



2012 year-end appeal
re:vision
 INTERNATIONAL™



2012 WAS A BOUNTIFUL YEAR!

GIVE A MAN A FISH.....

We are all familiar with the well-traveled parable: “Give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime.” This may be easy to do on a small scale, but how do we succeed in doing it on a broad scale? How often do we

actually carry this out in the way that we view charity, the way that we approach poverty, both locally and abroad? And even if you teach a man to fish, he cannot fish without a fishing pole.

We take this parable to heart and are intentional about teaching

people to create their own ‘fishing poles’ – that is, creating the means and resources to provide for themselves and their communities.

2012 was a remarkable year for us and we want to share it through a few stories, each highlighting a different aspect of our work.



FUTURE FARMER!



SHARING WITH OTHERS



CELEBRATING THE HARVEST

SOMALI BANTU REFUGEE URBAN FARM

In March, we were contacted by the Denver Foundation to assist in developing an urban farm for a group of 40 Somali Bantu refugee families. Numerous nonprofit and governmental agencies were trying to help find vacant land for the Bantu to farm, but were coming up empty.

The Bantu are an ethnic and religious minority group in Somalia. A 1991 civil war left thousands dead, and tens of thousands more displaced. Many sought refuge in Kenya, where they lived in refugee camps. Unable to return home, they stayed in the camps until 2004, when various U.S. NGOs and government agencies helped find them asylum in the U.S. An estimated 400 families were relocated to Denver beginning in 2004.

Being traditional subsistence farmers, the Bantu struggled to

adapt. They saw vacant land throughout the city, but were not allowed to use it to feed themselves as they had done for hundreds of years. They couldn't understand.

After learning about their story, Revision agreed to help.

Through Revision's leadership, we developed a coalition of partners to bring this project to fruition, and the Bantu planted fall crops on the one-acre parcel in early September. As a result, the Bantu are cultivating hope for a better future, while simultaneously returning their people to their roots and history.

Moving forward, we will be empowering the Bantu to farm in Colorado, provide culturally appropriate food for their community, and develop a cooperative that provides economic opportunities.



CULTIVATING HOPE FOR A BETTER FUTURE, WHILE RETURNING PEOPLE TO THEIR ROOTS AND HISTORY



INTERCULTURAL COMMUNITY GATHERING



PLANTING SEEDS



RETURNING TO THE LAND



PROUD FARMERS

Re:farm Denver - Backyard Gardens

In 2009, we began teaching families how to grow food in their own backyard in order to feed their family healthy, fresh, organic food. For most of these families, this is the only way that they can afford to eat healthy, the only way they can feed their children organic produce.

From seven families in 2009, to 87 in 2011, our program more than doubled every single year. In return for providing families with the resources and technical support to feed their family, we ask that they pay the gift forward and refer another family to join the program.

This year, we helped 168 families learn how to grow their own food and feed their family. Over 90 percent of these families live on less than \$15,000 a year – abject poverty by U.S. standards. Because of our program, over 16,000 pounds of organic produce was grown this year in a community that has zero healthy food options.

But these numbers alone do not tell the real impact of our work. Survey results (highlighted in center) show that Revision's model is having an immediate and measurable impact on a community that has the highest rate of obesity in children under the age of 18,

in a community where the average household income is 50% less than the average Denver household, and in a neighborhood where this is no healthy fresh food.

The success of this program has been rapid. After 4 short years, we have built a critical foundation for a community to change. We have cultivated leaders from within, offering them a better life and new

opportunities. We have helped guide a community to develop their own food system – through the production and distribution of healthy food, and through the education and job creation that encompass it.

- 93% SAID THAT THEY EAT MORE FRUITS AND VEGETABLES
- 94% EAT FRESHER FOOD/LESS PACKAGED FOOD
- 96% COOK AT HOME MORE
- 84% EAT MORE ORGANIC FOOD
- 84% EAT LESS FAST FOOD



We are not just growing gardens.
We're growing community. We are not just cultivating food. We're cultivating potential.

PROMOTORAS

We have two convictions when it comes to our work: first, that change has to occur from within - both on an individual and a community level - and second, if our work isn't addressing the underlying economic causes of the problems we are trying to solve, then we're failing to get to the root of it. Therefore, we don't come in from the outside and tell people that their community is broken. We train and employ residents from the community to do it for themselves. This is the essence of our Promtora program, the foundation of our community development model.

"I ENJOY HELPING PEOPLE WITH THEIR PERSONAL PROBLEMS - YOU GAIN THE TRUST OF THE COMMUNITY EVERY DAY WHEN YOU VISIT THEIR GARDEN." - YURIDIA

In 2012 we employed nine residents as community promotoras who build relationships with each family, teach them how to grow food, and support them in making healthy lifestyle changes. This relationship goes deeper than the garden, however. It goes to the very heart of what community is - an understanding that individual happiness and well-being is not possible if your neighbors are suffering.

Promotoras create this community amongst residents. Together they are discovering their ability to transform their own community, building a healthy local food economy in the process.



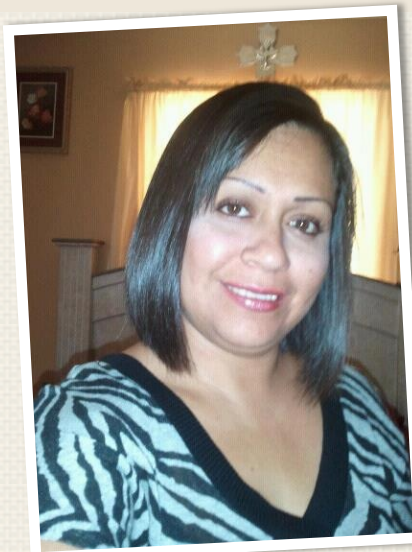
PATRICIA

I WORKED AS A SOCIAL WORKER IN MEXICO. I DREAMED OF BEING ABLE TO HELP PEOPLE IN THE U.S. BUT I DIDN'T KNOW WHERE TO START. I AM SO GRATEFUL TO WORK AS A PROMOTORA WITH REVISION. BY TEACHING PEOPLE HOW TO GROW FOOD, I AM IN CONTACT WITH THEM AND HELP THEM WITH THEIR PROBLEMS. I SEE THEM GAIN CONFIDENCE.



MAYRA

BEING A PROMOTORA IS VERY REWARDING BECAUSE I AM GROWING AS A PERSON AND BECOMING MORE SELF-SUFFICIENT, WHILE TEACHING OTHER FAMILIES TO GROW FOOD AND EAT HEALTHY. THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ME AND FOR MY COMMUNITY TO HAVE BETTER OPPORTUNITIES FOR A HEALTHY LIFE.



YURIDIA

I ENJOY WORKING AS A PROMOTORA BECAUSE I LIKE TO TEACH THE COMMUNITY WHAT I'VE LEARNED, AND ALSO LEARN FROM THEM. IT IS NICE TO FEEL THAT WHAT I AM DOING MAKES A DIFFERENCE. IT IS VERY GRATIFYING TO SEE THAT WHAT BEGAN WITH A SIMPLE "I WANT A GARDEN" BECOMES FRIENDSHIP AND STRONG COMMUNITY.

You Can Help Create 'Fishing Poles.' Please Invest in Meaningful Community Development Today.

HOW YOU CAN HELP



\$25 HELPS PURCHASE SEEDS AND PLANTS



\$50 HELPS PROMOTORAS UNITE THE COMMUNITY



\$250 WILL SPONSOR A HOUSEHOLD GARDEN



\$1000 WILL SUPPORT OUR URBAN FARMS

Establishing community is at the heart of what we do. Building a local economy is the foundation. And growing food is what nourishes the transformation.

However, this takes time. Just as it takes many years for trees to establish deep roots, so does true social and economic change. Our culture has become obsessed with quick results – it can be seen in our political system, and we experience it with the short-term funding support and demand for quick results from grantmakers and other funders. We're not out to produce quick results, which grow like weeds then obscure true change. We are after long term transformation; working in each community for 7 – 10 years, long enough for our work to take root, but so long as to encourage co-dependency.

WE NEED YOUR HELP NOW MORE THAN EVER BEFORE

It also takes resources. It requires more resources than we currently have, and so we are asking for you to help invest in the growth and development of our organization as we invest in developing a network of sustainable communities, one family, and one household at a time. We are predominately grant funded. However, grants do not cover the entire cost of our program and they do not pay for the staff time and facilities that are needed.

It takes community. Our hard work over the past four years began to coalesce this year in partnerships

that will build our programs into models that are not only scalable in other communities, but are also becoming best practices for others to follow.

This year we developed new partnerships with the Trust for Public Land, The Denver Foundation, Denver Public Health, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, The Colorado Health Foundation, LiveWell Westwood, Denver's Office for Economic Development, and University of Colorado, to name a few.

We are at a critical junction as an organization. The rapid growth of our programs speaks to the success of our work, but also the great need for a solution that works. Transforming a low-income community from the inside-out and the bottom up is difficult, but we are demonstrating that it can be done. We believe that our model of community development is dollar-for-dollar the most cost effective way. We believe that what we are developing has the potential to become a national and international model for community development.

However, we are not there yet, and we have reached our current threshold. In order to expand our work – to replicate this model in other food insecure communities – we need an investment to grow.

We need your support now more than ever before.

Please make a donation online at www.revisioninternational.org or send a check to: 3735 Morrison Rd. Denver, CO 80219



PLEASE MAKE YOUR
2012 DONATION
BEFORE
DECEMBER 31ST!



3735 MORRISON ROAD
DENVER, CO
80219

www.revisioninternational.org