



# Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2012

## 2013 ANNUAL MEETING

Owners of the Cook County Whole Foods Co-op are invited to attend the Owners' Annual Meeting on Tuesday, October 29, at North House Folk School. The Co-op will host a social hour at 6:00 p.m. with complimentary appetizers, desserts and beverages. The meeting will follow at 7:00 p.m. This year's meeting will focus on "The Big World Context of Co-ops," How the Expansion Furthered Our Ends" and "Now What?" Come and share your ideas and thoughts on your vision for the future of our Co-op. Please vote for the Board of Directors—there are five excellent candidates running for three seats on the Board. A ballot is included in this report or you can pick one up at the store or at the Annual Meeting.

## BOARD REPORT

By Erik Hahn, Co-op Board President

This year has been one for the record books in so many ways. The Co-op has always grown steadily, with sudden growth spurts, but this year marks one of the most significant spurts to date. The new store is built, and by most accounts it has met or exceeded expectations!

The new store has inspired more shopping, more new owners, more owner loans, more local producers and more employees. August sales were 30.09% over last August, which is ahead of projections. Owners now number nearly 2,000, and these owners, in sums large and small, have leant \$600,000 to their Co-op to help fund the expansion project. Incredible for any community, but all the more so when you consider the size of our town, our county and wider shopping community.

So many hard-working individuals helped to pull off this project, which finished quite close to budget and to the scheduled timeline. The Board had a few extra meetings that went extra long, and new and seasoned volunteers

### Cook County Whole Foods Co-op OWNERS' ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, October 29

at North House Folk School  
The Blue Building

6:00 p.m. Social hour, beverages and light appetizers served

7:00 p.m. Annual Business Meeting

helped move into the temporary store and then again into the new store. But the heavy-lifting award goes to Jennifer Stoltz, who worked not only as our General Manager during the expansion, but also as project manager. She and the rest of the staff put in many extra hours to make the two moves happen so smoothly. They have earned our enduring gratitude many times over.

And as big and beautiful as the new store is, it was built with energy efficiency and our Ends statement in mind. Speaking of Ends, the completion of the expansion project is a good time to stop and pat ourselves on the back, but the end of the project marks the beginning of our next phase of growth. So between now and the annual meeting, I ask you to think about what else might growth look like, if not a bigger store? In other words, "Now what?!" We made pledges and promises to meet the needs of our owners and to further our Ends. How are we doing? In what ways does the new store further our Ends? In what ways can we still strive for more?

***To Jennifer and her staff, to the owners and volunteers, to the rest of the Board: THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU! It was worth the effort!***

## COOK COUNTY WHOLE FOODS CO-OP ENDS

As a result of all the Cook County Whole Foods Co-op does, we will be:

1. A successful, cooperative grocery that is a trusted source of affordable, healthy, local, and sustainable products and services for all;
2. A leader in environmentally sustainable practices;
3. A source of employment that provides meaningful work and fair compensation;
4. A welcoming and friendly gathering place where the community has a sense of belonging;
5. A trusted resource for information on food, health issues and the value of cooperative principles.



A member owned community grocery working to create a healthy and sustainable society

## Board of Directors

**Erik Hahn - President**

387-2802

ehahn123@northlc.com

**Barb LaVigne - Vice President**

387-2137

blavigne@boreal.org

**Alyssa Hedstrom - Secretary**

387-1987

ajhedstrom@boreal.org

**Kathy Bolstad**

387-2165

bolstade@q.com

**Linda Harvey**

370-7995

linda@starbear.org

**Judy Peterson**

387-1322

gjpete@boreal.org

**Nick Vavrichek**

387-3340

yurtboyz@boreal.org

### Let Us Hear From You!

*Do you have questions, comments or suggestions for the Co-op Board of Directors? Give us a call, e-mail, leave a note or come to a board meeting. Board meetings are the fourth Tuesday of each month and owners are always welcome.*

**Cook County  
Whole Foods Co-op**

P.O. Box 813

20 East 1st Street

Grand Marais, MN 55604

218.387.2503

[www.cookcounty.coop](http://www.cookcounty.coop)

## GENERAL MANAGERS REPORT

By Jennifer Stoltz, General Manager

Cook County Whole Foods Co-op had another successful year. We made a profit and gave back to our shoppers and community members in many ways. Sales for the year were \$2,247,067 which was an 8% increase over last year. Sales to owners were a whopping 82%. Thanks for continuing to shop at the Co-op throughout a year of transition. Shoppers enjoyed over \$38,000 in discounts. This was much larger than the discounts from previous years due to our two moving sales. We also contributed over \$4,000 to community events, the Food Shelf and our local growers' fund. Eight different classes on cooking, health and nutrition were offered with over 90 participants attending. Due to the additional expenses related to our building project and the temporary location, there will not be a patronage dividend, but we will continue to give back to our owners and the community throughout the year. As we settle into our new space, we look forward to offering more classes and outreach events. Please come to the Annual Meeting to share your ideas and to take part in shaping the future of our Co-op.

## 2012 FINANCIAL REPORT

Comparative Balance Sheet	FY 2012*	FY 2011
	Jun 30, 2013	Jun 30, 2012
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current Assets	\$717,571	\$534,691
Property/Building/Equip.	\$2,142,819	\$260,006
Other Assets	\$12,584	\$23,918
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$2,872,974</b>	<b>\$818,615</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities	\$283,333	\$241,203
Long Term Liabilities	\$1,979,291	\$125,500
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$2,262,624</b>	<b>\$366,703</b>
Equity		
Member Equity	\$408,790	\$286,135
Capital Reserve Fund	\$38,598	\$36,157
Earnings/Assets/Income	\$162,962	\$129,620
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$610,350</b>	<b>\$451,912</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>\$2,872,974</b>	<b>\$818,615</b>
<b>Comparative Income Statement</b>		
	<b>FY 2012*</b>	<b>FY 2011</b>
Sales	\$2,247,067	\$2,079,700
Less Cost of Goods Sold	-\$1,366,294	-\$1,252,283
<b>NET SALES</b>	<b>\$880,773</b>	<b>\$827,417</b>
Operating Expenses	-\$799,839	-\$668,402
Other Income/Expenses	-\$46,079	-\$130,966
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$34,855</b>	<b>\$28,049</b>

\*Fiscal Year 2012 preliminary data

## EQUITY FACTS

Ownership in the Cook County Whole Foods Co-op is voluntary. Pursuant to our bylaws, you may request a refund of your equity account balance. Refunds will be made within 90 days of a written request if replacement funds are available at that time as determined by the Co-op Board of Directors. If your ownership account expires and you do not request a refund, your account balance will be added to the Co-op's capital fund after two years of inactivity.

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community. I believe in the mission of the Cook County Co-op, and wish to help it continue to prosper and afford positive energy to its members. In addition, I am interested in supporting and enhancing the economic diversity and sustainability of the North Shore. To this regard, I believe that there are facets of our Co-op's continuing success that can be applied to other county endeavors and enterprise.

**Amy Henrikson**

Prior to settling in Grand Marais in 1997, I worked as an environmental educator for non-profit educational institutions in Minnesota, California and Argentina. Immediately after moving to the North Shore, I was hired as the General Manager of the Cook County Whole Foods Co-op, a position I held for eight years. During that time, the Co-op did a major expansion and the Board converted to policy governance. Five years ago, I started bookkeeping at Great Expectations School on a volunteer basis. A year later, I joined the Finance Committee and was later voted



onto the Board of Directors as Treasurer. As the years went by, I became part of the paid staff and I now serve as the Business and Technology Manager for the school. I attend all board meetings as an ex-officio (non-voting) member of the Board. I also continue to serve on the Finance Committee. During the last six years, I have also worked for the North Superior Ski and Run Club as co-Leader of their Youth Cross Country Ski League and worked for Sivertson Gallery as an office administrator.

**Barb LaVigne**

I grew up next to my grandfather's small farm in Plymouth, Minnesota. I graduated with a degree in music from the College of St. Benedict in 1983 and then moved to Grand Marais with my husband, George Wilkes, to work as a captain in his parents' sailboat charter business. Along the way George and I had two gorgeous daughters and gradually converted the sailing business into what is now the Angry Trout Café. My primary roles at the Café are those of bookkeeper, payroll and tax payer, emergency plumber, host, busser and caretaker of the flowers.



**BALLOT FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS - OCTOBER 2013**  
**COOK COUNTY WHOLE FOODS CO-OP**

**VOTE FOR THREE (3) - CANDIDATE PROFILES ON PAGES 3 & 4.**

Erin Bonner-Huggins

Amy Henrikson

Don Grant

Barb LaVigne - *Incumbent*

Paul Harvey

Write in candiate

**Owner Number** \_\_\_\_\_ **Required for valid ballot.** Your owner number is in the first line of your address.

**One ballot per ownership.**

**Ballots must be received by Tuesday, 29 October 2013.**

- 1) Bring your completed ballot to the Co-op.
- 2) Or bring it to the Co-op Annual Meeting, Tuesday, 29 October 2013, at North House Folk School
- 3) Or mail it to: Cook County Whole Foods Co-op, P.O. Box 813, Grand Marais, MN 55604.

**Cook County Whole Foods Co-op**  
**OWNERS' ANNUAL MEETING**  
**Tuesday, October 29**  
**6:00 p.m.**  
 at North House Folk School  
 The Blue Building



P.O. Box 813  
 20 East 1st Street  
 Grand Marais, MN 55604

Standard Rate  
 US Postage  
 PAID  
 Permit No. 2  
 Grand Marais, MN

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**Ballot Enclosed**

*We need your vote for board candidates!  
 Return your ballot to the Co-op by October 29,  
 or bring your ballot to the Annual Meeting.  
 See pages 3 & 4 for board candidate bios.*

**GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION**  
**October 24 - 28**

Sales, raffles, prizes, samples, kids' pumpkin-carving contest, visit with our vendors, the NEW kids' Explorers Club and much more!

Your newsletter is printed on post-consumer recycled paper. 

**2013 COOK COUNTY WHOLE FOODS  
 CO-OP BOARD CANDIDATES**

**Erin Bonner-Huggins**

The Co-op is truly an invaluable asset to our community. It serves many functions, some tangible like providing



our community with healthy foods, others less tangible, like providing our community with a warm and inviting space for meeting neighbors and exchanging ideas. I cannot think of a better organization to dedicate my time, energy and enthusiasm to serving. The Co-op in many ways sits at the intersection of myriad vital and vibrant social and economic systems

that constantly criss-cross all over our lives and our society. The rich history and the promising future of the cooperative movement meet right here in our small town in the space of the Co-op. The values and visions that keep the Co-op growing and evolving are incredibly important to me and I would love to be a part of its continuing story by representing the Co-op's community of owners as a member of the Board of Directors.

**Don Grant**

I am a firm believer in co-op principles, a locally controlled and operated organization with open membership operated for the benefit of the organization's members and the local community. I also believe in sustainable use of local and regional resources where possible, whether they be for food, goods or services. My desire is to assist the Co-op in following these principles in a fiscally responsible manner.



**Paul Harvey**

My wife Linda and I moved to Cook County in 2009 from Des Moines, Iowa, where I attended Drake University. I am retired from the Information Technology industry where I worked for a government contractor. I enjoy nature, art and dabble in southeast Asian cuisine. A former long-distance runner, I remain a "gym rat" to this day. We are surely fortunate to have such a quality food co-op on the North Shore. It is certainly a vantage point in the structure that is our



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