



## Marketplace of Ideas/ Marketplace for Kids, Inc.

A 501(c)3, Nonprofit Organization and an  
Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.



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Dear Potential Sponsor:

Marketplace of Ideas/Marketplace for Kids, Inc. has been making a positive contribution to our region's economic growth for over 20 years. Marketplace *envisions* the people of the Upper Great Plains are powering a diversified vigorous economy through their entrepreneurial spirit.

Our *mission* is to cultivate and grow entrepreneurs and entrepreneurial communities by providing education, mentorship, solutions, and networking opportunities. Marketplace believes that entrepreneurship education is a life-long learning process. A third grader, budding CEO, or a retiree looking to supplement his/her income, all should have access to entrepreneurship training. Through our programs, Marketplace works to achieve this belief.

- *Marketplace of Ideas* focuses on new, better and different ideas and opportunities to successfully generate new and/or additional sustainable income. Marketplace provides an array of economic alternatives to small business owners, community leaders and rural people. This initiative, traditionally held in January of each year, will be moving to fall of the year. The next Marketplace will be held on September 27-28, 2010 at the FargoDome, Fargo, ND.
- *Career Opportunities*, held in conjunction with Marketplace of Ideas, will be an effort to bring high school students, recent high school graduates, college students and second career adults to Marketplace of Ideas to acquaint them with career opportunities and regional educational/training programs available.
- The *Marketplace Invention Showcase and Contest*, provides inventors an opportunity to showcase their invention, conduct market research, network at Marketplace of Ideas and compete for prize money.
- The "*Flavors of Marketplace*" *Showcase and Contest*, new in 2010, will become an annual celebration of specialty food flavors of the Northern Great Plains. Market-ready prototypes and commercially available food products will be judged and critiqued by a panel of food experts.
- *Opening the Doors of Opportunity* is a special initiative to assist the Native American community in the development of business enterprises, or to enhance existing businesses through entrepreneurial and personal financial education. To date, Showcase and Forums have been scheduled at each of the Native American Reservations in North Dakota.
- *Marketplace for Kids* is a unique entrepreneurship education program for grades three through middle school. Marketplace for Kids is a place to experience and test new ideas and to showcase innovation and creativity. Nine Marketplace for Kids Education Days will be held during the 2009-10 school year, along with pilot programs at the Standing Rock Reservation.

- The *Bright Ideas Showcase and Contest* provides students in grades three through middle school an opportunity to showcase their projects (invention/business idea) and compete for prize money. The Minot, ND, Chapter of SCORE reviews the projects and scores them based on originality, visual presentation, student initiative and the accomplishment of the stated goal, problem or objective. Cash prizes are awarded in a Business Idea category and an Invention category for each grade level participating. Prizes are also awarded for projects that show an innovation in energy, agriculture or technology.

The enclosed information provides more detail on these programs. Please consider becoming involved by assisting with programming, volunteering, and/or contributing your financial support. We hope you share our pride in these programs, their success and the bright future they can provide and **become a sponsor!**

The enclosed Sponsor Benefits Flyer outlines our giving levels. Please take a moment to consider a financial commitment to our organization, and return the Sponsor Commitment Form at your earliest convenience.

If you would like to join one of our programming committees, would like to volunteer, or have any questions, please contact me at 888-384-8410 or [marketplace@btinet.net](mailto:marketplace@btinet.net).

Thank you for your consideration of our request. Your support will be greatly appreciated!

Sincerely,



Marilyn K. Kipp  
Executive Director