



## The Women's Wilderness Institute – Success Story

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In 2007 The Women's Wilderness Institute (TWWI) embarked on an expansion with the goal to introduce after-school, community-based programs. Patti Cummings, SVP Boulder County Partner, suggested we complete a logic model process to develop the new programs and offered to consult on the project.

Neither the executive director nor the community director of TWWI had prior experience with using a logic model. Patti's first job was to educate us on the importance of this step in the strategic planning process. She shared her experience and success with using the logic model tool and supplied us with educational articles. Patti recommended that TWWI pull together a team of stakeholders (board, staff, community members, and staff from local schools) to go through the planning process. This proved to be a very insightful and accurate way to draw diverse wisdom and knowledge into the plan.

TWWI held two meetings which were facilitated by Patti. It was amazing how much time and thoughtfulness was needed to sort through and agree on our goals, scope, and both short and long term outcomes. This process proved an excellent way to get all of the players aligned from the beginning while creating board member buy-in.

It quickly became clear that logic models are also important to external audiences. A few months later TWWI completed a large funding request for which a logic model was required. It was great to have this step of the grant application already completed!

TWWI launched a successful new after-school program called Girls on the Rise in February of 2008. As we turned our attention to the next after-school program, Girl's Action Project, we decided to use the same strategic approach. Patti had taught us so well that we knew we would be able to proceed with the process/project on our own. The executive director stepped into the facilitator role for the logic model process and led two sessions. TWWI expects to introduce Girl's Action Project in the fall of 2008.

This is an excellent example of how SVP involvement created awareness, knowledge, and new skills. It is also a wonderful example of how the SVP model supports eventual autonomy and independence for nonprofits like TWWI.