

# Standing Stone Coffee Company

## Understanding Our Role in Community Development

### Why Should We be Engaged in Community Development Work?

- Our Mission and Values drive us to be engaged and working for transformation
- Our identified focal points (rooms) place this as a priority
- Our direct involvement with international trade provide for us an avenue for international community development work and we have become a partner and voice in the global community.
- Our location and business design places us at an intersection of campus and community

### Business as a Community Member

We believe that the role of business in community is not simply to take from the community both resources and wealth; nor is it to simply make the owners money. Business serves as a unique partner in a community. It serves as employer, service and goods provider, services and goods purchaser, neighbor (paying attention and responding to those in the neighborhood) and community environmental/physical steward. Successful businesses need to be efficient, practice good fiscal management, tend to employee management and care, be productive in their goods and/or services and be effective at their mission. They fulfill a unique need and niche in the community.

Business helps the community as a living system flow well, and is partly responsible in preventing the system's collapse. A community's collapse can be caused by a breakdown in any part of the living system: government, families, community organizations, education systems and business. Each component is ultimately responsible not just for their own area of the system, but (by being ultimately dependent on the other parts of the system) are also responsible to steward every area of the system as well. Business is no exception. It is an integrated, essential and responsible member of the community.

### A Vision of Holistic Care

It is clear that we live in a broken world. Every area of our community system and the broader world has been impacted by this brokenness. Many families are hurting; many individuals are lonely and un-cared for; governments make decisions based on the loudest, wealthiest or most educated voices; education systems exclude people, favor specific view points, or don't always meet the community's needs; Community organizations can be inefficient, poorly funded, misdirected, unorganized, or uninformed; and businesses can be out for themselves, offering unfair labor treatment, uncaring for the environment and community, power hungry, and more.

We recognize that a “patch” or fix to one area of our community system won’t address the underlying issues, broken ideologies or systemic problems. We also recognize that focusing on one area, and not paying attention to all areas as an integrated system will only result in temporary improvement. We believe that just as a person cannot be broken into components (ie. specific physical body systems, mental development, emotional care, spiritual well-being, social integration work together as one truly whole person), neither can the community be broken into components without recognizing the integrated whole. Therefore a holistic approach to community development is required. In the midst of this holistic development each of us as members of the community have unique gifts, abilities and resources that we can offer to play our part.

### **SSCC’s Unique Position, Gifts and Role in Community Development**

Standing Stone serves as an active business in the community. It employs local community members. It provides goods (food and drink) as well as services (a gathering space, cultural opportunities and educational opportunities).

Both being a new business and being a business with limited cash flow SSCC has limited financial resources to offer out of its fiscal budget. Despite this we are committed to giving as much as we are able within our priority guidelines for giving.

Standing Stone also can offer educational, advocacy and awareness opportunities, can be a community hub and connecting point, can offer cultural formation and enhancement through the arts, and can be a leadership and holistic development outlet for its staff.

### **Standing Stone Coffee Company’s Vision of Community**

SSCC sees the potential of a community who cares for and knows their neighbor, stewards the environment, has an integrated education system including all higher educational opportunities as members of the community, flourishes through the arts, celebrates life through food, play, work and rest, and is aware of global issues and participates in the global community.

SSCC looks to invest in efforts of lasting, long-term transformation in the community. These may come in the form of established programs, but also may be a fresh idea by someone in our community looking to make a difference. We want to honor that ingenuity and desire for change. We also will invest in community development efforts that are either faith-based or not, knowing that all good things come from God and that God’s desire is for the restoration of all things, the whole person and the whole community.



**Advocacy and Education Program -**

- Will work on a monthly rotation throughout the calendar year
- Will be planned 6 months at a time (Jan-Jun & Jul-Dec)
- Planning for the next 6 months will take place on May and November
- One 15% day per month for 5 of the 6 months will be tied to the A&E topic of the month
- Topics will be suggested and sketched out by a team, will be executed by the CD Coordinator, and design work will be done by the Graphic Designer

**Donations System -**

- This will continue at the budgetary discretion of the Operations Manager
- These will be based on our shared guidelines for donations
- We will recognize a small group priority partners who compliment our Community Development efforts, but will not limit ourselves to these knowing it will take a fully holistic approach to community development to work toward lasting change.

**Grants Program -**

- 15% Days (2 per month) will commence in January 2011
- One day per month will be directed into a pot for use as grants and awards
- Grant applications will be accepted Jan 15<sup>th</sup> - Feb 15<sup>th</sup> and Sept 1-30

- Grants will be awarded in February and October
- Grant applications will be available online
- One or multiple grants can be awarded by the decision committee during their decision meeting
- The coordinator will organize the distribution, collection and dissemination of the grant applications
- There is particular interest in awarding those with proposals that show fresh and creative ideas for lasting change in the community
- Grants may also be awarded to individuals for home repair directed through a predetermined list of contractors and repair workers.

#### **Awards Program -**

- Awards will be given to those showing active, productive or fresh work in the community
- It is by design to be given to anyone of any age, showing that all of us could make a difference
- The award consists of a recognition gathering at SSCC, giving of a paper certificate, and a monetary gift.

#### **The Role of SSCC's Community Development Coordinator -**

- Coordinating the Advocacy and Education Program – connecting with community partners
- Organizing the Grants Program Applications/Details
- Organizing the Awards Program Details
- Attending some of the taskforce meetings in town