

HISTORY OF PORTLAND TIME BANK:

The Portland Time Bank (PTB) (<http://www.portlandtimebank.org/>) began in 1997. It was launched by Dr. Richard Rockefeller, who was inspired by founder Dr. Edgar Cahn, author of No More Throw Away People (Essential Books, Washington, DC, © 2000). With funding by Dr. Rockefeller the organization grew from a dozen members to the present 750 members. Now in its 12th year, PTB is a national leader in the time banking movement, and is supported by grants, revenue from micro-enterprise development and member contributions. Its primary purpose is to provide a safe means for members from a variety of backgrounds to build relationships and to obtain goods and services they may not be able to afford in the cash economy, or that may not be available through social services or from overstretched or absent family and friends. These service exchanges contribute to the social, *core* economy of Greater Portland, providing a hidden asset that has replaced extending familial systems that have eroded. In 2007 over 20,000 hours of service were exchanged; in the market economy the value of those services is \$380,000.

WHO ARE THE MEMBERS AND HOW DOES THE TIME BANK OPERATE?

What is a community-based service exchange program? Individuals join what is called a “Time Bank,” going through an intake at which they identify both their needs and their assets. The new member lists practical services they wish to offer, and has at hand a virtual supermarket of services – ranging from snow shoveling to medical care – offered by other members in a member directory. Members exchange goods and services by “buying” and “selling” with the complimentary currency of time dollars. Each service is measured (paid for) in time dollars: one hour’s worth of service earns one time dollar, and one time dollar earned can be used to pay for one hour’s service from any of the 750 members. The exchanges are tracked in Time & Talents software, which was developed locally by Stephen Beckett, a PTB member.

In 2007, USM Professor Ed Collom surveyed the membership and received a 51% response. Both the high response rate and the corresponding data revealed a deep satisfaction level by the membership. Members are: predominantly female; have an emerging demographic of women between the ages of 40 and 55 yrs; a majority are college educated; are community and politically involved; expressed a high value for extended families and under value employment based on economic goals but rather, job satisfaction. Most of the membership is low to moderate income. Currently, 10% are persons with disabilities; 35% are elders; 10% are refugees or immigrants; 25% are single families and 80% are low to moderate income.

PROGRAM PROPOSAL:

Portland Time Bank members enjoy social gatherings of all kinds and due to income limitations, deeply appreciate events, experiences and goods that can be paid for with time dollars. One of the most well attended events is the annual holiday bazaar held each December. Music, food, entertainment, crafts, practical items and holiday gifts are exchanged, enabling families to stretch their disposable income further while obtaining needed or wanted goods for their families. Parents especially appreciate this bazaar for holiday gifts, winter clothing and other necessities. An outgrowth of this event has been the realization that parent members are searching for a wider menu of services and

activities for their children to access, both for earning and spending time dollars. Concurrently, new members are offering services that compliment their family needs to involve children (play or work together) with common interests. The oldest joke with Time Banking is that no one has the time to spend; however, when group events are available, time becomes a higher priority, greatly reducing stress and increasing enjoyment.

Portland Time Bank would like to respond to the need to expand the children's service menu and match adults with children & families to meet those needs and desired activities. Although some families are highly engaged, they represent only 5% of the membership, yet more than 40% of the membership have children and would like to find healthy adults to mentor, teach, socialize and play with them. With funding from the Annie E. Casey Family Foundation, Portland Time Bank will address this unmet need, enriching the lives of all involved. This expansion to include more children will serve as a vehicle for recruitment and member engagement for existing members who offer some of the services listed below (as well as new ones not yet identified) but have had limited requests from families. The role of a coordinator and member liaison will resolve this issue by linking kids to adults. This focus will develop the service menu during the summer and winter of 2008/09. Once established, it will naturally expand and become a permanent, integral component of the Portland Time Bank offerings.

GRANT FUNDS REQUESTED:

Portland Time Bank requests the sum of \$5000 to sponsor recruitment, planning, development and coordination of the Time Bank Kid's Menu.

Examples of ways in which children can now earn time dollars include:

1. Dog walking
2. Lawn mowing
3. Cooking for events
4. Postering for events
5. Neighborhood cleanup
6. Gardening
7. Donating (for time dollars) books, videos & computer games
8. Bulk mailings
9. Fundraising activities (product sales, setup and cleanup)
10. Performances at PTB events (juggling, singing, music playing)

Examples of services that children can now spend their time dollars include:

1. Knitting Club
2. Game Night
3. November Kid's Art Walk
4. Language Lessons
5. Arts & Crafts Lessons
6. Music Lessons (guitar, piano)
7. Tennis Lessons

8. Theater tickets for A Company of Girls plays; music at St. Lawrence Arts & Community Center, Portland Concert Association, and performances of The Nutcracker at Merrill Auditorium
9. Portland Roller Derby
10. Portland Seadogs and Portland Pirates tickets

Partnering kids and adult members for activities will include more involvement within the above list. It will also include newer services such as sailing, hiking, kayaking, rock climbing, storytelling, theater, dance, yoga, science projects, field trips, organized play groups, tutoring, nutrition awareness classes, skateboarding, snowboarding, skiing, sledding, ice sculptures, financial literacy and Kid Business Development. Additionally, parents and children will identify services they want and groups will be formed to meet those requests.

ACTION STEPS:

1. When funds become available, the PTB Coordinator will recruit a Member Liaison to work on this project with her.
2. The Coordinator team will host evening groups for parents and children that will showcase the services now available and brainstorm others. Smaller groups will be formed, by interest, and schedules set for activities.
3. Members offering services will be contacted by the Coordinator and Liaison and paired or teamed for one-on-one, family or group activities.
4. Advertising will occur with the member e-blast, newsletter, at existing events and orientations. Members (kids and parents) will report their hours earned and spent. For members who are mentoring or leading, hours will be earned. For members who are participants, hours will be spent.
5. The T&T software will be amended to include fields for Kids Menus, specifically.
6. Children will be recruited to engage in the November “Kid’s Art”, part of the monthly Portland First Friday Art Walk series. Children will be recruited to participate in the December Christmas Bazaar, establishing a Kids Only area. Other activities, unlimited in scope, will be planned and managed by kids will be created and implemented. Possibilities are endless!

Thank you for your full consideration of this grant proposal. With funding from the Casey Family Foundation, children, their families and adult friends in Greater Portland will connect to build self-esteem, improve their quality of life with new experiences and build social capital in our shared community.

PROJECT BUDGET

LINE ITEM	SERVICE HOURS	CASEY GRANT	INKIND PTB
Personnel:			
Portland Time Bank Coordinator	\$20/hr X 50hrs. mth. X 5 mths = \$5000.		
Americorp*Vista Worker	\$5/hr X10 hrs. mth X 5 mths =		250
Member Liasion	\$18/hr X 10 hrs. mth X 5 mths =		900
Administrative Indirect @ 8%			400
Non-Personnel:			
Marketing Materials: Eblast, posters, fliers			100
Postage			20
TOTAL:		\$5000	1670
TOTAL PROJECT			<u>\$6670</u>