name: Joan Alway, 2009 Summit for NCW Nonprofits**

**Organization: Community Foundation of NCW & Icicle Fund**

**Briefly describe one major factor that helped move your success forward in 2010:**

We had another successful summit this year, plus very well-attended workshops in Leavenworth, Cashmere and Winthrop. The major factor is the interest of nonprofit boards and staff to learn and improve on the work they do; free food helps, too.

**Name: Chuck Warner**

**Organization: The Nature Conservancy**

**Briefly describe one major factor that helped move your success forward in 2010:**

The success update involves habitat improvement via cheatgrass control as reported last year. We just completed year two of the cheatgrass biocontrol program with great results. We expect that the biocontrol agent will be permitted for general use by fall of 2011.

**Name: Sherri Schneider**

**Organization: Community Farm Connection**

**Briefly describe one major factor that helped move your success forward in 2010:**

Youthful energy! Talented young staff and a new wave of dedicated volunteers who believe deeply in the importance of a strong local food system have bolstered our energy, streamlined our processes and helped us take better advantage of technology and new social media. Thanks to Allison, Mike and the whole crew of AmeriCorps volunteers!

**Name: Samantha Bartling**

**Organization: NCW Resource Conservation & Development Council**

**Briefly describe one major factor that helped move your success forward in 2010:**

Truly, it was partnerships. Whether you call it the “NASA project” or the International Okanogan Basin Remote Sensing project it’s a big hairy project with unprecedented benefits and opportunity. In NCW we could be using NASA data and a Canadian-developed model to support local, on-the-ground watershed management. Space technology that helps us measure and learn more about our water. The two proposals are for ~ \$750,000 and \$2.3 million. We should hear news late this winter. With people power – 40+ partnering organizations and agencies – we made it happen. Go NCW!!!

### ***More Successes from 2010***

**Name: Aida, The Hat Lady**

*1) Describe the success.* Large community cooperating in small groups and as individuals to make hats for children and families in need. Grassroots in action!

*2) What steps led to the success?* Word of mouth is the energy of the Hat lady. This is where we need expansion of the Hat Project in the northern U.S.

*3) Who was involved and how did those individuals collaborate?* The Hat Lady reached out to the elderly through their activity centers – assisted living, independent living, and senior centers.

*4) What was the biggest challenge you overcame?* Need to donate yarn. The Nickel Ads is the major source of yarn and serves another group of people who have experienced loss.

*5) What has this success meant to our community?* Many, mostly, elderly people feel appreciated and needed by getting involved helping others and joining together – cooperating – to do this work.

**Name: Nancy Bolomey, Chelan Hope Chest**

*1) Describe the success.* Chelan Hope Chest collaborated with Chelan Valley Hope to provide free clothing for women to interview for a job and or wear to work as well as free counseling in resumes and job interviewing.

*2) What steps led to the success?* The hope of keeping a job when you get one, wonderful organization and location provided by a business owner, and a fun project for the volunteers.

*3) Who was involved and how did those individuals collaborate?* Collaboration with Chelan Valley Hope as well as one owner of a clothing store who loans us space, clothes rack, time and organization. Six wonderful women who provide time, energy, talent and enthusiasm.

*4) What was the biggest challenge you overcame?* Getting the word out so women who need us can find us.

*5) What has this success meant to our community?* A chance for women who are stepping up to the plate to raise their families and improve their lot in life with a hand up.

**Name: Jeff Parsons, Barn Beach Reserve, Leavenworth**

1) *Describe the success.* LIFE2, For a More Sustainable Leavenworth, sponsored the second annual Earth Day Community Fair. Our attendance increased from 200 in the first year to 500 in the second year.

2) *What steps led to the success?* We learned from our experience in the first year and applied what we learned to make improvement in the second year.

3) *Who was involved and how did those individuals collaborate?* We established a planning committee made up of LIFE2 participants who worked together on the first fair.

4) *What was the biggest challenge you overcame?* We got a late start planning, but effectively cooperated to share the workload in getting the job done.

5) *What has this success meant to our community?* The Fair brings the community together around the theme of sustainability, attracting residents to downtown Leavenworth who otherwise tend to avoid it.

**Name: Joan Qazi, EAT (Education and Agriculture, Together)**

We held a Farm to School event on February 25, 2010 in which farmers and school food service directors could learn about each other's interests in selling and receiving locally grown produce in order to enhance the nutritional status of North Central Washington students.

2) *What steps lead to the success?* Central to our success was the cooperation of regional farmers and school food service, along with the host site of Wenatchee Valley College and the agriculture department, to move towards a common goal of overcoming potential obstacles to sourcing locally grown food for school lunch. Wenatchee High School has since become a prime example of this cooperation and what it can mean to students.

3) *Who was involved and how did those individuals collaborate?*

Collaboration was key. EAT worked with the AgForestry Leadership group, WSU Small Farms and WSDA Farm to School program to pull off a well-organized and meaningful event. Through appreciating the various skills of the organizing committee, we were able to work efficiently to accomplish the necessary tasks.

4) *What was the biggest challenge you overcame?* Our biggest challenge was not having any money to fund a local foods lunch or rent a space or pay for speakers; and not having any paid staff to work on organizing the event. We overcame these challenges through the volunteer work of dedicated members and donations by the agencies and institutions involved.

5) *What has this success meant to our community?* The success of this event is measured in the number of connections between farmers and school food service that have developed through the networking that we made possible. Wenatchee High School cafeteria is the most visible success where students can learn where their food comes from (which local farms), meet the farmers who grew it (on tasting days), and appreciate the delicious and nutritious meals that food service prepare. We hope for similar successes to take place throughout our region so that good food and school lunch are synonymous.

**Name: Maureen Sheimo, Chelan Sustainability Advisory Committee**

1) *Describe the success.* The City of Chelan Sustainability Element was developed for the Comprehensive Plan addressing 11 areas: agriculture, energy, economy, natural environment, environmental quality, transportation, waste reduction and recycling, government operations, climate, sustainability education.

2) *What steps led to the success?* Community involvement in planning.

3) *Who was involved and how did those individuals collaborate?* One year planning process involved up to 30 people participating in monthly planning meetings.

4) *What was the biggest challenge you overcame?* Participation declined over the year.

5) *What has this success meant to our community?* Awaiting plan adoption and funding.

**Name: Michael Pilarski, Okanogan Valley**

1) *Describe the success.* The Okanogan Seed Exchange together with the Methow Seed Exchange brings gardeners and growers together to share seeds and knowledge each January.

**Name: Michael Pilarski, Okanogan Family Faire**

1) *Describe the success.* The Okanogan Family Faire is truly a success story. It has endured for 37 years. It has a loyal following of thousands of people who look forward to attending year after year. It is one of the top events of the year bringing money into Okanogan county. Right up there with the Omak Stampede and the Okanogan County Fair. Most of the yearly expenses paid out from barter fair gate receipts go to businesses and people who live in the county. The extra money after expenses is distributed as grants and scholarships, mostly to organizations and people in the county. Millions of dollars worth of goods exchange hands at the Family Faire. It has a thriving economy based on barter and cash. It has always had a fun and festive atmosphere with lots of children.

2) *What steps lead to the success?* When it started in 1974 the Faire provided a needed service and social function for the counter-culture. So it was immediately adopted. The event grew in size over the years giving time to adapt to the larger crowds and develop systems. The number of coordinators and volunteers has gradually increased to keep pace. We have always a great caliber of organizers. Today there are about 40 major coordinators, an additional 200 local people who are experienced volunteers, plus about 400 people do work-trade for their admission. The faire has a great reputation and most people who attend like it and tell their friends about it. Publicity is word of mouth and the website. For many years we had no website and did not put out any flyers or posters, and still we grew.

3) *Who was involved and how did those individuals collaborate?*

Over the years, hundreds of people have been involved in organizing the faire. The main overall coordinators were Michael “Skeeter” Pilarski in the early years, Michael “Buffalo” Mazetti for many years, followed by John Jones and most recently Peter James. The torch was passed to Sadie Cohoe in 2010. In the early years decisions were made as needed and there were few meetings. Nowadays there are a number of organizations connected with the barter fair and there are more meetings. Decision making is more formal now and votes are taken, but overall, a remarkable amount of amity and friendship have prevailed, though as to be expected there are some conflicts as well.

4) *What was the biggest challenge you overcame?* There are always challenges, some of them related to dealing with large numbers of people in a short period of time. Getting them all parked and set up in an orderly manner is amazing. Imagine setting up a town of 10,000 inhabitants and 1,000 businesses in two days and taking it apart again two days later! One major hurdle was purchasing land to hold the faire, which happened in our 20<sup>th</sup> year of existence. Up till then we found places on an annual basis. The faire now owns 160 acres and improves the infrastructure every year. Another challenge has been dealing with county government and agencies. The faire staff now liaisons with many government agencies.

5) *What has this success meant to our community?* The Faire means a lot financially and socially to a diverse range of Okanogan people. Most of all, to the counter-culture, but certainly going much beyond that these days. The financial help is certainly large. This is partly because of wages and partly from individuals who vend. The event also gives local consumers a place to get good deals and desired items. But the social aspect is the most important aspect. It gives many people a place to socialize with far-flung friends on an annual basis. It is a gathering of the tribes. Festivals are one of the most important parts of leading an enjoyable life. Getting together with a large crowd of like-minded people gives a sense of inspiration and empowerment. It is uplifting to the spirit. The Okanogan Family Faire is successful because it is an organic event and because thousands of people love it.