

La Plata County Thrive! Living Wage Coalition  
November 9, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Joni Podschun, Darren White, Nancy Fisher, Lynn Griffith, Maureen Maliszewski, Betty Schwartz-Bozeman, Sharon Scott, Terri Rherman, Kevin Swinderman, Gail Swinderman. Joni is the ED of Growing Partners and is collaborating with Thrive! related to living wages for food growers regionally and food affordability for low income families.

5:30 – 6:00 INTRODUCTIONS & UPDATES

- Trademark Issue – Living Wage Foundation, Phoenix, AZ has a trade mark with the US Patent Office for: “Certified Living Wage Employer”. We are now referring to our “recognized employers”.
- Fundraiser – raised \$4500. Amazing job by volunteers Pat, Lynn (fearless leader), Anne, Terri, Susana.
- Maureen and Sharon are revising 2016 budget and will submit to Steering Committee this month.
- Employer Recognition Program – 52 employers recognized to date. Brooke will contact Darren re questions he had about certification process.
- Collaboration – Celebrating Healthy Communities, Thrive! and other nonprofits will be meeting this week to discuss possible collaboration on Ford Foundation grant.
- 40 developmental assets – We will be including the following statement in our monthly e newsletter: “Thrive! Living Wage Coalition is proud to be one of numerous organizations in La Plata County who have pledged to increase awareness of the 40 Developmental Assets to grow parent and community member ability to be asset-builders for our children. Asset-rich youth are more likely to do well in all areas of their lives and be civically engaged in their community. Living Wages help families provide developmental Assets to their youth, creating a community where everyone can thrive!”
- Fort Lewis College is participating in the [#MillionStudentMarch](#) on Thursday, Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>. Maureen will be one of the speakers.

6:00 – 6:30 POT-LUCK DINNER

6:30 – 7:30 DISCUSSION & PLANNING

- Kevin and Gail shared the challenges they have experienced related to low-wage jobs. We welcome Kevin and Gail and are grateful for their input and hope they will continue to provide us with guidance in our work.
- 2016 Annual Event – ideas
  - Film
  - Wage theft
  - Involve recognized employers, their employees, aspiring employers, low-wage employees
  - Have locally recognized businesses “run the show”
  - Employer round table to discuss min wage ballot measure
  - Contact KSUT to invite recognized employers to be sponsors during KSUT fund drive.
- Minimum Wage Ballot Issue – Organizers interested in providing support for Thrive! work
- Black Friday Email “Buy Local...Buy Living Wage” with Local First? A Steering Committee member was not enthused about this idea because he wasn’t interested in promoting Black Friday shopping. He and a member at the coalition meeting mentioned REI and Black Lives Matter are promoting no shopping on Good Friday. There was not consensus on moving forward with this.
- Black Friday Action – “Our Walmart” is organizing a day of action nationally, asking people to show their solidarity with low-wage workers by organizing a local action or fasting for one or more days leading up to Black Friday. Suggestions were to have those wishing to fast on the same day or consecutive days leading up to Black Friday. click here [black friday](#) and please shoot Mo an email if you are interested in participating- [maliszewskimaureen@yahoo.com](mailto:maliszewskimaureen@yahoo.com).

Next meeting Dec. 14, 2016