

GENERAL MANAGER UPDATE



Local Matters

Foods gains prominence in the national news cycle; and whenever this happens, confusion arises about our history, our stores, and our motivations as a business. Whole Foods Co-op is markedly different than the other Whole Foods (Market) owned by Amazon. We're a different business, with a different ownership model, and different objectives. We're independent, cooperatively owned, and driven to maximize positive impact in our community. While I've shared some of these details in past issues of the Garbanzo Gazette, it seems timely to share them again. Whole Foods Co-op is local in a way that Whole Foods Market can't ever be.

very now and again, Whole

we purchase directly from over I70 independent growers, producers, and vendors. At Whole Foods Co-op, local transcends product offerings.

Whole Foods Co-op is of our community. Today we are cooperatively owned by over I4,000 of you. Each Owner is literally invested in our grocery stores, in our business, and in our collective success. Owners

When I say local, I mean much more

than the wide array of local products

have a say in our business objectives and direction by electing the Board of Directors who set high level policy for our business operations. The board also articulates what long-term success looks like for our Co-op and the impact we have as we serve our community.

Whole Foods Co-op is by our community. Our cooperative is what it is today due to the hard work of an intertwined network of individuals and businesses. The purchases you make support wages and benefits for our

talented and dedicated staff. During

the last fiscal year, almost 36% of the

inventory we purchased to offer on

our shelves came from independent

Minnesota and Wisconsin businesses.
We also rely on countless local service providers to keep our operations humming.

Whole Foods Co-op is for our community. We support local agencies working to address hunger and poverty in our neighborhoods, to support youth and environmental programming, and to grow and expand the capacity of local

farmers. Every day we're also working to

ensure that shopping at and participating

as an Owner of our Co-op is accessible

whole community.

You'll see examples of our commitment to local matters in the pages ahead.

Look for the invitation to join the Board of Directors and help shape our cooperative future. Sink into the stories behind Positively 3rd Street Bakery and Y-ker Acres. Meet the latest recipients of Grow Local Food Fund grants. See the many ways early Co-op Owner Arno Kahn's work has intersected with the cooperative economy in our region. Learn about Eco3's Urban Farm and its

partnership with Duluth Farm to School to bring hands-on experience to public school students.

I'm proud to say we aren't Whole Foods Market, and we won't ever be.

Whole Foods Co-op is where local truly matters. Thank you for joining us!

In cooperation,
Sarah Hannigan, General Manager
gm@wholefoods.coop



Run for the Board

attend a class, and round up at the register, do you wonder if there is something more you can contribute as an Owner? Are you curious about what it takes to make a grocery cooperative successful? If you ask yourself these questions, and more, I encourage you to consider

hen you walk around

Whole Foods Co-op,

and more, I encourage you to consider running for an open position on Whole Food Co-op's Board of Directors and being a part of something bigger—together, we grow!

I immediately became an Owner of the

Co-op upon moving to Duluth because I love Whole Foods Co-op's connection to the local food system and the strong connection to the Duluth community. I also loved living within walking distance of the Hillside store. I was encouraged to join the board after a current board member reached out and gave me the inside scoop on how board service works; it is a great way as an Owner to be directly involved in something we all love.

Being involved with the board empowers me to forge new connections within this

you are looking for, I highly encourage you to explore the opportunity to join the board.

As a policy board, we prioritize listening to Co-op Owners, employees, and community members when making decisions and discussing potential change. When you serve on the board, you help

passionate community. If this is what

future; one that keeps dollars circulating locally and prioritizes the well-being of our Owners and local producers.

What does board service look like?

Maintaining a thriving co-op requires a collaborative board. If the image of a large conference room and people sitting around in suits dances through your

to create a more just and sustainable

mind, our board will surprise you! We are a passionate group of community-minded individuals who love to talk, laugh and connect over our vision for the Co-op. We share learnings obtained through online training, national conferences, and other cooperatives outside of Duluth. We also gather for spring and fall retreats to keep us aligned with achieving the ENDS, the Co-op's overarching mission.

Three board positions will open this year with our election taking place this fall. If you'd like to learn more about running for a seat on Whole Foods Co-op's

wholefoods.coop/board. You'll find additional information on eligibility (including attending at least one board meeting!), board service, and application materials.

Applications due July 31, 2025

Board of Directors, please go to



LEARN MORE & APPLY



Growing our Local Food System

CELEBRATING FIVE YEARS OF CO-OP SHOPPERS' SUPPORT

started the Grow Local Food Fund (GLFF) in 2021 to increase the supply of local, sustainable, and organic food by supporting projects that strengthen the local farming and food producer community. Since it began, GLFF has been wholly funded by shopper round-up donations through Whole Foods Co-op's GIVE! program.

hole Foods Co-op

Each year, local growers and food producers apply for grants of up to \$7,000 to support a project that will invest in food production in the years to come. Applications are reviewed by a volunteer committee of people connected to the Co-op, local food system, or both. To date, 35 recipients have been awarded

\$217,746 for projects that scale local

food production, contribute to long-

promote environmental sustainability. The map below shows the locations of all Grow Local Food Fund grant recipients.

term investments in their businesses, and



LEARN MORE >>>





Grant Recipients

The Grow Local Food Fund Committee has selected the following growers and food producers to receive GLFF grants. Congratulations to this year's recipients! Stay tuned to learn more about them and their projects in upcoming issues of the Garbanzo Gazette.



Producers Cooperative
Established Food Producer
Washburn, WI



Emerging Food Producer
Poplar, WI



Emerging Food Producer

Brule, WI



Established Food Producer
Sawyer, MN



Shalomba Farm
Emerging Grower

Value Nebagamon, WI





Turner Road Farm
Established Food Producer

Bayfield, WI



Round up at the registers in April, May, and June to support these three Community Support Program recipients.

During April and May, GIVE! donations will be split 50/50 between the nonprofit and the Grow Local Food Fund.



APRIL First Witness Child Advocacy **Center**

Funds will support general operating expenses to provide critical support, victim advocacy, medical care, and mental health care for children and families impacted by child abuse.



Community Action Duluth Seeds

of Success Program Funds will support the Power of Produce

(POP) program that provides free produce for kids and people over 60 at Community Action's Mobile Market, and their Lincoln Park and Hillside Farmers Markets.



Whole Foods Co-op Access Discount Program

Funds will help reduce cost barriers by giving Co-op Owners enrolled in food

assistance programs a 10% discount on purchases.

Eco3 Urban Farm and Duluth Farm to School

OF COMMUNITY GARDEN PROGRAMS

hs the ground begins to

thaw, many of us are pulling

THE POSITIVE IMPACT

out our gardening gloves, including those behind area nonprofits who are working to connect community members to the land. Whole Foods Co-op is proud to support several initiatives that are helping to bring people of all ages to area gardens, which are building access, important skills, as well as community, around fresh food. Two of these organizations include Eco3 Urban Farm and Duluth Farm to School.

acres of high tunnels, perennial fruit

and flower gardens, raised beds, and developed fields. Eco3 Urban Farm is part of Ecolibrium3's food access initiative that creates opportunities for residents, students, growers, and food entrepreneurs.

The urban farm not only produces fresh food, but has become a community hub, hosting classes, field trips, and

Located above Lake Superior College,

Eco3 Urban Farm boasts two

other educational events. The high tunnels are filled with seedlings that will be distributed to community gardens and partner organizations throughout Duluth. It also provides volunteer opportunities for individuals to participate in hands-on gardening. And, perhaps most importantly, the site fosters community building and intergenerational social connections through gardening.



three Cs: Cafeterias, Classrooms, and Community Collaborations. This

food-growing process.

Photos courtesy of Ecoibrium3.

Duluth Farm to School

Duluth Farm to School began in

2012 and has expanded to include

multiple gardens hosted at schools

throughout Duluth. The primary goal is

to encourage youth to eat more fruits

and vegetables by engaging them in the

Duluth Farm to School embodies the

approach teaches children about health,

nutrition, agriculture, and food access.

The knowledge gained through the Farm to School program empowers students and their families to make positive nutritional choices and emphasizes the importance of working with local farmers and food producers.

Duluth Farm to School was selected by Whole Foods Co-op Owners as one of our 2025 GIVE! Community Support

Program recipients. This past February,

given directly to Duluth Farm to School

shoppers raised \$5,067, which was

to repair their school garden beds and provide other gardening lessons and activities.



projects for school-aged children, including a 7th grade farm field trip, where Lincoln Park Middle School students investigate the science of farming and learn about food access initiatives in our community.

These programs are helping to not only cultivate gardens but also stronger, more connected communities. By providing

access to fresh food, education, and

shaping a more sustainable future for the

opportunities for growth, they are

communities they serve. 🗪



Celebrates 55 Years This year Whole Foods Co-op marks 55

years of being community owned and led, making positive impacts on local farmers, shoppers and the communities we serve. In celebration, we'll be releasing a series of profiles of just a few of the many

people across our history who've helped shape Whole Foods Co-op into what it is today.

Foods Co-o A LEGACY OF **COMMUNITY AND GROWTH**

rno Kahn's path to Whole Foods Co-op was by way of a party in New York City.

By Jenna Kowaleski, Marketing Manager

"There was a couple at a party

Whole

in Harlem," Kahn said. "I mentioned to them that I had a Number Two Duluth Pack. We struck up a conversation and the next time I was in Duluth, I visited them. They lived in the Chester Creek House, which was a very large house, and I ended up moving in!" That house in Chester Creek also happened to be the home of the Food Buying Club, which was to become Whole Foods Co-op.

The Early Days As a part of the small food buying club that operated out of a shared cooperative home in Duluth's Chester Creek neighborhood, members of the

access to healthier, more affordable

food options. In these early days, these

folks also took on roles in procurement,

buying club such as Kahn joined together

to purchase bulk goods at lower prices, seeking to provide the community with

distribution, and clerking, ensuring that the organization functioned efficiently despite having no paid employees. Kahn learned about the business of groceries through these early days at the Chester Creek house. He had previous exposure to starting co-ops through a project he did as a student in Brooklyn organizing a co-op garage. And, as the buying club became a co-op, and other co-ops began to pop up across the region, Kahn identified a need in the local food system. "When I first moved to Duluth, there weren't many local food

vendors," Kahn explained.

To help with procurement and

distribution, he started the Common

Health Warehouse. The warehouse

hub, allowing smaller co-ops to access

served as a vital food distribution

affordable, high-quality products. "We built the warehouse because there was a real need for centralized distribution," Kahn recalls. "It was an exciting time, seeing co-ops across the region come together and grow through this shared resource." The Common Health Warehouse helped strengthen the regional food economy and solidify a reliable supply chain for co-ops across the Northland.



Building a Sustainable Future The first Whole Food Co-op locations were modest, including a space on 8th

of the Co-op's current building on 4th Street and 6th Avenue East in 2005. The project, which involved renovating an existing structure, emphasized

sustainability and energy efficiency. While

the original architectural plans included

systems, practical compromises had

firm, Builders Commonwealth, a

to be made to balance cost with long-

worker-owned cooperative, was the

general contractor on the project. The

term energy savings. Kahn's contracting

expensive, high-performance mechanical

Street and later in the building that now

demand outpaced these smaller spaces,

leading to the purchase and renovation

houses Burrito Union. Eventually, the

architectural work was performed by LHB Architects. "This was a fun process," said Kahn. "We had to weigh cost versus benefit—what was worth the investment and what could be adjusted to keep the project financially feasible." Strategic insulation and ventilation choices allowed the Co-op to maximize energy efficiency while maintaining affordability. The building became the first LEED-

certified co-op structure in the country,

setting a precedent for future projects. **A Lasting Impact** In the years since, Ownership has grown exponentially. "When the Co-op moved to its current Hillside building 20 years ago, Ownership was around 2,500," Kahn shared. "Now, it's over 14,000. That kind of steady growth is incredible." The Co-op's ongoing success across the Hillside location and a second location in Denfeld that opened in 2016, is due to the engaged community around it, made up of people like Arno Kahn who have invested their time and energy into building this Co-op from the ground up. From early days of ideation and implementing regional distribution, to the remodel of the current Hillside location, and ongoing maintenance of the current building, the Co-op thrives because of engaged Owners like Kahn.

can shop, gather, and support their values through the food they buy." My favorite memory of Whole Foods Co-op is... "When I moved here in 2010, I was feeling pretty isolated... I came to the Hillside Co-op and as I walked the aisles, people

were happy and smiling and

my foundation for my new

Kris E.

- Mickey P.

friendly and I knew I had found

home. I was almost in tears and

I'll never forget that moment."

"When the medical supply store

"There have always been different ideas

around what a Co-op should be," Kahn

said. "But ultimately, it has succeeded in

creating a welcoming space where people

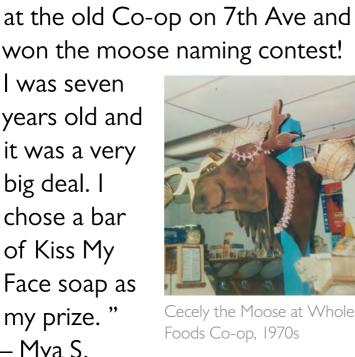
burned down - Co-op providing coffee and donuts for the firefighters who had been working all night to put it out." - Jennifer K. "Seeing the Denfeld store go from vision to ground breaking to thriving!"

> "Working as a sales rep for Common Health, Blooming Prairie and UNFI warehouses, and helping set up the stores each time you moved!" - Carolyn K. "I submitted a name (Cecely) for

a large cardboard moose head

I was seven years old and it was a very big deal. I chose a bar of Kiss My Face soap as my prize."

- Mya S.



What's your favorite memory of Whole Foods

Co-op? Share it with us!

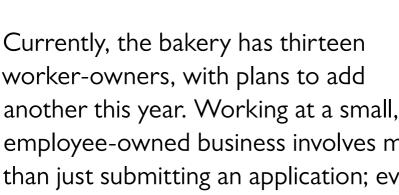
SHARE MEMORY

Positively 3rd Street Bakery A SWEET SUCCESS STORY

By André LeTendre-Wilcox, Education & Outreach Coordinator

estled in Duluth's Hillside neighborhood is **Positively** 3rd Street Bakery, a local establishment known for its delectable baked goods and commitment to employee ownership. Founded in 1983 by a group of passionate bakers dedicated to a

cooperative mindset, Positively 3rd Street Bakery was created to foster community spirit while producing highquality artisanal baked goods. The bakery operates as an employee-owned cooperative, allowing employees to share in the business's profits. This commitment to employee ownership aligns with the bakery's mission to cultivate a positive workplace culture and provide quality goods to customers.



employee-owned business involves more than just submitting an application; every employee must contribute and be willing to take on various roles. "Everyone is hired in production," said Angi, one of the worker-owners, "but eventually finds their talent in business ownership."



considering an ingredient vendor are quality, locality, and cost," said Angi.

"Our most important factors when

This focus, combined with traditional baking methods, quickly garnered a loyal following among Duluth residents. **Different Cooperative Business** Structures While Positively 3rd Street Bakery and Whole Foods Co-op are both cooperatives, the two businesses reflect different structures within the cooperative model. Whole Foods Co-op

who democratically elect a Board of Directors to guide its operations. In contrast, Positively 3rd Street Bakery

is a consumer cooperative. In this model,

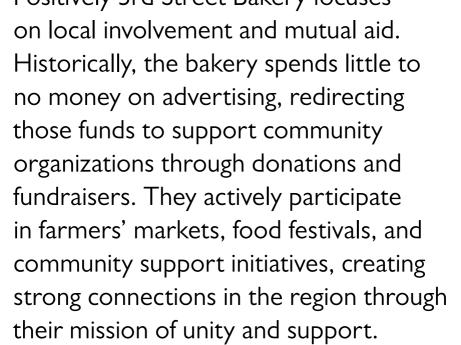
the business is owned by its shoppers,

is a worker-owned cooperative, which means they are owned and run solely by the workers, who have a controlling interest in the business and elect the governing body. While daily operations may differ, both businesses uphold the internationally accepted cooperative principles to direct their overarching missions. **Current Offerings** Positively 3rd Street Bakery is a vibrant hub for locals and visitors alike, offering an array of delicious options that include artisan breads, pastries, cookies, and savory items. The bakery utilizes some original recipes from 1983 while also creating new favorites, emphasizing sustainability by using organic ingredients

whenever possible and prioritizing

environmentally friendly practices.





Positively 3rd Street Bakery at the Lincoln Park Farmer's Market. Looking to the Future The employee-owners of Positively 3rd Street Bakery have ambitious plans. Given that the bakery has outgrown its current location, a two-story house, the group is actively seeking a more suitable space. "We have toured many potential buildings for a new location," Angi said, "but we love and are dedicated to the Hillside."

Despite the challenges posed by their

limited space, they aim to continually

exploring new flavors and expanding the

baking and a promising future focused on

innovation and sustainability, Positively

3rd Street Bakery invigorates the local

innovate their product offerings by

menu to attract a broader audience.

With a rich history rooted in artisan

food scene. Find their fresh baked sweets and breads daily on the shelves at both the Hillside and Denfeld stores! 🗪 **Co-op Staff Favorites: Positively 3rd Street Bakery**



Raspberry Bar

Brandon

Grocery Assistant Manager, Hillside

Blackbird Bread

Robert

Eclipse Cookie Lauren Curbside Clerk, Hillside

Blueberry Scone

Warren

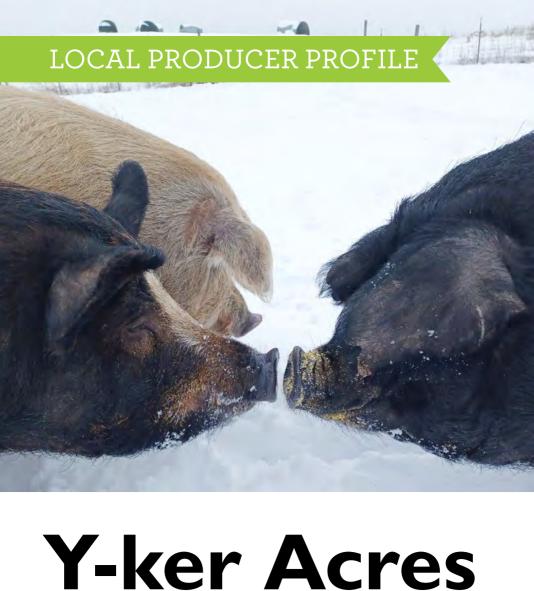
Produce Clerk, Denfeld



The United Nations has designated 2025 as the International Year of Cooperatives. In recognition, Whole Food Co-op will be celebrating throughout the year! We'll be highlighting

Cooperatives Build a Better World

cooperatives we're in cooperation with in-store and here in the Garbanzo Gazette. We're excited to share the stories of co-ops that are creating quality products while having a positive impact on communities across the globe.



A COMPASSIONATE APPROACH TO RAISING

ANIMALS FOR FOOD By André LeTendre-Wilcox, Education & Outreach Coordinator

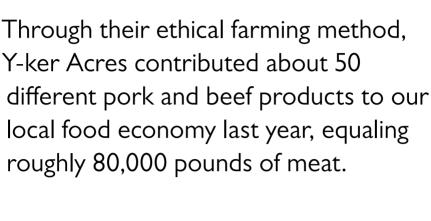
s society is increasingly focused on sustainable living

stands out as an example of positive

and the ethical treatment

Lof animals, Y-ker Acres

farming practices. Located in the heart of Carlton, MN, Y-ker Acres is more than just a farm; it embodies a philosophy that emphasizes humane animal treatment, environmental sustainability, and community engagement.



In November 2021, Joshua and Alison

Stamper became the proud owners

of Y-ker Acres, having purchased the

The Stampers

land and business from Matt and Sara Weik. The Stampers are dedicated to providing the highest-quality pork and beef products by raising their animals humanely and ethically. "Less than 1% of pork is raised outside with access to pasture," Alison said of the pork industry. "But at Y-ker Acres, animals spend their entire lives outdoors, living their best lives," Joshua added. Joshua and Alison do not manage the farm alone; they share this journey with their young sons, Jasper and Griffin, who

are excited to grow up on a livestock

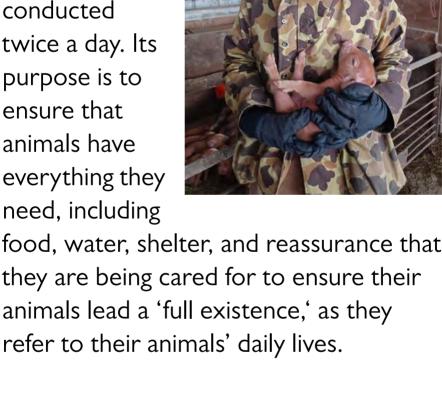
in caring for the animals. Y-ker Acres

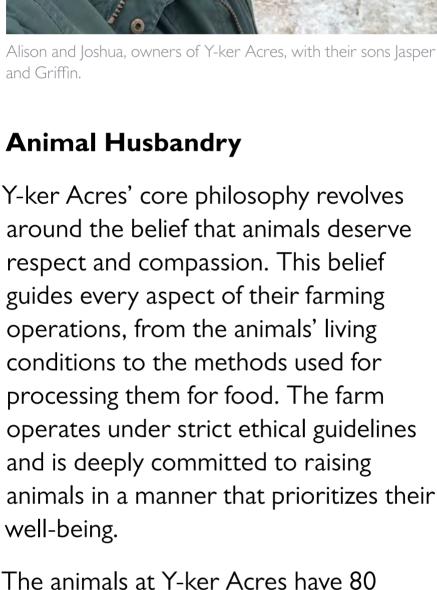
is also supported by two year-round

farm and learn everything involved

employees.







acres of space to roam freely. "All of

our animals have 24/7 access to open

pasture at every stage of their lives post-

weaning," Alison said. The animals always

have access to this natural environment,

as well as a vegetarian diet free from

harmful additives.

One of the

most critical

tasks on

the farm is

'Cozy Patrol,'

Y-ker Acres employs a holistic approach that not only promotes the health of the animals but also contributes to the quality of the food produced. By treating animals with care and dignity, Y-ker Acres aims to foster a relationship between humans and animals rooted in respect rather than exploitation. As they continue to grow and evolve, Y-ker Acres serves as a model for a new kind of animal agriculture that respects the natural instincts and needs of animals,

as a reminder that raising animals for food can be done in a way that honors and respects their lives, ultimately leading to better food and a healthier planet. 🥖

A selection of Y-ker Acres meat

bacon, sausage, and more!

products is available at both Whole

Foods Co-op stores, including brats,



prioritizes environmental health, and fosters a sense of responsibility within the community. Their philosophy serves

Easter Pre-Order

quiches, pies, cakes, muffins & scones

ORDER BY APRIL 16



ORDER NOW >>>

SPRING CO-OP CLASSES + EVENTS

APRIL



Lanae Rhoads of Mix Cosmetiques
Thursday, April 10 • 5:30 − 7:30 am

PHillside Classroom • \$25

LEARN MORE

CELEBRATE

EARTH WEEK





LEARN MORE >>>



LEARN MORE >>>



LEARN MORE >>>

Recycling 101

Emma Pardini of WLSSD

Wednesday, April 23 • 2 – 3:30 pm

Denfeld Classroom • FREE LEARN MORE >>>> MAY

LEARN MORE >>>

Ask a Master Gardener

Master Gardener Barb S.

Tuesday, May 13 • 5:30 – 7 pm

Oenfeld Store • FREE

JUNE

Establishing a Successful

Native Garden

Dan Schutte of Shoreview Natives

Tuesday, May 20 • 5 – 6:30 pm

○ Denfeld Classroom • FREE

LEARN MORE >>>



More Information and Registration

Registration is required for all classes.

Visit our online calendar for detailed descriptions and to register:

wholefoods.coop/classes.

If you are interested in being a Co-op

instructor or have class ideas, we'd

love to hear from you. Email us at:

marketing@wholefoods.coop



SERVICE COOPERATORS

Whole Foods Co-op has 45+
Community Perks Cooperators
providing Owners with special deals
when they present their Owner card.
This spring, we're featuring our
Service Cooperators. For a full list of
Community Perks participants and
ways Co-op Owners can save, visit
wholefoods.coop/communityperks.

We'll also feature additional businesses and perks in our next issue of the Garbanzo Gazette!

All Energy Solar | allenergysolar.com

> \$500 off a solar array.

Ask Anna Tax | askannatax.com

> \$50 off your tax preparation fee.

Lizzard's Art Gallery & Framing lizzards.com

▶ 15% off any framing order.

Master Framing Gallery 218.728.4056

▶ 10% off any custom framing.

Nick's Natives | nicks-natives.com

▶ 10% off landscape design services.

Northwood Naturals Clean Sweep northwoodnaturalscleansweep.com

▶ 15% off basic cleaning and organizing.

Saffron & Grey Couture Floral Design | saffronandgrey.com ▶ \$5 off a floral/plant purchase or

delivery of \$75 or more.

The Solar Mower | 218.760.1599 25% off your first mowing and/or

trimming of 2025.

Tettegouche Treecare tettegouchetreecare.com

▶ 5% off any service.

Warrior Printress Letterpress &

Design | warriorprintress.com

▶ 10% off custom letterpress orders.

Exclusions may apply. For details, visit

wholefoods.coop/communityperks

Call for Local Artists!

Each month, we feature local artists in our welcoming and vibrant seating areas, showcasing a diverse range of talent to be admired by Co-op shoppers and staff.

We are looking for local artists to display in 2026. If you want to share your work in the Co-op's gallery spaces, complete an application for consideration. We love featuring both established and emerging talent!

Visit wholefoods.coop/art to learn more and apply. Paper applications are available at Customer Service.



Artwork by Moira Villiard.



Did You Know?

This year is our 20th anniversary at the Hillside store's current location. Moving to the corner of 6th Avenue East and 4th Street in 2005, Whole Food Co-op remodeled the former CW Chips. In the process, we became the first LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) Certified co-op in the U.S., earning the certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.



WHOLE FOODS COP

HILLSIDE

610 East 4th Street Duluth, MN 55805

DENFELD

4426 Grand Avenue Duluth, MN 55807

wholefoods.coop 218.728.0884

OPEN DAILY • 7 am – 9 pm

Upcoming Holiday Hours

Easter (April 20): 9am –3pm Memorial Day (May 26): 7am –9pm

Owned by YOU and 14,103 of your neighbors!

