

The SCOOP

First Alternative NATURAL FOODS CO-OP Board of Directors Election Special

June 2021

Look inside for election
information & candidate profiles



From the
Board of
Directors

Tyra Jansson

As we creep toward the summer solstice, I hope you are able to enjoy the longer sunlight hours, breathe some fresh air, and look forward with hope to the rest of 2021.

Despite all of the turmoil and uncertainty of the last year, First Alternative maintained a strong business position in 2020, as evidenced by the Board's decision to declare a patronage dividend for the year! By declaring a dividend, around \$22,000 total will be distributed to Owners (keeping the money in our community), the tax burden on the Co-op is decreased, and the Co-op's cash position will be improved (relative to not declaring a dividend).

What this means for Co-op Owners is that you may be eligible to receive a dividend payment. Patronage dividends are distributed in proportion to the amount an Owner spends at the Co-op throughout the year. The Board selected a minimum payment of \$1.00, so if the portion allocated to an Owner is less than that amount, that Owner will not receive a dividend payment. Stay tuned to future Scoop articles for

information about how and when Owners who will receive a dividend will be notified.

This year's dividend will be available to Owners in the form of a store credit at the register, with the option to donate the dividend amount to a local organization that serves our community. Owners will vote to select the organization that will receive that donation on the ballot of the upcoming Board election. The organizations that will be options on the ballot include the South Corvallis Food Bank, SafePlace, Room at the Inn, and the Men's Shelter. If you would like to find out more about any of the options (or if you would like to donate more or volunteer with them), they all have websites you can visit.

The Board continues to closely monitor progress on the recovery from January's fire at the South Store's annex and the temporary Commissary arrangements. While we are still waiting on restoration bids and final determinations from the insurance company, Co-op management have been hard at work looking into what is needed in the rebuild to best serve the community, including the staff, for years to come. The annex contains the Commissary, offices,

staff break room, and the receiving area, so there are a variety of considerations to take into account. While nothing is settled yet, the amount and range of scenarios that management is considering has me confident that there will be well thought-out options ready to decide on once the insurance and bidding processes reach that point.

In the months since the fire occurred, I've occasionally thought of what Mr. Rogers' mother told him when things grew sad or frightening: "Always look for people who are helping. You'll always find someone who is trying to help. If you look for the helpers, you'll know that there's hope." We are beyond lucky to be part of a supportive community that has generously stepped up and helped out as the Co-op navigates the recovery. Just two examples of our wonderful community supporting First Alternative are the Chamber of Commerce, which set up a GoFundMe to help offset payroll costs, and the owner of Big River, who agreed to a short-term lease for the Co-op to use their space in downtown Corvallis as a temporary Commissary and has been helping Co-op staff set up the space for their use. There really are some wonderful people in the world.

Along with those examples, I would also like to thank all of you who have continued to shop and work at the Co-op, sharing your kind words and smiling eyes with each other, and doing your part to keep each other safe and supported. I hope you will all continue to take care of each other in whatever ways you can, demonstrating to each other that cooperative spirit at the heart of First Alternative. 🌱

June Board Committee Meetings

All Co-op Board of Director's committee meetings are currently taking place on Zoom. Owners interested in virtually attending one of these meeting should contact BREC@firstalt.coop for details.

Board Recruitment & Elections

Committee: Working to recruit qualified Board candidates.

Tuesday, June 8, 6 pm

Finance Committee:

Reviews, analyzes, and makes recommendations on financial matters.

Wednesday, June 9, 4:30 pm

Owner Relations Committee:

The primary conduit for communications and relations between Owners and Board.

Wednesday, June 9, 6 pm

First Alternative Board

of Directors: Elected Owners putting the cooperative principles into action.

Tuesday, June 22, 6pm



Thanks for wearing your mask!

BOARD ELECTION VOTING PROCEDURES

Please read completely before completing your ballot

A full First Alternative Board of Directors is composed of ten directors elected to three-year terms, with either 3 (three) or 4 (four) positions coming up for election each year. One-year or two-year positions are sometimes open due to resignations, or because all positions were not filled in a previous year. This year, there are 4 (four) three-year positions open on the Board.

Owners may vote for up to, but not more than 4 (four) candidates. This total of 4 (four) includes votes for write-in candidates as well. Ballots with votes for more than 4 (four) candidates will be declared invalid.

The 4 (four) candidates receiving the 4 (four) highest vote totals will fill the 4 (four) three-year positions. Candidates must receive a minimum of twenty votes to be elected.

Owners will be able to cast votes at any time up to and including June 21. Voting will close at the store close on that day. Each Owner is entitled to cast one ballot and one ballot only with their individual Owner number. Household members may be listed under an Owner number, but only one person is the Owner for the purposes of voting. This means that each Owner number may be used only once in voting and it must be used by the Owner of record. This complies with the First Alternative bylaw requirement that each share purchased entitles the Owner to one vote. Contact Customer Service if you are unsure which family member is the Owner of record.

You will receive an email on June 1 which will enable you to access your electronic ballot unless you have opted to receive a paper ballot in the mail. You can request to have a paper ballot mailed to you in the future by filling out an "Update Contact Info" form at any register. Extra ballots and envelopes can be obtained from Customer Service in both stores. A plain envelope may be substituted for the preprinted envelope.

Must have on envelope (not on ballot):

- ✓ **Your Owner number**
- ✓ **Your name, printed clearly**
- ✓ **Your signature**

This information is used to verify your Owner status. If this cannot be verified, your ballot will not be counted. Do not put any of this information on your ballot! Envelopes will be separated from ballots after Owner status is verified.

There will be ballot boxes in both stores where marked ballots may be deposited. Alternatively, you may mail your ballot to:

Election Committee
PO Box #574
311 SW 2nd St.
Corvallis, OR 97333

In order to be counted, ballots must be received by store close on June 21. Totals from electronic and paper ballots will be combined to determine the election winners. Election results will be posted in both stores and in the July issue of the Scoop.

A Special Message From the Board of Directors

First Alternative is controlled by you, the Owner. First Alternative Owners are consumers who give input and make decisions about the store, its philosophy, products, and services. One way you can influence decision-making is to elect Board candidates who support your ideas.

The Board Recruitment and Election Committee prepared this Election Special especially for you. This committee endorses, as nominees, interested Owners who have the experience and skills needed to guide our thriving local business.

The First Alternative Board of Directors is responsible for directing the Co-op's affairs.

As representatives of the Owners, the Board:

1. establishes overall policies and objectives
2. sets financial goals and approves major financial transactions
3. selects the General Manager and evaluates their performance
4. reviews and approves budgets
5. guides the long-term vision of the Co-op through its Ends statements.

Presented on the following pages are candidates nominated by the Board Recruitment and Election Committee to run for open Board positions beginning in July. Please read the candidate information carefully before exercising your right as an Owner to elect new Board members.

Please cast your ballots online or in the store before store closing on June 21st.

The current First Alternative Board of Directors appreciates your participation in this election.

For information on electronic and paper voting, see "Board Election Voting Procedures."

**Owners,
be sure to cast
your ballots by
store close on
June 21st!**

**North Store hours:
8am - 9pm**

**South Store hours:
8am - 8pm**





Board endorsed

Frank Eugene Hall

CANDIDATE STATEMENT

My wife and I have been members of First Alternative since 1979. I lived in cooperative houses through college and graduate school, and was business manager for a 75-person one. I am now a writer and moving away from business consulting, so I am looking to contribute more to the local community, and would like to help sustain and strengthen cooperative culture in Corvallis. I believe I can contribute to a sustainable future by serving on this board, and will be helped by my prior experience on the boards of the Corvallis Waldorf School, the Corvallis Folklore Society, and the Whiteside Theatre Foundation.

Education and Certification

- M.S. in Management of Science & Technology: Oregon Health & Sciences University
- M.S. in Cultural Anthropology: University of Texas at Austin
- B.S. in Math: Florida State University

Present Occupation: writer

Business Experience:

- Willamette Innovators Network, Corvallis; board, 2013-present
- EntreDigm Consulting, Corvallis; president, 1998-2019
- InsightsNow, Corvallis; founding board member, 2003-2013
- Software Association of Oregon, Corvallis chapter; program committee, president, board, 1998-2008
- Infinity Softworks, Portland; vice president of business development, board, 1999-2006
- CAMO ASA (a software firm), Oslo, Norway; board, 1999-2001
- Hewlett-Packard, Corvallis, Research & Development software engineer/project manager, 1979-1998
- Business manager of a 75-person housing cooperative in Austin, Texas, 1972-1973

Community Involvement:

- Poetics Corvallis' First-Friday open mics; co-organizer, 2014-present
- Whiteside Theatre Foundation; board, finance committee, 2018-2021
- Corvallis Folklore Society; membership, board, 1984-2017
- Corvallis Waldorf School; board, 2001-2002
- First Congregational United Church of Christ, Corvallis; trustee, 1995-1998
- Oregon Folklife Festival; organizing committee, 1989-1991

CANDIDATE INTERVIEW

Why do you think Owners should select you to represent them on the Board? I am an Owner of the Co-op, like them, and have been so for most of my life. Like them, I want the Co-op to thrive and persist. In 1998, I started a consulting company to help launch or strengthen technology startups. This has given me direct experience with quite a variety of business situations, as has serving on a variety of entrepreneurial boards. I was pleased when I attended a Co-op Board meeting to see their focus on governance by setting policy, and not undermining or interfering with management. This is key in retaining and empowering excellent management that allows the Co-op to thrive for the benefit of the Owners and the greater community.

What opportunities and challenges do you see ahead for the Co-op? The pandemic presents opportunities to reinvent for greater resilience, but also presents significant ongoing and unpredictable challenges. Another opportunity/challenge is dealing with the fire in the South Store's auxiliary building. How can we build back better? And what does that mean, given the continued unpredictability of this pandemic that can make any prior long-term plan suddenly open to question?

What is the role of First Alternative Cooperative in the community? As a member-based cooperative outside of corporate capitalism, its main contribution is to provide sustainable, wholesome food and household products that for-profit firms are unlikely or less likely to provide. But it serves more broadly as a public example of people power, the ability for people to cooperate in meeting their collective needs. This builds a community of people, who you meet in the aisles or behind the counter, who are more likely to join you in other collective pursuits, whether it be something fun like a kinetic sculpture, or vital like sewing and distributing masks early in the pandemic.

What long-term goals do you envision for First Alternative? To be resilient toward the economic environment, and supportive toward its Owner community.



Incumbent

Demian Hommel

CANDIDATE STATEMENT

I feel like there are a number of very important decisions that will be made in the next few years that will play a major role in the organization’s direction. I’m trained to examine and try and simplify complex systems, to communicate with people using different frameworks, mechanisms, and strategies, and to understand and attempt to adapt to change. And, I have the benefit of three years of experience on the board, so I feel like I generally understand what’s going on.

Education and Certification

- PhD, Geography; University of Oregon
- M.A, Geography; University of Oregon
- BS, Environmental Science; University of Oregon.

Present Occupation

Senior Instructor II, College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences; Oregon State University.

Business Experience

- First Alternative Board, 2019-2021

Community Involvement

- First Alternative Board , 2019-2020
- A decade of service to the university community.

CANDIDATE INTERVIEW

Why do you think Owners should select you to represent them on the Board? Primarily, there is a sometimes overwhelming amount of process the Board must learn and follow in order to effectively perform policy governance and, after three years of serving on the Board, I understand how to be an effective Board member.

What opportunities and challenges do you see ahead for the Co-op? If this last year has taught us anything, it’s that uncertainty is the rule. This is a significant challenge to an organization and business that thrives when there are relative knowns. It’s not just the known unknowns that we should be worried about (how to adjust to consumer preferences, supply and demand changes, social, environmental, and economic dynamics), but it’s the unknown unknowns, such as the pandemic, that should keep us up at night.

With the urban renewal process underway, plans to rebuild the annex and Commissary after the recent fire, and long-term challenges of access, this is a key opportunity and challenge this next board of directors will have to make decisions about.

What is the role of First Alternative Cooperative in the community? Consider a draft of our “Ends” Statement, which asserts that our Co-op should be: “A reliable source of healthy food and other products; (a) Sustainable cooperative commerce which strengthens the local economy; A welcoming atmosphere for everyone; (and) A model for environmental stewardship and ethical and socially responsible business.” Imagine if more of our economy was geared toward those kinds of goals? And, importantly, the cooperative model means that we all have ways to participate in this process.

What long-term goals do you envision for First Alternative? I feel that the Co-op needs to be more flexible and adaptive, simply because we’re likely to experience more uncertainty in the future. Whether it’s climatic variability, instability in food prices or distribution networks, the changing epidemiological landscape, or any number of other challenges (known or unknown), I believe that, as a community, we’re going to need to develop more responsive decision-making frameworks, given that we don’t know what the world’s going to be like next week. I think this is priority number one.



Incumbent

**Tyra
Jansson**

CANDIDATE STATEMENT

I am lucky enough to have been visiting First Alternative since before I was born (while my mom shopped) and have grown up valuing the variety of local and healthy foods the Co-op offers. I have been honored to serve on the Co-op Board since 2018, including on the Board's Strategic Planning Committee. I value the positive impacts the Co-op has in our community, not only providing quality food to the community, but also supporting farmers and strengthening the local economy. I would welcome the opportunity to continue supporting the Co-op to sustain the good work it already does and to help it grow to meet the opportunities and challenges of our changing community.

Education and Certification

- Master of Public Health in Management and Policy: Oregon State University
- BA in English, German minor: University of Oregon

Present Occupation

Program coordinator for Linn, Benton, and Lincoln County health departments and InterCommunity Health Network Coordinated Care Organization (IHN-CCO).

Business Experience

- Project management and strategic planning (Linn, Benton, and Lincoln County health departments)
- Community engagement and group facilitation (Linn, Benton, and Lincoln County health departments and IHN-CCO)
- Retail/sales experience, (sporting goods stores)
- Managed daily operations for City of Eugene Recreation aquatics facilities

Community Involvement

- Community Advisory Council for InterCommunity Health Network Coordinated Care Organization, Chair
- First Alternative Co-op Board, Strategic Planning Committee

CANDIDATE INTERVIEW

Why do you think Owners should select you to represent them on the Board? I enjoy—and am good at—actively listening to and synthesizing a wide variety of perspectives and information, and incorporating what I learn while setting goals and developing plans to meet those goals. I would like to contribute my skills in strategic planning and community engagement to help support and guide the Co-op to even better serve the community and work to get closer to achieving First Alternative's mission.

What opportunities and challenges do you see ahead for the Co-op? Our community is growing and there are going to be changes in how business is done as we move through and past the pandemic and the fire at the South Store. These challenges are opportunities for First Alternative to listen and figure out how to best meet the needs of Owners and the community as we navigate this unknown territory together.

What is the role of First Alternative Cooperative in the community? Aside from being a reliable source of healthy food for the community, First Alternative helps support local farmers and businesses, connects the community to its local food system, and provides a successful model of a cooperative business.

What long-term goals do you envision for First Alternative? After First Alternative survives the shorter term upheaval caused by the current pandemic, I would like for the Co-op to become more accessible to, and a resource for, more of our community, whatever the current barriers may be.



Board endorsed



Grant Livingston

CANDIDATE STATEMENT

Hello Co-op! My name is Grant Livingston, and I value the Co-op because when I walk into the store, I feel a sense of peace and comfort knowing that the so much thought has gone into every portion of the experience: from the ethical and responsible selection of high quality products, to the pleasant interactions with the employees, and to the friendly smiles from just about everyone. The Co-op is my favorite grocery store because of its excellent shopping experience. As a Board of Directors member, I will follow in the footsteps of those who came before me to enable future owners and shoppers to have a similar relationship with the Co-op store and community. With my experience working for the City of Corvallis and my strong community and environmental ethic, I look forward to continuing to accomplish the Co-op’s mission of balancing human needs, financial necessity, and daily realities.

Education and Certification

- M.S., Water Resources Engineering – Oregon State University, June 2015
- Certificate of Communication – Foothill College, Los Altos Hills, CA, June 2012
- B.S., Chemistry – University of California, Santa Cruz, June 2011

Present Occupation

Civil Engineer I, City of Corvallis Public Works, June 2015 - Present

Business Experience

- Customer service as a City Employee
- Residential rental property owner/manager

Community Involvement

- Member of Sunrise Corner Community Garden and Willamette Park Community Garden
- Community outreach and collaboration for my master’s thesis work in urban storm-water treatment.

CANDIDATE INTERVIEW

Why do you think Owners should select you to represent them on the Board? I am a motivated and goal-oriented individual and my personal values resonate with the Co-op’s mission statement: “We act ethically and responsibly. We care for our community. We provide high quality products, goods, and services to our customers. We balance human needs, financial necessity, and daily realities.”

In my work as a City of Corvallis employee, I have a proven dedication to public service. This job has taught me how to be patient, listen, and respond effectively to public input. I will be equally dedicated to the Co-op owners and other Board members. I am excited about becoming involved in a community that functions with respectful communication, makes decisions democratically, and follows structured processes to achieve its goals. As a representative of the Co-op Owners, I look forward to contributing to a Board that makes decisions grounded in sustainability, environmental ethics, and fiscal responsibility.

What opportunities and challenges do you see ahead for the Co-op? The Co-op is well positioned to continue to provide high quality goods and services to our community, which has an ever-growing interest in local, organic, and ethical choices. There are an increasing number of small farms and local businesses in the Willamette Valley and the Co-op is a logical place for them to offer their goods because of the Co-op’s demonstrated success in selling such products.

Among the challenges that the Co-op will continue to face are: attracting new shoppers to their stores, competing with the many other grocery stores, maintaining fiscal responsibility, and maintaining existing facility infrastructure.

What is the role of First Alternative Cooperative in the community? The role of the Co-op is to fulfill its mission statement. In addition to this, I see the Co-op’s role as an alternative to conventional grocery stores in that it can lead by example and educate the public on effects related to their purchasing choices.

What long-term goals do you envision for First Alternative? I like the way the Co-op operates now, and I want to work to maintain that same course into the future. The long-term goals I envision for the Co-op are: increasing public awareness about product selection, increasing the number of owners who shop regularly at the Co-op, and encouraging more local businesses to offer their products at its stores.



Incumbent

**Rob
May**

CANDIDATE STATEMENT

My initial term on the First Alternative Board was certainly an eventful one! Throughout all the extraordinary events and challenges we faced our staff and Owners responded with care for everyone and a constant focus on helping others. The Co-op is truly a special organization, a tremendous asset that I am proud to have been a member/Owner of over 30 years. The strong partnership the Board and management have formed around cooperative governance has us well-positioned both financially and operationally to make our next 50 years even more beneficial to all in our community through quality nutrition, innovative alliances and social connection. I am looking forward to continuing to help support our ongoing journey by serving a second term on the Board!

Education and Certification:

- B.S. Computer Science, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology
- Certified Bicycle Technician, United Bicycle Institute

Present Occupation:

Technology/Management Consultant

Business Experience:

- Director of Engineering, Senior Software Engineer; Hewlett-Packard
- Chief Technology Officer and Innovation Fellow; Mary's Woods at Marylhurst
- Co-President, Director of Technical Services; Oregon Digital Computer Products
- Enterprise Technology/Management Consultant, Namahs Consulting LLC

Community Involvement:

- First Alternative Board of Directors: Treasurer, Vice-President, Chair of Finance Committee
- Encore.org Fellowship at Mary's Woods
- Partner, Social Venture Partners Portland

CANDIDATE INTERVIEW

Why do you think Owners should select you to represent them on the Board? I joined the Board in 2018, coming from a background of operational management and strategic development for businesses large and small. I am currently the Board Treasurer and chair of the Board's Finance Committee. I also served a year as Board Vice-President. The events of the past year have highlighted the critical governance and financial stewardship responsibilities required of the Board. We have faced unprecedented disruptions at all levels of the business due to the pandemic, wildfires, the annex fire at the South store and more. I'm proud to have contributed to the success we've had in navigating these challenges. We have learned valuable lessons in the process. I'm excited to use the strong foundation we have built between Board and staff to continue our path of sustainable growth.

What opportunities and challenges do you see ahead for the Co-op? The most immediate challenges we face are continuing to manage the impacts of COVID, and rebuilding the commissary (annex) after the January fire. Both have put significant pressure on our operating income and margin over the past months. We have mitigation plans in place and they are working to date, but the unknowns in such situations mean we must continue to be vigilant and ready to react quickly. In the longer term, the physical situation of both stores present challenges that must be addressed to enable our continued success. At the North store, peak-hour parking and interior space constraints are issues I would like to see us focus on soon.

The South store is an aging building and infrastructure in clear need of updating. We also must deal with the traffic and access issues surrounding 99W. Fortunately we have great opportunities for action there: to work with ODOT and others to shape future traffic plans; to rebuild the annex/Commissary to modern standards with an eye towards making it a "Phase 1" core of an expanded future store; and to link into other Southtown development efforts and funding through the new Urban Renewal District to increase our service to South Corvallis.

What is the role of First Alternative Cooperative in the community? I see the Co-op serving the community in a "hub and spoke" model. At the hub is our core focus on nutrition and health by providing local, high-quality and organic foods to all. The spokes are our outreach, partnerships, and commitments to the community: helping the local economy thrive through living wage jobs and strong supplier relationships; supporting local charitable and community organizations via donations and volunteer work; championing environmental responsibility and sustainability; etc. We should take advantage of all future opportunities to add new and innovative spokes to our wheel that make both us and our community stronger.

What long-term goals do you envision for First Alternative? Last year was our 50th anniversary - quite a milestone for a co-operative grocery! Our goal now is to build the foundation for our 100th, to be a "Century Co-op," like the wonderful Century Farms in our valley. Expanding on the hub-and-spoke model, I would like to see additional outreach to bring our expertise in nutrition to diverse and potentially under-served groups such as elders and preschool children in locations beyond our existing stores. We can accomplish this through dynamic partnerships with local health, service and social organizations. We must continue to expand our message and mission to more areas in order to serve and benefit all in our community.



Board endorsed

**Emily
Stimac**

Education and Certification

- Oregon State University, BA Photography, 2006
- Linn-Benton Community College, AAS Graphic Art, 1999

Present Occupation

- The Thyme Garden, Manager, 2014-Present

Business Experience

- First Alternative Co-op, Marketing Coordinator, 2006-2014
- American Dream Pizza, Manager, 2003-2005
- The Beanery, Manager, 1998-2003

Community Involvement

- Oregon Battle of the Books, Philomath Elementary Coach, 2020-2021
- Mid-Willamette Valley Food Trail Steering Committee, 2019-2021
- Peak to Pacific Scenic Byway Steering Committee, 2019
- Corvallis Sustainability Coalition Food Action Team Leader, 2008-2014
- Corvallis City Council, Ward 6, 2005-2006

CANDIDATE STATEMENT

I would be honored to serve as a Board member for the First Alternative Co-op. I pledge to keep the interests of the Owners in mind through the decision making process. I will listen to all sides of an issue and weigh information carefully as we uphold and create the policy that will guide the store through current times and into a bright future. My experience on the Corvallis City Council, Corvallis Sustainability Coalition, and as a former Co-op staff member makes me a great candidate for this position. Thank you for your support!

CANDIDATE INTERVIEW

Why do you think Owners should select you to represent them on the Board? My experience on the Corvallis City Council, Corvallis Sustainability Coalition Food Action Team, and as a former Co-op staff member makes me a great candidate for this position. I believe in the cooperative model and the local food system, and look forward to serving our store in this way.

What opportunities and challenges do you see ahead for the Co-op? The Co-op has done a great job of rolling with the times for the last 50 years, through the changing landscape of culture and community. The growth of the organic food industry and the local food movement has kept the Co-op stores strong through the decades. I think continuing to be true to the Co-op's Guiding Principles and the idea that a grocery can be more than a store is an enduring objective to uphold. Reaching out to those folks who have recently moved here is a great opportunity to grow the shopper and Owner base. Rebuilding the commissary appears to be the most immediate, tangible challenge. Minimizing our impact on the environment and the effects of climate change are the big picture challenges I see for everyone's future. The Co-op is an excellent medium for inspiring sustainable action on a local level.

What is the role of First Alternative Cooperative in the community? First Alternative has shaped Corvallis in a wonderful way. It provides an outlet for organic farmers and local food producers, invests in and supports organizations such as the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition, is a reliable place to shop for quality groceries and an excellent employer. Corvallis would not be the exceptional place it is to live without the Co-op. The community involvement that has been one of the important values of the store has helped countless individuals and organizations. By making purchasing decisions that support sustainable food and lifestyles we are making our community a stronger and healthier place to live.

What long-term goals do you envision for First Alternative? I envision First Alternative continuing to work on supporting the local, organic food system and sustainable living while expanding food security for people of all walks of life. The years ahead may prove to be very challenging for our growers and the food supply at large. I believe providing access to healthy food for our community is ultimately the most important long term goal the Co-op can have, with an eye on emergency preparedness, affordability and inclusion.