

PRIORITY FUND INFORMATION – Completed by Applicant

Street and number

Subdivision if rural

Contact person _____
(780) 416-2353

Telephone (780) 410-2333

Email address (optional) tzarowny@newhorizons.ca

Project Type ☐ Event ☒ Project ☐ Expense

Amount Requested \$ 11,000.00

Brief description of request

New Horizons Charter School Society, located at 1000 Strathcona Drive, Sherwood Park, AB, T8A 3R6, is looking to collaborate and fund to build a playground enhancement project in its outdoor playground space this summer of 2020, which includes new swings and climbing apparatus, for the roughly 248 elementary school aged children in grades 3-6 (based on current enrollment numbers) in attendance at one of two adjacent schools. These two schools, namely the New Horizons School and École Claudette-et-Denis-Tardif, currently share the same playground spaces on a daily basis, within their community setting.

In order to achieve our project goal, we are requesting \$11,000 of financial support from the Strathcona County Council Priority Funds application process, for the anticipated costs of the commercial installation of new playground equipment, specifically for a new set of playground swings and climbing equipment, which will contribute to our total anticipated project budget of \$90,000.00. This project will be funded by a combination of in-kind contributions, fundraised donations, and successful grant funding applications.

Ted Zarowny

Print name

Signature

January 13, 2020

Date _____

Please remember to attach a proposed budget and request letter to this request.

Number of attached pages 10

Collection and use of personal information

Personal information is collected under the authority of section 33(c) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and will be used to manage and administer Council Priority Funds. Please be aware that information provided may be made public. If you have questions regarding the collection, use or disclosure of this information, contact Vicky Cushman at 780-464-8098.

New Horizons Charter School Society Playground Enhancement Project

1. Summary of the Request for Strathcona County Council Priority Funds

New Horizons School, located at 1000 Strathcona Drive, Sherwood Park, AB, T8A 3R6, is looking to collaborate and fund to build a playground enhancement project in its outdoor playground space this summer of 2020, which includes new swings and climbing apparatus, for the roughly 248 elementary school aged children in grades 3-6 (based on current enrollment numbers) in attendance at one of two adjacent schools. These two schools, namely the New Horizons School and École Claudette-et-Denis-Tardif, currently share the same playground spaces on a daily basis, within their community setting.

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This initiative is a priority for both the mental and physical health for our elementary aged children and encourages them to spend more time outside. As a public and community based school, this playground will be accessible and visible to all community members and members of the general public, including those siblings of sports players that will be enjoying outside this space and sports fields in times to come. Outdoor playground structures provide opportunities for year-round play.

2. Proposal Description

Project Impacts

We are pursuing this playground enhancement project to the direct benefit of elementary school aged children, including students attending either of the New Horizons School or the adjacent Francophone school, in addition to the surrounding community families and the general public of Sherwood Park in Strathcona County, as a publicly accessible, unrestricted access outdoor playground structure with swings.

More specifically, in addition to benefiting families living directly within this community, the playground enhancement project's implementation will benefit 175 grade 3-6 students from New Horizons School and 73 grade 3-6 students from École Claudette-et-Denis-Tardif (based on current enrollment numbers), which share the same playground space. Furthermore, both schools will be afforded full utilization of this enhanced playground space by continuing to share both indoor gymnasium and outdoor playground spaces, by maintaining their current rotations of school and classroom schedules.

By way of background, when New Horizons School moved to its current school location in 2014, the school population was 220 students. At that time, the school's playground consisted of a core play area and a bank of swings. However, since that time, the school population has grown by 77% to 390

students (K-9), and a temporary school was added to the location adding even more students to the site. Further, in order to accommodate the placement of the temporary school, the bank of swings were removed, deemed non-reusable, and, therefore, not replaced.

Due to the school's continued growth and for safety reasons, New Horizons School administration found it necessary to begin restricting access to the core play area to just the primary grades leaving the older students (grade 3-6) with fewer playground options. With the installation of new swings back into the outdoor space, the space will offer a new play zone for these students and will greatly enhance their opportunity for creative play and physical activity.

Project Priority for Swings and Vendor Quotes

The equipment priorities for this project, as new swings and climbing playground structures, were identified and confirmed in a survey of parents and children. These survey results were then used to reach out to Strathcona County's pre-qualified vendors in order to solicit quotes for both evaluation and budgetary purposes.

- The NHCS Playground Location Site Map has been included, to provide an overall perspective in support of this project and shows the intended site for the Playground Enhancement Project as the site labelled as '2' and shaded in blue, with its dimensions also labelled as 14800x23400.

Representatives from Strathcona County have been engaged throughout this developmental and project planning process, with multiple on-site visits as well as following the County's direction to ultimately choose one of its pre-qualified vendors along with its material specifications, which are both necessary for successful implementation of this project.

- As per Strathcona County Bylaws, the County will be responsible for the maintenance of the playground space, and, therefore, our committee must select from pre-qualified vendors and materials, as are approved by the County. Accordingly, the Society will not be required to cover maintenance, repairs or replacement costs in the future.
- Multiple vendor quotes have been reviewed and considered for this funding request.
- Notably, during our vendor quotation solicitation process, a preferred vendor has been identified, as the **Blue Imp Recreational Products of Canada** and its products have stood out with respect to its competitive pricing, quality of its products, safety, and local Alberta based manufacturing. Blue Imp's representative has also demonstrated their own commitment and enthusiasm to the project in its multiple project designs and our customer service experiences to date. Although we have not formalized our relationship with any vendor yet, School Council has now approved a motion to proceed with the 35% equipment deposit.

Project Partners

Although this project is currently a collaborative initiative based within the New Horizons Charter School Society and its administration along with its school parent groups, including the School Council, Playground Sub-Committee and its fundraising group, namely the Fundraising Association of New

Horizons School ("FANHS"), we continue to seek potential project collaborators and/or funding partners on both a formal and informal basis, in addition to seeking further financial support through both community-based and competitive grant funding process.

- This project also represents another opportunity for collaboration between the Francophone School Board, the Conseil scolaire Centre-Nord, for the Greater North Central Francophone Education Region, along with its school, École Claudette-et-Denis-Tardif, and the New Horizons Charter School Society, along with its school, the New Horizons School, and such efforts are already underway. The Francophone School Board, the Conseil scolaire Centre-Nord, for the Greater North Central Francophone Education Region, is aware of the project and has offered its support, which will likely lead to its more formalized support in the coming months.
- Also, Elk Island Catholic School Board, as land-owner, has provided its permission to proceed with the project. (For additional related information, please refer to the Organization Background section.)

Project Timelines with Strategic Funding Partners

The playground enhancement project's installation and completion is targeted for the summer of 2020, more specifically after July 1 and before September 1, 2020. This most desirable timeframe will allow the general school population to avoid any of the construction activities and to also ensure that the ground has thawed completely and will be ready for project site work. As such, the majority of our project expenses for site preparation work and supplies, installation expenses and freight costs will become due and payable in a similar time frame, with the exception of any required deposits to hold pricing and/or dates with our selected vendors.

We anticipate placing the equipment order with the selected vendor prior to May 1st, 2020 and after January 15, 2020, in order to ensure timely delivery of the playground equipment and to avoid undue delays.

- **January 15, 2020** is an important date, as we are submitting our matching grant application to the Government of Alberta's Community Facility Enhancement Program by that date, in which eligible expenses may begin to be incurred. The matching grant funding will be used to match the following project contributions.
 - School Council has access to school fundraised dollars and has now and approved a motion to pay (after January 15, 2020) an initial equipment deposit of 35%, as the preferred vendor has requested such a deposit in order to hold its pricing.
 - A formal funding request has now been submitted to The Edmonton Community Foundation, for a payment of \$25,000.00, which will be used to pay the remaining balance for the playground equipment costs after April 1, 2020, if the Proposal is approved as presented.
 - This funding application requests \$11,000.00 of funding support through the Strathcona County Council Priority Funds, for the anticipated costs of the commercial installation of the playground equipment.
 - Also, our Project Manager is working to reduce our anticipated costs as much as possible, with the use of in-kind contributions from vendors whenever possible.

Additionally, we are continuing to submit further financial support requests and grant applications in order to secure additional financial funds, as well, in order to ultimately achieve our playground enhancement project.

3. Outcomes and Evaluation

Success of this project means that the playground enhancement is completed in time for the September 2020 incoming school populations to enjoy immediately. This time frame ensures that these elementary children from both schools have access to the new playground equipment, without having to be inconvenienced by its construction.

Success is the realization of the total budget for the project at its estimated cost of \$90k, or less, which is split between playground equipment costs of \$36,654 (plus GST), equipment installation and freight expenses of \$12,130 (plus GST) and site preparation and supply expenses of \$27,583 (plus GST) in addition to safety fencing and post-landscaping costs, which are anticipated to be about \$10,000.

Success is identifying collaborators and partners in addition to successfully obtaining financial support through formal grant applications and funding requests in support of this project, in order to lessen the financial burden on the parent and community base of New Horizons School and its other project partners.

Finally, we are most successful in this project, when we have managed to further deepen our community relationships, within our community and school-based membership. Learnings from the fruition of this playground enhancement project will aid in further playground development and enhancement projects both at this school and other school sites, which may be realized by utilizing the skill sets herein as well as the specific personal and professional contacts that will be established with the wider community in realizing this project.

By virtue of the playground enhancement project, our community presence and legacy will remain beyond 2020, with these new outdoor playground swings and climbing equipment, which are fully accessible for all to enjoy!

4. Organization Background - as found at New Horizons School webpage:

<https://www.newhorizons.ca/about/school-information-documents/> under **Education Documents**:

- *2019-2022 Education Plan and the 2018-2019 Annual Education Results Report (AERR)*

Profile of the School Authority

New Horizons School is a public charter school serving 390 students from Kindergarten through Grade 9. Located in Sherwood Park, just minutes east of the City of Edmonton, the school serves students primarily from Sherwood Park and rural Strathcona County, although a growing number of students commute from other communities throughout the Greater Edmonton area.

Like all charter schools in Alberta, New Horizons is designed to address the needs of a particular group of students through a specific program or teaching/learning approach, while following the Alberta Program of Studies. In our case, we focus on meeting the needs of intellectually-gifted children in a congregated setting and on providing our students with an environment that supports their unique intellectual, social and emotional needs.

New Horizons School was established in 1995 as Canada's first public charter school. Operated by the New Horizons Charter School Society (a non-profit charitable society comprised of parents, teachers and interested community members) and governed by an elected Board of Directors, the school is funded by the Government of Alberta and therefore does not charge tuition fees.

The Society operates under the terms of a charter, or agreement, with the Minister of Education for the Province of Alberta. Since its first year, New Horizons School has been on a path of continued growth. In 1995, its first year of operation, New Horizons School had a population of 79 students. In the 25 years since that time, our school has grown by 311 students and currently serves the needs of 390 gifted learners.

Foundation Statements

Mission Statement

The mission of New Horizons Charter School is to meet the special academic needs of gifted learners in a congregated setting in an environment that is low-anxiety, positive, and supportive of the individual. Gifted students need opportunities to be challenged, to think alternatively, and to pursue learning according to their own learning styles.

Vision Statement

New Horizons School will enable gifted students to strive for excellence in a positive academic learning environment that fosters social and emotional support for each student.

Philosophy and Educational Foundations

New Horizons School was originally established to best serve the learning needs of gifted children. This continues to be its fundamental reason for existence. The goals of the charter and of the school itself are threefold: to address the academic, social, and emotional needs of gifted children.

New Horizons School strives to incorporate the best research and innovations from a growing body of professional and research literature on gifted education into the pedagogical and organizational programs of the school. The often-unique academic and social-emotional needs and strengths of gifted children are of primary consideration in the design of educational and support programs at the school. The school strives to be a renowned centre of excellence that is respected locally, nationally and internationally, and is sought after for its programming and its professional knowledge. It seeks to be a

successful centre of best practice, research, and innovation in gifted education, open to partnerships with others within the limits of its resources.

Above all, New Horizons School strives to provide a student-focused, safe, supportive learning environment in which gifted students can be successful and well equipped to engage in whatever endeavours they choose to pursue in the future. The school program is designed to provide inclusive education and to consider the appropriate pedagogy and the individual characteristics of the students. This allows for flexibility in grouping for instruction and activities. At times, students will be assigned to work with those with similar achievement levels, but the possibility also exists to group students with different levels of skill/knowledge mastery. These experiences are designed to facilitate students' development in leadership and mentorship capacity, and to ensure that students are able to work with a range of individuals at various levels of ability

Ownership of Sherwood Park Facility and Lands

New Horizons School occupies its new Sherwood Park facility under the terms of a lease agreement with Elk Island Catholic Schools. In accordance with correspondence sent (June 5, 2014) by former Minister of Education Jeff Johnson to the Elk Island Catholic Board of Trustees, the New Horizons Board of Directors anticipates that ownership of the facility will be transferred to the New Horizons Charter School Society. Although the details of a transfer agreement have been reached between the respective legal counsels for the two school boards, approval of the ownership transfer by the current Minister of Education has not yet been received.

With this year being New Horizons Charter School's 25th anniversary as a charter school, government's providing our Board with ownership of the New Horizon School facility would be a celebration for our school, community and also for your government. The New Horizons Board of Directors continues to advocate for the transfer of ownership at the earliest possible date.



Unit Features: M08000

1 Dream Net
2 Bubble Wall (MP)
1 Atomizer
1 Tetra-Web (MP Posts)
4 Stepping Saucer
1 Ring Ladder- Squiggly
1 Shapes Ladder- Squiggly
1 Turning Bar
4 Mini Step
2 8'-2" Post - MP Pre-Drilled
2 9'-4" Post - MP Pre-Drilled
6 10'-6" Post - MP Pre-Drilled

Unit Cost \$ 24,471.00

FREESTANDING EQUIPMENT

1	8' 4 Unit Arch Swing (P208)	\$ 2,432.00
4	Wrap Free Belt Seats (SRW) @ \$443.00ea	\$ 1,772.00
1	Single U-Swing (U100)	\$ 7,979.00
Total Freestanding Equipment		\$ 12,183.00

SUMMARY WITH COMMERCIAL INSTALLATION

Equipment Total	\$ 36,654.00
Commercial Installation of Equipment	\$ 11,000.00
Freight	\$ 1,130.00
Total Project Costs excluding GST	\$ 48,784.00

OPTIONAL COSTS

	Excavation/Removal of Current Surfacing	\$ 5,500.00
	Drainage	\$ 2,750.00
	Supply and Installation of Sand	\$ 13,500.00
44	Border Timbers (BP-10) @ \$107.00 ea	\$ 4,708.00
6	Adaptors (BP-09) @ \$50.00 ea	\$ 300.00
	Installation of Borders and Adaptors	\$ 825.00
Total Optional Costs excluding GST		\$ 27,583.00

Prices listed in effect until July 1, 2019

Freight quote is subject to change after 30 days.

Delivery of Blue Imp equipment: four to six weeks from date of order.

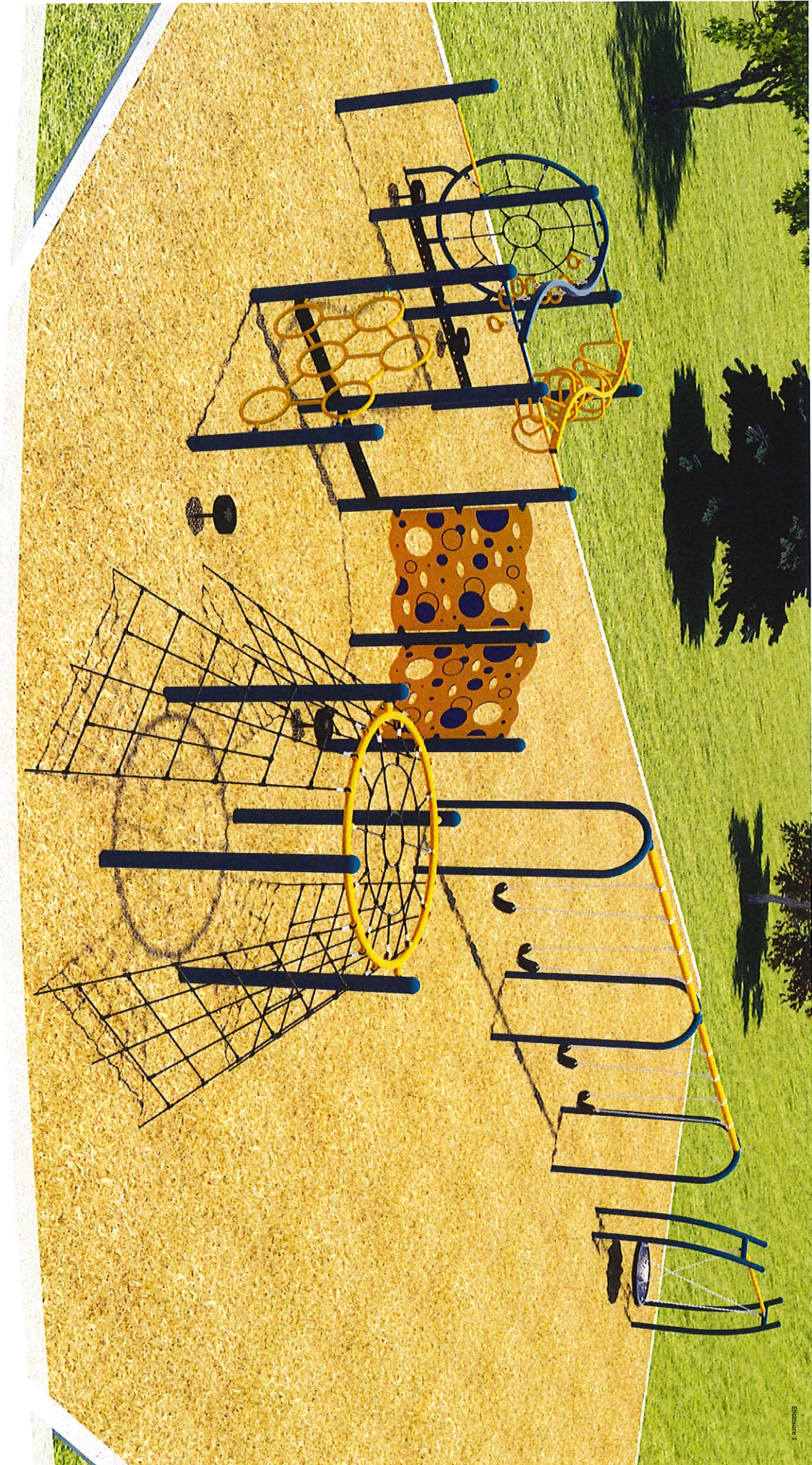
Owner is responsible for safety fencing if required and location of utilities.

Please have AB One call completed prior to installation.

All installation quotes are based on normal ground conditions (topsoil and clay based). Additional charges may apply for unusual ground conditions including but not limited to unusually rocky or high water table.

The equipment prices listed can be guaranteed to October 31, 2020 with a 35% deposit on Blue Imp equipment only by July 1, 2019

Installation to be billed separately through White Rabbit Holding Ltd.



Enclosure 1

Budget for New Horizons School Playground Enhancement Project, as of January 13, 2020

<u>Project Revenue</u>		Notes	Comments
Edmonton Community Foundation Community Grant	\$25,000.00	Request submitted by Jan.7, 2020	Decision anticipated after March 1, 2020
GOA Community Facility Enhancement Program (matching funds)	\$44,456.27	50% of Total Request to be submitted before Jan.15,2020	Decision anticipated in July, 2020
Strathcona County Council Priority Funds	\$11,000.00	Request submitted by Jan.13,2020	Decision anticipated at February Council meeting
Conseil scolaire Centre-Nord (Greater North Central Francophone Education Region)	\$	Amount TBD	Financial commitment indicated, yet to be formalized
Fundraised dollars, grants funding applications, various	\$8,456.27		*School fundraised dollars, after approved by motion at School Council, various applications
TOTAL REVENUE	\$88,912.54		
<u>Project Expenses - sourced from Blue Imp, October 29, 2019</u>		<u>Quote</u>	<u>Quote plus GST</u>
Playground equipment - Unit Features (Dream Net, etc.)	\$24,471.00	\$25,286.69	\$25,000 requested from ECF
Playground equipment - Freestanding Equipment (swings)	\$12,183.00	\$12,589.10	
Commercial Installation of equipment	\$11,000.00	\$11,366.66	\$11,000 requested from Strathcona County Council Priority Funds
Freight of Equipment	\$1,130.00	\$1,167.67	
Site preparation and supply expenses ^A	\$27,583.00	\$28,502.42	
3.33% GST for Project Expenses subtotal of \$76,367.00	\$2,545.54	\$10,000.00	
Safety Fencing & Landscape repairs (estimation) ^A	\$10,000.00		
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$88,912.54	\$88,912.54	Preferred Vendor Quotation : Blue Imp Recreational Products of Canada, of October 19, 2019
Summary			
Total Revenue*	\$88,912.54		*Fundraising dollars available; Continued fundraising and grant writing efforts as necessary for contingency
Total Expenses ^A	\$88,912.54		^A Project Manager is pursuing a reduction in expenses using in-kind contributions from vendors
Net balance	\$0.00		