



# The Portland Times

- Spring 2007 -

## PORTLAND TIME BANK DONATION COMMITTEE UPDATE:

Dear Friends,

As you all know, the Time Bank has held discussions for nine years about how we can be financially sustainable in an organization that operates with a complimentary currency.

For the last several months there have been meetings of the board, staff and then a member committee to talk about revenue that would support PTB's operating costs. In March the committee made a unanimous decision and recommended that all members be invited to make a modest, annual donation in terms of both service and cash.

The service donation would be two hours a year of helping with office work, a fundraiser, an event, phone calls, *or any other means that is comfortable and of the member's choice*. ALL services help the infrastructure and many, many members already contribute time to bulk mailings, reception work, booths at fairs and in other ways. The impact of this labor helps with the division of work and gives staff the opportunity to focus on services, cultivate business partnerships and respond to individual member needs. Most importantly, working for the PTB is about our mission for community building.

The second issue of cash donations is equally important. The justification for this came from basic math. It costs \$25.00 per person to pay for a member identification card, member directory, quarterly newsletters and the administrative time to enter data in Timekeeper. Donations in that amount will offset the costs and keep the lights on in our organization....

Of course, this is voluntary. Yes, members can sponsor other members or make donations in larger amounts too, just as they can donate time dollars to the Social Capital Fund. And it's good to remember that cash donations are tax deductible.

This new policy will take place June 1<sup>st</sup> for new members; September 1<sup>st</sup> for existing members. If you have questions about this, please contact Robin by phone or email. Thank you!

## A Time Dollar Story! By: Nicole Niehoff-Kennedy

I joined the Time Dollar network as the Mom of an infant because it would give me a chance to offer resources for my family. I was so excited to begin to meet new people and see that they were offering health care, chiropractic care, massage, child care, food, etc. These were all things that my family needed, but didn't exactly have the cash to spend on them.

I found a small niche for myself in Time Dollar when I started providing herbal products to people. I heard such wonderful feedback about my products and got great

criticism about the things I could do to make it more professional and more of a business for my ever-learning self.

When my family and I moved to Washington state, I had no community. I had no health care. I had no one to call if I broke down and needed a ride, or someone to watch my child, or someone to take me on an herb walk, or fix my computer. Honest to goodness, one of the main reasons why I wanted to move back to Portland, Maine was to continue working with Time Dollar people! There are other reasons why we moved back here, but it is quite comforting to know that

I can call a "stranger" to help me clean my house after our new baby is born or that I can merely post a message to other Time Dollar members about needing an apartment, and get amazing responses. It feels so peaceful to know that wise people with expert advice and skills will offer their assistance in exchange for a Time Dollar. I am glad we can all start to break away from the U.S. dollar system.



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Maine Time Dollar Network



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## Money Making Opportunity for You!!

We are looking for a few individuals to help sell our Sunrise Guides! For each Guide that sells for \$20, you will make a \$5 commission! Once people really look inside these gorgeous coupon books, they can't wait to start saving money on the wide variety of environmentally sustainable goods and services packed inside - \$4,500 worth for only \$20! The coupons for Hannaford's and Wild Oats alone will make back the price of the book. This is a great way for members to help the Time Bank to achieve sustainability – and in addition, The Sunrise Guide is a micro-enterprise put together by a member – Heather Chandler, with assistance from the Time Bank. Simply call 874-9868 and ask for Kennedy or Kym, and make some money for the Time Bank – AND for you!

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### Time Banking in the Community:

**Clean Energy Fair** - Sunday, April 29 from 1:30 - 4:30. St. Bartholomew's/Yarmouth  
**USM's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Employee Wellness Fair** – Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 – 2:30 PM at the Costello Fitness Complex in Gorham.  
**Bayside Neighborhood Health Fair** - May 19<sup>th</sup> – Saturday, from 9:30 – 1:30



## Member Opportunities & Up-coming events

Mark your calendars, date books, palm pilots, or how ever else you keep track of your schedule, for these Time Dollar events! Below is a list of opportunities to meet other Time Bankers, learn a new skill and eat good food!

### **Book Salon and Happy Hour!**

Find out more about Time Banking and Co-production through a lively discussion on the ideas and potentials at work within the Time Banking movement. Some of us have been meeting for a few months to explore this topic and we find it to be very stimulating and inspiring, and we want to expand our circle...to you! May 2, 4 – 6 PM here at 47 Portland Street

So...come and enjoy some tea, cheese & snacks, along with a lively discussion on a “timely” movement!

**Time Gallery**– May 4th, 5:00-8:00pm

### **Monthly Pot-Lucks**

May 10, 6:00-8:00pm “How to Build a Worm Compost”

May 16, 6:00-8:00pm “ How to Build a Herb Container Garden”

May 22, 6:00-8:00pm “ How to Design a Flower Container Garden” with Master Gardner, Lynn McGrath.

**Common Ground Fair**– Sept 19, 20, 21 We will have a booth and will need members to man it.