July 5, 2006

Dear La Plata County Restaurant Owner-

Greetings from the Growing Partners of Southwest Colorado! Growing Partners is a partnership between five non-profit and service organizations dedicated to implementing sustainable local food programs that reach all incomes, ages and cultures. In 2005, we were awarded a grant from the US Department of Agriculture to conduct a community food assessment of La Plata County.

Community food assessments can be excellent tools for educating the public on food related issues, as well as improving and creating community food projects. The purpose of this assessment is to identify the current needs and resources of the local food system, address the specific needs of underserved populations in accessing healthy food, and to encourage community participation in the planning and evaluation phases of the assessment. The assessment examines the factors affecting our current food system including: economic, cultural, and environmental factors and agricultural history. The populations we are profiling include youth and schools, food producers, and underserved populations, including lower income families, older adults, and people with physical and/or mental limitations. Community support and participation is vital to the success of the project.

Attached is a survey to help provide us with a baseline of the potential food needs and resources among local restaurants in La Plata County. We feel restaurants are a great venue for better understanding the food needs and resources of our community through identifying the specific needs of restaurant owners, service personnel, and customers.

We appreciate your time and effort in completing the survey. In order to be included in our study, restaurant surveys must be returned to PO Box 4434, Durango 81302 by July 31th. If you have any questions or additional comments regarding the survey or assessment, please contact Growing Partners at 385-3980 or email us at laplatafood@yahoo.com. Your participation is valuable to the project and helps us have a broader understanding of the specific food needs and resources of our community.

Thank you,

Growing Partners of Southwest Colorado
La Plata County Community Food Assessment
Restaurant Survey
Presented by Growing Partners of Southwest Colorado

Restaurant Name: Person(s) Completing Survey: ________________________

Mailing Address: Phone Numbers: ________________________

Date: Email address(es): ________________________

Please mark or fill in the appropriate response for each question. Write N/A for any question that does not apply to your business. If you have any questions regarding this survey please contact Growing Partners by phone at (970)385-3980 or email us at laplatafood@yahoo.com. Please send completed surveys to PO Box 4434 Durango, Colorado 81302 by July 31st, 2006.

Please start by telling us about your restaurant

1. How many years or months has the restaurant been operating in La Plata County? ________

2. What is the business structure of the restaurant?
   __ Privately owned
   __ Business partnership
   __ Franchise
      If so, how many franchises are there in Colorado? ________ In the U.S? __________
   __ Other ____________________________________________________________

3. Please describe the restaurant, the theme of the menu, and what makes it unique?

4. Who are the primary customers served at your restaurant (i.e. locals, tourist, families, college students etc.)

5. What are the top three menu items served at your restaurant?
   a) ______________________
   b) ______________________
   c) ______________________

6. What makes being a restaurant owner in La Plata County unique? What are some of the perks and challenges unique to this area?
7. Who are your primary food distributors? Please list.

_______________________________________________________________

8. Have you experienced an increase in food prices from current distributors over the last year?
   YES   NO
   a) If so, where do you believe the food increases stem from?

   b) Did you have to increase menu prices to cover the cost of food? If so, how did customers respond to this increase in price?

Please tell us about local food availability

9. Does your restaurant currently serve any local food? YES   NO
   a) If yes,
      1. Where does the food come from?
      2. What items do you serve?
      3. Do you sell these items seasonally or year-round?
      4. What is the response from customers?

   b) If no, have you ever been approached by a local grower or food producer to carry local products? YES   NO

10. Is there an interest/support from customers about serving local food? YES   NO

11. Local food is usually served from farm to table in 24 hours, which guarantees a fresher product. Do you think your customers would be willing to pay slightly more for locally produced fresh food? YES   NO

12. List some of the obstacles your restaurant could or does face in selling local food or increasing the amount of local food (i.e. affordability, availability, quantity, distribution, etc)?

La Plata County's Local Food System
13. Please describe an existing or potential community food project that might help overcome the obstacles you might face in selling more local food.
14. Do you currently have time, energy, and or other resources to offer any of these projects (i.e. meeting rooms, kitchen or garden space, partnerships)?

15. What do you think of La Plata County’s current food system (including its production, distribution, marketing, and consumers)?

16. How might a food assessment benefit your business/restaurant? Is there anything specific you would like the assessment team to research?

If you carry local food, would you like to be listed with other restaurants/businesses selling local food and/or products?

Yes  No

Are you willing to have consumer surveys in your restaurant?

Yes  No

Would you be willing be interviewed for the food assessment?

Yes  No

Do you have any information related to the food system you could provide the assessment team?

Yes  No

Do you want to receive notices regarding the assessment and meeting times?

Yes  No

If yes, please provide contact information: Name__________________________

Phone__________________________  E-mail__________________________

High School Off Campus Survey-

1. On average, how many high school students eat at your restaurant per day (during school hours)? ______________

2. What are the top three menu items they purchase?

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

3. What is the price range for the above menu items?

____________________________________________________________________