Reduce Hunger with Dignity   Build Community   Foster Sustainability

Proposal to: The City of Burnaby
Attention: Financial Management Committee, Councillor Dan Johnston, Chair

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REQUEST: Please consider a donation of $5,000 to facilitate Quest's ongoing Food Recovery and Redistribution Program for food-insecure individuals and families in Burnaby (not-for-profit market location: 7753 6th Street) that provides healthy, affordable food in a setting that improves dignity, self-esteem, health, well-being and quality of life while reducing food waste and increasing environmental sustainability.

Dear members of the Financial Management Committee,

Food insecurity - its determinants, its definition, its impact on the individual and the greater community - is a topic at the forefront of discussion. It is truly disturbing that in a country of considerable wealth, so many are struggling to have access to healthy, affordable food. At the very same time we are learning the disgraceful truth about food waste. According to Value Chain Management Centre's report on food waste, Canadians waste 40% or $31 billion in food each year. *The social, environmental, and economic impacts are huge.*

Quest is BC's pioneer food exchange. Over the last 25 years the organization has evolved from recovering 30 pounds of food and serving hundreds of people on the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver to its current Food Recovery and Redistribution model, introduced in 2006, that recovered and redistributed more than 840,000lbs of donated surplus food in FY2016.

Quest works with hundreds of food suppliers to collect their quality donated surplus food and necessities and redistribute them to our most vulnerable residents through its not-for-profit grocery markets. Intended as a "one-stop-shop" for our clients, Quest's five not-for-profit grocery markets (2 in the DTES, one in Burnaby, one in Surrey, and the newest in North Vancouver) are set up like traditional grocery stores, returning our client's power of choice, dignity, feelings of community inclusion, and access to social network building. Markets have areas for meat, poultry, fish, fresh fruit and vegetables, dairy products, breads and cereals, frozen and prepared foods, canned goods, pantry staples, ethnic preferences, gluten-free and organic choices, as well as health and hygiene items like toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, condoms, vitamins; household items like cleaning supplies; and baby needs such as diapers and food. All items are priced at 35% to 95% off regular retail prices.

Referred by Quest's Community Resource Program (CRP) partners (social service agencies, government and non-government programs, churches, school, and hospital programs), our clients are un-or under-employed people whose wages are not sufficient to cover basic living essentials, individuals on social assistance, and those living on a fixed income, including single mothers, families with children, people with disabilities, new immigrants to Canada, and seniors. Those who are looking for a hand-up rather than a hand-out.

In addition to its not-for-profit grocery markets, Quest also delivers healthy snacks to five inner-city schools, serving 250 children a week, redistributes food through its not-for-profit online market where CRPs can order reduced cost or free food from the weekly "fresh sheet" to use in their own kitchens, and provides volunteer opportunities for corporate groups, individuals, and its clients which help them the build skills and confidence to enter/re-enter the workforce.

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Quest launched its Burnaby not-for-profit market, located at 7753 6th Street, in August of 2013. In FY2016 it saw nearly 40,000 client visits; had about 200 volunteers, most of them also clients; redistributed approximately $200,000 in donated surplus food and necessities to those in need; and contributed to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the amount of 7,620 metric tonnes.

Quest's Food Recovery and Redistribution Program benefits Burnaby by:
•   Increasing access to healthy, affordable food to food-insecure individuals and families, improving their physical and mental health and quality of life.

"Wonderful customer service, always friendly….. Quest gives single mothers and low income families a break from high prices. Appreciate all of you." Alida

"Quest is an extremely valuable resource to a neighbourhood that needs it."   Ethan

•   Increasing the dignity, social participation, and inclusion of low income residents of Burnaby by providing a traditional shopping environment where clients can interact, find emotional support, and exercise their power of choice by selecting goods based on their preference, dietary and ethnic needs.
•   Building community capacity by transitioning individuals from reliance to self-sufficiency which strengthens the social and economic fabric of the community.
•   Providing volunteer activities that allow clients to build employment skills to enter or reintegrate into the workplace.
•   Acting as a catalyst for strengthening the community by facilitating collaboration/partnerships between other agencies, businesses, governments and individuals.
•   Offering a viable solution to food waste and environmental sustainability by diverting perfectly good surplus food from the landfill, thereby reducing harmful greenhouse gases.

Grant Funding from the City of Burnaby will be used in the facilitation of our Food Recovery and Redistribution Program at our 7753 6th Street location only. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you require any further information. Thank you for your consideration.

Best

Sarah Abbott, Grant Acquisition and Renewal
Quest Outreach Society CRA#: 13710-9807-RR0001

Attachments
2016/17 Burnaby Program Budget
2016 Audited Financial Statements