



Rusty --

## What a Spectacular Event!



We had our Groundbreaking Ceremony on July 18, 2023 and it could not have been a more picture perfect day. Our building partner, Gallant Building Solutions, had meticulously prepared the site and was out in full force with over a dozen representatives. After listening to the moving messages of Co-op President, Rusty Foszcz, Mayor Michael Turner, Dr. Clint Gabbard from MCC and Scott Brix, the



crowd was led to our property for the symbolic groundbreaking by the members of the co-op's Board of Directors.

If you were unable to be with us or watch live on Facebook, you can tune in [HERE](#) to see it. As our general manager, Peter Waldmann shared, being surrounded by

hundreds of supporters and witnessing their optimism, it demonstrated that we have the capability and means to open the Food Shed Co-op grocery store in the vision of its owners.

## \$100,000 Match Challenge Results (drum roll please)

In case you missed Scott Brix's comments at our groundbreaking ceremony, he reflected that our community wants the Food Shed Co-op. "Every time we articulate a need, our community rises to the occasion." At our groundbreaking ceremony we announced a challenge. A very generous owner-member pledged to match dollar-for-dollar investments and donations up to \$100,000 within 7 days.



The clock started ticking when our groundbreaking ceremony ended and concluded at midnight on Tuesday.

We are happy to report that we **exceeded the \$100,000 Match Challenge threshold**. We raised just over \$101,000! Whoo Hoo! Thanks again to our amazing community we exceeded the challenge put before us and captured the full amount of match dollars available. In the final hours of the match campaign we had several pledges for **Preferred Shares**, but it was also the sale of **Founders' Bricks**, for our **Founding Owner Brick Garden**, and people buying more **Common Shares** that pushed us over the top. We picked up a brand new owner from Fox River Grove who immediately purchased 2 **Preferred Shares** after buying 2 **Common Shares** to join. What an outcome!.

As of today we are making great progress to close our \$485,000 construction budget gap. After this very successful Match Challenge, we now have \$215,805 to raise by Aug 31. Meeting this deadline keeps construction on target and puts the co-op on a solid financial foundation.

If you are not yet an owner, this is a terrific time to make the decision to become an owner of the Food Shed Co-op. Up until the day we open our doors, you would become a **FOUNDING** owner, but not after. That window is closing soon. Consider joining more than 1785 other community members who invested in co-op **Ownership Shares**. Help us make this dream happen.

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## Community Events

[Summer Drumming at the Farm](#)

[Fleur De Lis Farm](#)

[15705 Marengo Road, Union, IL](#)

**Sunday, August 5 - 6:30pm to 8:30pm**

We will be on hand with Food Shed Co-op information at a community drum circle open to all - no music experience needed. Everyone plays! There will be hand-drums and various small percussion to share. Bring your own if you have any, or, bring your buckets, bells and sticks! All found sound is welcome. The "pass the basket" collection will benefit the Food Shed Co-op. WARNING: There may be dancing, and possibly singing.



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**[Farmers Market at the Dole](#)**  
**[Dole Mansion in Crystal Lake, IL](#)**

**Sunday, August 13 - 10am to 2pm**

We will have our table set up at the Farmers Market at the Dole on August 13 with information to share with visitors. We are always excited to speak with the public about our up-and-coming store, sell cool merchandise and sign up new owners.

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**[Woodstock Farmers Market](#)**

**[Historic Woodstock Square in Woodstock, IL](#)**

**Saturday, August 19 - 8am to 1pm**

The Woodstock Farmer's Market has vendors surrounding the Square on all four sides as well as throughout the park. We will be there sharing information about the co-op. This is a Producers Only Market, meaning everything you purchase is grown or produced directly by the vendor you are purchasing from. We are unable to sign up new owners on the spot, but we can direct visitors to our website to sign up.

Food Shed Outreach

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



Food Shed Co-op · PO Box 1663, Woodstock, IL 60098 · 815.315.1541

info@foodshed.coop · <https://www.foodshed.coop/>

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