



the
RAW CARROT
peeling for change

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

**The Raw Carrot Soup Enterprise
(Paris Presbyterian Church)**



The Raw Carrot is committed to hiring people with (dis)Abilities who want to, **and can**, work!

The Raw Carrot provides:

- dignity – inclusion in the paid work force
- community – a network of co-workers and friends
- skills training – opportunities for skill development through trainings and education
- meaningful work – a job that creates opportunities for people to thrive
- food & income security

"Little affirms human dignity more than honest work. One of the surest ways to destroy self-worth is subsidizing the idleness of able-bodied people. Work is a gift, a calling, a human responsibility."

– Toxic Charity by R. Lupton

YEAR IN REVIEW 2015

The Raw Carrot Soup Enterprise has had a successful first full year in operation and has been very busy in the kitchen! We are thankful to God for the ways in which this ministry has grown and for His enabling work in the lives of our coordinators, staff and volunteers.

The vision of The Raw Carrot is to create meaningful work for individuals on social assistance. Through this we work we provide job skills, self-confidence and dignity to our staff. This social enterprise operates under the umbrella of Paris Presbyterian Church.

Our 6 permanent part-time staff, 2 coordinators and a variety of volunteers can be found working in the kitchen on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and selling soup on Thursday evenings. The staff cook and package 100 litres of soup each week. This year, all kitchen staff have successfully completed their food safety handler's course and an introduction to yeast risen dough class.

In 2015, the staff provided soup for a number of community events including The St. James

Festival in Sept, the Special Olympics Truck Convoy in Oct, the Season's Greeter Bazaar in Nov, the Biggest Loser Competition in Feb, the Rummage Sale in April and the Spring Craft Show at Central Presbyterian (Brantford) in May. We also partnered with the Brantford General Hospital Foundation to sell to their staff, Knox Presbyterian in Woodstock and Central Presbyterian in Hamilton to sell to their congregation's, and have been available via Retail at Brantwood Farms and Merry Farms throughout the fall.

We have developed new partnerships this year, including being a case study for Laurier University students and working hand-in-hand with L. Tara Hooper and Associates who provide job coaching and support.

In 2015, The Raw Carrot also participated in a Social Innovation Challenge in Toronto (sort of like the Dragon's Den), where we won first place – and various prizes – in the competition. The prizes were all geared towards helping to grow the business aspect of our ministry (check



People living on the Ontario Disability Support Program continue to live under the Ontario poverty line of \$19,930 per year.

out our new website that just went live in January – www.therawcarrot.com)!

Community awareness and support of The Raw Carrot has been growing throughout the year. The staff have been featured by a number of media outlets including CTV News Kitchener, The Brantford Expositor, The Presbyterian Record and the Canadian Enterprising Non-Profits Newsletter. Rebecca and Colleen have also spoken at a number of community and church events throughout the region.

This year we sold \$25,000 in gourmet soup and yummy breadsticks. That works out to 12,000 cups of soup and 2,300 yummy breadsticks sold so far! Sales have enabled us to pay

\$12,000 to staff in salaries. All funds from sales are used to pay our staff and cover the costs of the business. In addition, The Raw Carrot successfully secured 2 grants in 2015 that assist with business operational, capital and coordination costs.

As we move into our second year of operation we look forward to exploring more avenues for sales in the hopes of increasing the number of staff that we are able to employ – many people with disabilities in our community that want to, and CAN work, when there is opportunity!

We are thankful for the many, MANY hands that have encouraged us through words, deeds and in fresh vegetables this year! We appreciate all of your support!



MEET SOME OF OUR STAFF:



Before Thanksgiving, Melanie approached the Pastor of her local congregation to let him know that she would need monetary assistance for thanksgiving extras as well as new winter boots for the impending snow. Before they had time to meet officially the following week, she informed the Pastor, "I no longer need help with thanksgiving...I've just been paid today by The Raw Carrot!". Two days later, she texted the Pastor to let him know that she had purchased her own winter boots with money that she had been paid from her new salary at The Raw Carrot.

In 2012, Lori was diagnosed with Macular Degeneration of the eyes, which is the leading cause of severe vision loss in people over age 60. The medication costs \$16.99 per month and is not covered through her social assistance benefit plan. Although Lori was initially able to find personal friends to assist her to cover the cost, when she started working at The Raw Carrot, she was proud to be able to pay for the medication on her own and not be dependent on others.

THE RAW CARROT 2015 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Total Income 2015	\$79, 507.55
Sales	\$24, 806.13
Donations	\$2,542.45
Employment Agency Stipend	\$1,663.72
Grant Funding	\$50,495.25

Total Expenses 2015	\$70,961.44
Staff Wages (6 PPT staff)	\$12,137.72
Kitchen Capital & Renovations	\$7,378.44
Program Costs	\$51,445.28

Pilot Net Income / Loss:

2014 = \$2,457.80

2015 = \$8,588.31

Total Net Income = \$11,046.11

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