

Initiatives Throughout the Years

Access to the Arts (1998-Present)

In cooperation with 18 community arts organizations, our members spend over 500 hours annually attending shows at the Portland Stage Company, Portland Symphony, PCA Great Performances, Children's Theatre, Portland Conservatory, Center for Cultural Exchange, St. Lawrence Arts and Community Center, Spiral Arts and more. In the spirit of reciprocity, members provide bulk mailing services, file music, clean offices and waiting rooms, haul away junk and debris, provide transportation (for visiting actors) and computer related services to these organizations. And like the majority of our Exchanges, one hour of service equals one hour, regardless of the service. In other words for a two hour show our members are debited 2 Hours and the arts organization is credited 2 Hours.

UPDATE: This element continues to add new members and increase the number of tickets available. **Additionally**, HEP members created an **Artist Guild** to market and sell cards. A second micro-enterprise, **Hands of Time Pins**, were created from recycled watch parts. In 2009 HEP will launch an online store to sell these products. Card sales split the profits; pins sale revenue goes directly to HEP.

The **TIME GALLERY** is our most successful enterprise. Artist Members show their artwork at a partner organization, Community Television Network, as part of the City's First Friday Artwalk. HEP receives a fee for marketing and showing the art, plus a commission on sales. Member art has included oils, watercolors, jewelry and children's art. This initiative is very successful, and growing in popularity as a valued community event.

Bridging The Gap with Youth and Computers (2000-2005)

Modeled after the highly successful Chicago Time Dollar Peer Tutoring project, Bridging the Gap with Youth and Computers is a collaborative project between Portland's East End Time Bank and Adams School. The goal of the project is to bring refurbished home computers to children in underserved areas of the city and to enhance the quality of their education, increase parent involvement in their child's school and education, and teach students the value of community service. Fifth grade students earn and spend 50 Time Dollars throughout the school year, by helping others in their community, tutoring their peers, assisting in the school cafeteria and/or helping the janitor – and for this they are each awarded a personal home computer at graduation! The success of our pilot project in 2002, prompted us to move forward with two 5th grade classes in 2003!

Health Care Initiatives (2004-Present)

An exciting collaboration between Hour Exchange Portland and True North, a health care facility, has created an innovative pathway to health care for income eligible patients. (True North does apply an income restriction of 200% federal poverty guidelines.) Members earn Hours while helping others in their community and pay for health services at True North with the Hours they have earned. 19 Practitioners at True North provide a variety of traditional and alternative health care services from annual physicals, gynecology, holistic health evaluation, nutritional assessment, massage, naturopathic medicine, acupuncture, life counseling, shamanic healing etc. As well, our membership includes over 25 alternative care practitioners who have been providing massage, acupuncture, reiki, and chiropractic services since 1998. In exchange, True North has been spending the Hours they have earned on bulk mailings, inventory, sales in their shop and ongoing office assistance.

TURN THE TIDE (2009-Present)

A group of Health Care Practitioners, all working privately, banded together in response to the national health care crisis. Many are considered non-traditional providers who wished to educate the public about their service offerings including Naturopathic & Homeopathic Care, Rolwing, Reike and Attunement. Others offer massage, nutritional services, physical therapy and chiropractic care. The group agreed to provide free monthly clinics to anyone. If patients choose to make a cash donation or pay with Hours, that donation is welcomed. They ask only that patients, when able, find a way to provide a service to another person/group. The group is applying for a 501C3 application as a collective and still working out its organizational infrastructure. HEP provided clerical assistance through an Americorps*VISTA Volunteer, marketing through its newsletter and orientations, and worked with TTT to co-create a successful Health Day for the public.

Education (1998-Present)

In 1998 Portland Adult Education partnered with the East End Time Bank in its first year of operation to offer classes for payment with Time Dollars. In exchange, our members provided child care, transportation and tutoring assistant services for Portland Adult Education. The growing disparities in education, economic opportunity and quality of life have inspired us to reach out to Maine colleges, requesting similar partnerships - statewide. Our **new goal** is for HEP members to use Hours to pay for regular courses at Southern ME Community College and the University of Maine.

Home Repair and Auto Maintenance (1997-2006)

The #1 requested services when we opened our doors at Portland's East End Time Bank was basic home repair and auto maintenance. Every year our members spend over 1,000 Time Dollars in Portland alone! Members take care of basic home repairs such as replacing rotted deck boards, broken window panes, and worn out hinges; installing light fixtures, ceiling fans, and shower rods; fixing leaky faucets, and broken switches; scraping, priming, and painting interior walls, ceilings and trim; sanding, staining and polyng wood floors and old furniture. Auto maintenance includes changing oil, replacing headlights, rear lamps, windshield wipers, fuses and spark plugs. Funding for materials and supplies has been provided, in part, by the City of Portland's HCD funds and St. Luke's Cathedral.

2007: Hour Exchange Portland has created the first in the nation Hour Weatherization Co-op. The Co-op provides home energy audits, estimates and weatherization services to HEP members AND to the general public. The public pays full rate for services; HEP members can pay for the energy audit and some repairs with Hours, or may parcel their fee for both hours and cash. HEP Members earn hours working on other member homes. The goal is to engage member to member activities in a "pay it forward" system, AND save energy by having a more energy efficient home. Construction costs are reduced by this community involvement model.

UPDATE: The co-op separated functions from basic weatherization (Step One) and more comprehensive services (co-op) in 2008. Step One is a program of HEP supported by local grants, inkind materials, Green Team HEP members earning hours and is managed by a paid coordinator. Referrals for Step Two work are made to the co-op, which is owned and managed privately.

UPDATE: Interest has been expressed in starting other community co-ops for HEP members. One popular idea is a Community Garage. This could grow from the basic services of oil changes and tire rotation to more comprehensive auto repairs such as brakes and engine repair.

Time Dollar Taxi and Car Share (1999-2005)

Many thanks to a generous grant from Maine Charity Fund of the Maine Community Foundation and a partnership with Bayview Heights Senior Center we were able to launch our Time Dollar Taxi and Car Share project in 2003! The funds pay for maintenance, upkeep, and insurance for the 2 vans that were donated to Maine Time Dollar Network in 2002. Members of Portland's East End Time Bank and Portland West can get a lift to appointments, to the Maine Mall, to run errands, or to visit a friend and pay with the Time Dollars they have earned helping others in the network. Other members earn Time Dollars by driving the Time Dollar taxi for ½ day shifts at appointed times each week. As you might imagine the Time Dollar taxi and car share vehicles are rarely sitting idle!

UPDATE: This program concluded for the following reasons: The insurance rate became cost prohibitive after our membership exceeded 500. Additionally, the vehicles needed maintenance and repairs that were expensive. There was great interest in this program, however, and members still ask if it will be re-birthing some day. We'll see...

Culled From Our Original Ad to the Membership

On scheduled days, that is! The Time Dollar Taxi will soon be available, many thanks to a generous donation of a 1990 Mazda 7 passenger Van. And thanks, too, for a partnership with Bayview Heights/Volunteers of America. The VOA shared van use, paying insurance and maintenance expenses.

#1 – A scheduled list of members will drive the van, providing a taxi service for other members:

Members will be able to reserve a seat on the Time Dollar Taxi as soon as our schedule of dates for transporting members becomes available in September.

Members will be able to get a lift to doctor's appointments, to the Maine Mall, or to visit friends (who live in the area – within 20 minutes or so). We'll ask that you reserve your seat at least 1 week prior to the scheduled transportation date.

The COST: 1 time dollar and 1 cash dollar **Note: The IRS ruled that Exchanges cannot mix time dollars and cash currencies. This cost was changed after the IRS ruling. Cash donations became "optional".**

Time Dollar members will earn time dollars by driving the Time Dollar Taxi for 1/2 day shifts at appointed times each month. We need drivers. Please let us know if you'd like to take a shift or two per month.

#2. A member reserves the van and drives it him/herself for a scheduled time for their own personal use.

The COST: \$10.00 ++ 1 time dollar per hour ++ gas refill.

Time Bank Vehicle Guidelines

Greater Portland Time Banks has a vehicle that is available for use, a 1990 Mazda Passenger Van that seats 7.

- * To use the vehicle you must reserve it by calling the office at least two full working days in advance to check for availability.
- * A non-refundable fee of \$10.00 is required and a contract agreement filled out.
- * You will be charged one time dollar for each hour of use, or 10 time dollars for a 24 hour period.
- * All drivers need to be time banking members and proof of a valid driver's license is required.
- * You need to be a Time Banking member for at least 60 days before you can use the vehicle and have done at least one exchange.
- * The Mazda is limited to a 75 mile radius of the office.
- * Members must return vehicle with a full tank of gas. (if not full at time of using notify the office and return with the same amount of gas when picked up).
- * The Mazda is reserved on a first come first served basis.
- * Members are responsible for all tickets incurred while in their use.

* Driving record checks are required. Anyone who has a number of moving violations will be required to use a Time Banking member to drive for them.

Tenants Go Green (2008-Present)

Joan Bullard, a long term HEP Member, created a program in response to a need in her housing development. Joan is a senior living in a center that was not eligible for recycling pickups by the City. Joan asked if HEP members could be paid Hours to take recycled items to the redemption center. The project's simple design solved a major problem. It won the attention of the City Manager and the local Green Party. Joan received an Eco-Maine award for this project.

Compilation 2008 Hour Exchange Portland