

September 4, 2018

Environmental Health Foundation of Canada
ehfc@outlook.com

To: The Environmental Health Foundation of Canada Award Selection Committee

Re: Lilli Ann Zahara Award Nomination

We nominate the South Zone Education Sub-Committee (SZESC) for the Lilli Ann Zahara Award, for the development of food safety education videos for vulnerable populations in southern Alberta.

Low German Speaking Mennonites (LGSM) account for approximately 10 percent of the population in the South Zone. In general, income, social status, education and literacy, among other key determinants of health, identifies the LGSM population as being at-risk for health inequities. Public Health Inspectors in southern Alberta noted an increase in LGSM working in the food industry and requested the support of the SZESC for food safety education material and opportunities to help support these populations. Despite efforts, the SZESC was unable to find food safety education in Low German to share with LGSM food handlers.

To address this education gap, the SZESC partnered with LGSM Community Health Representatives from Alberta Health Services (AHS) Health Promotion Services, to strategize on possible food safety educational opportunities. To ensure the education was widely accessible, the idea for an animated educational video was conceived. Funding for two short, animated educational videos in Low German was secured through a Barons-Eureka-Warner Family & Community Support Services grant, and the Southern Alberta Ethnic Association donated the use of their kitchen to film the food handling scenes. The actors demonstrating food handling in the videos were SZESC members and AHS Health Promotion staff, while a LGSM Community Health team member narrated the video in Low German. The video was uploaded to YouTube for broader distribution in the LGSM population. The reach of these educational videos far exceeded expectations, with approximately 3600 views in seven (7) different countries.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AlxxUZhDU-w>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DvRaXxkco2w>

Additionally, the SZESC sought approval from Alberta Health to have a Section 31 Alberta Safety Certification Course in Low German. In March of 2017, the SZESC hosted an approved food safety education class with the translation assistance of LGSM Community Health

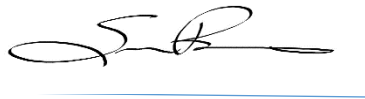
Representatives. 12 students successfully obtained certification, and noted that the benefits of the course will extend into the family home in addition to the place of work.

For this innovated approach to address an education gap by utilizing community partners, other health professionals, and utilizing web-based visual media to extend food safety education opportunities to a vulnerable population that would otherwise not have access to these resources, we believe the SZESC qualifies for the EHFC Lilli Ann Zahara Award. Members of the SZESC initiative include: Michel Gervais, Theron White, Jenny Andrews and Mark Albiez.

Nominated by:
Ken Longmore CPHI(C)
Certificate #3569

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Second by:
Sean Robison CPHI(C)
Certificate #4612

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