

Become a part of this exciting opportunity for inspired change.

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The Garfield Park Cafe
Investing in Life Changing
Meals for Families and
the Community

The mission of the Garfield Park Cafe is to provide a food service destination for families that delivers delicious, healthy, affordable meals while preparing low-income individuals to succeed in the workforce.





All photography donated courtesy of Steven Gross and Christina Noel Rostad.

Community Venture: Valuing the family meal

The Garfield Park Cafe will be a flourishing neighborhood restaurant where families gather to enjoy nutritious meals in a welcoming environment, and where they can unwind from the stress of their daily lives.

Meals will be prepared and served by students in our job training program. These students arrive with multiple barriers to entering the workforce. They emerge from their training with the capacity to earn living wages, and contribute to the local economy.

Relationships in and with the community are the cornerstone of the concept for the Cafe. Its partnerships with local nonprofit organizations, educational and religious institutions, government agencies and businesses will ensure the project grows and responds to the needs of the community. Leveraging its many assets to create a path of growth and sustainability, the Cafe can serve as a catalyst for local economic development.

Serve More Than Food: Dining with dignity

At the Garfield Park Cafe, families and children come first. Through its Guest Certificate Program, the Cafe will provide working poor families a dining experience in an environment that is safe, friendly and conducive to quiet family time. Collaborating nonprofits in the community will award invitations to families to dine free at the Cafe on a one-time basis. In their following visits they can enjoy the Frequent Diner Card Program promoting discounts to all diners.

More than a restaurant, the Garfield Park Cafe will provide community residents enrichment opportunities that reflect the mission and vision of Inspiration Corporation, the Cafe's host organization. In a family-friendly, creatively designed green building, there will be play and learning spaces for children, and quiet space for relaxation and conversation. An array of classes will be offered and may include cooking and nutrition, as well as supportive services based on community needs and interests.

Impact of the Garfield Park Cafe¹

50-70
Families from the Community Served Meals Each Week

125 Job Seekers from the Community Trained Each Year

\$900,000
Total Economic Infusion in the Community Annually²

¹Scheduled to open late-2010. ²Based on salaries and placements from the job training program.

Behind The Counter: Building skills, creating jobs

At Inspiration Corporation, training program graduates will tell you that the best preparation for work is work. The Cafe builds on this lesson and Inspiration Corporation's many years of experience by preparing people struggling with unemployment and homelessness to become contributing members of the Chicago workforce.

The social enterprise aspect of the Garfield Park Cafe will provide a unique 13 week food service training program to include:

- Industry-linked vocational training to develop marketable skills in demand among employers,
- Job-readiness instruction to develop workplace skills necessary in any food service environment,
- Case management and supportive services to build self-sufficiency skills necessary to transition into employment,
- Job placement and retention assistance.

An Enterprising Venture: Attracting customers looking for a unique dining experience

Developing an economically sustainable community enterprise requires market-oriented thinking to create an offering that has value to a diverse group of consumers.

Inspiration Corporation's revenue model will place a strong emphasis on earned income to support the Garfield Park Cafe:

- **In-restaurant dining**
The Cafe, a full service sit down restaurant, will serve brunch, lunch and dinner to guests from the community and beyond. The location is in close proximity to the Garfield Park Conservatory, and will have convenient parking and easy access to public transportation.
- **"Paying Up"**
A program that allows guests the opportunity to "pay up" on their bill in increments in lieu of a gratuity. The additional dollars will support the Guest Certificate Program.

• Guest Chef Nights

These nights will offer a unique dining experience where accomplished Chicago-area chefs will engage with Cafe students to prepare a three-course meal for a house full of diners.

• Catering

The Cafe will accommodate groups or private parties for up to 60 people as well as provide numerous catering possibilities for off-site events. Contracting to provide healthy meals to day care centers, after-school programs and community clubs is another avenue for the Cafe to pursue.

Today's consumers, as well as philanthropic investors, want to ensure that their dollars are going as far as possible. The Garfield Park Cafe is a project that brings together the best of what is possible when social aspirations meet up with market opportunity. The impact will be felt by all who walk through the doors and experience the power of life changing meals.