



bi-monthly eBlast for followers and supporters of the Food Shed Co-op - September 20, 2021

## 1238 OWNERS AND COUNTING!

Click [HERE](#) or on any *Become an Owner* button!

### Letter from a board member: *How I came to love food co-ops...* By Claire Hodge

When my husband and I moved to Minnesota, we learned about food co-ops for the first time. We first became members of the [Natural Food Co-op](#) (NFC) in Litchfield, while living in rural MN working on a CSA farm. The farm supplied produce to the co-op, and besides the library and bowling alley, it was the place to be! The NFC is a small, grassroots, potluck-loving, farmer driven, community grocery store. The kind of place where “everyone knows your name,” and where you go in the back to help yourself to the bulk bins.



Surprisingly, when we lived in downtown St. Paul and became members of the [Mississippi Market Co-op](#) (affectionately known as ‘the Market’) - our experience wasn’t that different. Much of the produce came from MN growers, we still shopped the bulk bins (though this time they were in the middle of the store), and we got to know a few of the cashiers like Belinda and Andy. We moved almost every year while in St. Paul, but all apartments were

in the same neighborhood, walking distance to the Market. Our friends joked that we were circling the co-op like sharks! If we were visiting a different part of town or happened to be in Minneapolis, we'd shop at neighboring co-ops- [Seward Co-op](#), [Hampden Park Co-op](#), [Wedge Co-op](#).

As my husband and I planned our move 'back home' to McHenry County, one draw was that we'd be able to be members and shoppers of the Food Shed Co-op. We actually narrowed down our housing search to be near the planned Food Shed Co-op corridor. Yes, *we like co-op grocery stores that much!* Now, until we have our co-op, I'm forced to spend my time circling the chain grocers, disappointed by the quality and overwhelmed by the quantity.

So, what is it about food co-ops that I like so much?

- At the top of the long list is the **care for the community** that's inherent in the co-op model. It's palpable: you feel welcomed when you walk in; you feel cared for as you shop the curated products; you see the names and sometimes faces of the local farmers in your area; you feel good 'rounding-up' at the register to help a local social justice organization, etc.
- Next would be reasons related to **supporting the local economy**: through choosing to shop at a local business instead of a chain retailer; appreciating that the store pays its employees a living wage; and in-turn, receiving dividends if the store does well.
- Lastly would be **quality products** over quantity, including more healthy, natural, and organic products, and those with less packaging.

I can't wait for our store to open! [Join as a member today](#) if you want to have love for your grocery store!

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## Community Investment Campaign

We're in the middle of a community investment campaign right now to help raise the money to build our store. Instead of relying solely on outside loans and bank investments at high interest rates, we're counting on our community to get this store 'on' the ground. We're accepting donations, as well, enabling members to purchase preferred shares or invest through loans. We own our land, we've surpassed our target number of member-owners, and now we need one last push to open our doors next fall.

[Join to learn more](#), or email [info@foodshed.coop](mailto:info@foodshed.coop).



## Events

### [CIC Info Sessions](#)

Wednesday, September 22, 2021 at 08:00 PM

Online: Zoom

Want to Connect? Got Questions?

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!](#)

**What:** Food Shed Co-op Community Investment Campaign Info and Q&A

**When:** Starting August 22, 2021 through October 13, 2021

Every Sunday 8:00pm - 8:30pm

Every Wednesday 8:00pm - 8:30pm

**How:** Online via Zoom

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!](#)

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### [New Owner Orientation](#)

Thursday, September 23, 2021 at 07:00 PM

Online: Zoom

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!](#)

The Food Shed Co-op is welcoming new (and old!) owners to these information sessions. These online ZOOM sessions are 60 minutes long. The agenda includes:

1. Brief history of the Food Shed Co-op
2. 7 cooperative principles
3. What does it mean to be the owner of a co-op?
4. CIC: Community Investment Campaign
5. How to get involved!
6. Questions?

Join us for one of our New Owner Orientations!

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!](#)

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Help us spread the word about our community owned grocery store by sharing our posts with your followers on social media. And why not [BECOME AN OWNER](#) now?

### Mission

Our mission is to build a LOCAL food COOPERATIVE promoting a HEALTHY, ETHICAL and RESILIENT COMMUNITY.

### Core Values

- Promote and foster better food choices
- Cultivate and strengthen our local economy
- Inspire and empower community
- Champion environmentally responsible practices

Food Shed Outreach

<http://www.foodshed.coop/>



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