



S/NCE 1910

Celebrate Whole Foods Co-op's 55th Anniversary with us at our 2025 Community Celebration and Owner Meeting!

PAGE 6



Sarah Hannigan General Manager

e have a birthday

tradition in our house

# Happy Birthday to You!

When celebrating, we ask the one being honored two questions: What are three important things from the past year? And what are three things that you're hoping for in the year ahead? I can recall moments when each of us wished that the tradition would be forgotten — specifically during the teen years when the kids didn't want to be in the spotlight or in the middle of hard years when it felt like the important things would dampen the celebration. Regardless of the excitement or

more about ourselves and each other in the sharing of the 'three things.' Here in the season of our Co-op's 55th anniversary, I've been reflecting on what I'd share as my 'three things' for our Co-

op. Looking back, I'm proud to have:

trepidation going in, we always learn

Developed and hosted an in-person class for staff to see the connection between their work and the positive impact of the Co-op
 Delivered a new everyday savings

program (Owner Extras) to increase

value for Owners
 Shared our Co-op and community with hundreds of cooperative leaders from around the country during a

multi-day conference in May

For the year ahead, I'm excited to:

Ring the bell on \$1 million in donations raised through our shopper round-up program

Develop a forward-oriented strategic

plan that keeps our Co-op fiscally

sound while supporting progress

toward our new Ends
Support continued positive impact

as a great employer, a thoughtful
community partner, and a vibrant and

accessible neighborhood grocer

It's hard to narrow it down to three things. And while I've shared my 'three things' given the collective experience of

our Co-op, it's certain that across our

community of staff, shoppers, vendors

and neighbors there's are so many more

noteworthy reflections.

We invite you to come to our big

birthday celebration on October 7.
Seeing how much our Owners like to spend time together at our annual meetings, we decided to create an experience that is as much about celebrating the Co-op as it is about making space for Co-op community members to enjoy each other. Please join us at Ursa Minor to eat some good

food, listen to live music, meet local farmers and vendors, and learn about the state of our cooperative business.

And of course, since our Co-op is your

have made you proud and the hopes and dreams you have for your business as we step into the coming years together. Bring them to our birthday celebration!

Co-op, we'd love to hear the things that

In cooperation and connection,

Cheers to 55 years! 🖊

Sarah Hannigan, General Manager gm@wholefoods.coop



# Announcing a New Ends

Board of Directors, General Manager, Operations Manager, and Board Administrator participated in a day-long interactive retreat in June to review and consider updating the Co-op's Ends policy, a policy that provides high-level direction akin to a vision statement for conducting our Co-op's business. It's standard and best practice to periodically review and update each of the Co-op's governing policies. The Ends policy was previously revised in 2009 and 2018.

We attended two seminars prior to the retreat. Columinate's "Elevating the ENDS" provided insight into developing a sound and meaningful Ends policy. The other seminar, "Dissecting the Definition of Healthy," was hosted by National Co-op Grocers' Equity, Inclusion, and Community Engagement Manager Gabby Davis. The program elicited a deep, personal examination of our own biases and how our individual perceptions of "healthy" vary wildly based on our individual cultural practices, socioeconomic situations, health statuses, and histories. It caused us to think critically about the use of the word "healthy" in policy such as the Ends. With this preparation, and guidance

Columinate, we distilled our core values and hopes into a policy that charts the course for our Co-op and envisions the benefits that Whole Foods Co-op can bring to a community it is serving well.

I'm proud to share that the newly revised Ends Policy adopted by the Board of Directors on June 24, 2025 is:

With Whole Foods Co-op, our community

is better connected, our food system is

from facilitator Rose Marie Klee from

resilient, and our regional economy is thriving.

Over the next several months,

Co-op management will develop the interpretation of our Ends, establishing focus areas and metrics for measuring progress toward our Ends. A new,

multiyear operational strategic plan

will be developed using our new Ends as the foundation. The interpretations and multi-year strategic plan will be presented to the Board of Directors in early 2026, with the expectation that the August 2026 Ends progress report will be based on the new interpretation.

Guided by our new Ends, I'm looking forward to the future of our Co-op, in hopes that it will continue to flourish

and contribute to a stronger community,

food system, and regional economy. 🖊

WHOLE FOODS CO-OP

OUR ENDS

With Whole Foods
Co-op, our community
is better connected,
our food system
is resilient, and our
regional economy
is thriving.



### WHOLE FOODS CO-OP 2025 ELECTION **SEPT 9 – OCT 12**

As an Owner, voting in our annual

election is an opportunity to use your voice to help shape the future of our community-focused, two-store food cooperative here in Duluth, Minnesota. In addition to approving meeting minutes from last year's Annual Owner Meeting, you'll be asked to vote for the next members of our Board of Directors. Find more information on candidates in our Flection Guide. You'll also be able to advocate for your

favorite community nonprofits by voting for the organizations who you'd like to be the recipients of the 2026 GIVE! Community Support Program.

A full list of this round's potential 2026 GIVE! Community Support recipients is on page 5 and additional information on each nonprofit will be available in our Election Guide at wholefoods.coop/

vote. **BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATES** Find more information on candidates in

### our Election Guide and vote by Oct. 12 at wholefoods.coop/vote.





our community daily—I

want to further that mission

through board service."

 $_{ extsf{-P}}$  CHOOSE THE 2026

NONPROFIT RECIPIENTS



- \$7,000, so take a moment to show

environmental stewardship, equity &

diversity, food access, and the local food

and dearest to you.

This program supports local

organizations dedicated to

support for the local nonprofits nearest

economy. Monthly round-up donations are typically split 50/50 between the featured nonprofit and the Co-op's Grow Local Food Fund. Forty nonprofits applied to be 2026 GIVE! Community Support recipients. Whole Foods Co-op staff participated in the first round of voting, narrowing the field to 23 finalists. As an Owner, it's now your chance to use your voice

to support the nonprofits you'd like to

round up for in 2026.

2026 GIVE! FINALISTS **Arrowhead Regional Arts Council** aracouncil.org **Chester Bowl Improvement Club** chesterbowl.org

**Divine Konnections** 

divinekonnections.org

duluthymca.org

and Children

**Duluth Area Family YMCA** 

**Duluth Center for Women** 

**Duluth Children's Museum** 

Duluth Folk School duluthfolkschool.org **Duluth Foot Trails Alliance** 

sites.google.com/view/dufta/home

Justice North justicenorth.org

Kako Foundation kakofoundation.com

**Family Rise Together** 

familyrisetogether.org

dba indiGO indigowi.org North Shore AgroEcology Center (Organic Consumers Association) northshoreagroecology.org

starofthenorthmaternityhome.org Twin Ports APIDA (Asian Pacific **Islander Desi American) Collective** 

**Union Gospel Mission** Those without internet access can request

duluthchildrensmuseum.org **Duluth Community Garden** Program duluthcommunitygarden.org **Duluth Community School** Collaborative duluthese.org

duluthcenterforwomenandchildren.org

**Mentor North mentornorth.org Noatun Community Wooden Boat Works duluthfaering.org North Country Independent Living** 

recoveryallianceduluth.org Safe Haven Shelter and Resource Center safehavenshelter.org

**Star of the North Maternity Home** 

northlandnewbornfoundation.org

**Recovery Alliance Duluth** 

**Northland Newborn Foundation** 

twinportsapidacollective.org

duluth-ugm.org View the Election Guide and vote by Sunday, Oct. 12.

2025 Community Celebration and Owner

**VOTE HERE** 

a paper guide and ballot at customer

meeting.

service or vote at a voting station at the

#### ANNUAL OWNER MEETING

#### 2025 COMMUNITY CELEBRATION & OWNER MEETING

TUES., OCT. 7 • 4 – 8 PM

**BUSINESS MEETING AT 5 PM** 

#### **Oursa Minor Brewing**

2415 W. Superior St., Duluth
Shuttle pickup/drop off: Wade Stadium

Come when you can, stay as long as you'd like!

Owners and community are invited to stop by to celebrate 55 years of Whole Foods Co-op! Enjoy food, drinks, and family-friendly activities, meet some of our vendors, listen to local music, and enter to win prizes!

Tickets are \$5/person and include one drink ticket per person, plus a food ticket for every Co-op Owner account. You are also welcome without a ticket; entrance is free, and additional food and drinks will be available for purchase.

Purchase tickets by Wed., Oct. I online, at customer service, or call 218.728.0884.

#### BUY TICKETS >>>

#### Take the Shuttle!

#### Wade Stadium 101 N 35th Ave. W, Duluth | Running 3:30 – 8:30 pm

Easily find a parking spot and secure an extra entry to win a prize basket!

Take the shuttle from Wade Stadium!



#### **FALL CO-OP CLASSES + EVENTS**

#### **OCTOBER**



#### Jonathan Wolfe

Let's Make Pasta

Tuesday, October 21 • 6 – 7:30 pm Oenfeld Classroom • \$15 LEARN MORE >>>

**NOVEMBER** 







#### Saturday, November 8 • 10 am Lincoln Park Craft District • FREE

**Walking Tour** 

LEARN MORE >>>







**DECEMBER** 



DENFELD >>>

More Information and Registration

Visit our online calendar for detailed descriptions and to register for classes: wholefoods.coop/classes.

Registration is required unless otherwise noted. Co-op Owners will receive a \$5 Co-op gift card at paid classes.



# 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 and businesses across our history

that have helped shape Whole Foods Co-op into what it is today.

## Local hole Foods Co-op has valued its relationships with its vendors since its origins as a local buying club. After 55 years, Whole Foods Co-op is proud to partner with over

170 local vendors located throughout

Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Sometimes the Co-op is one of – or the first - store to carry a local business's product. Whether a small family farm or well-known brand, we're proud to partner with all our vendors, and especially love when we have the opportunity to build local relationships. Below find just a few of their stories of working with the Co-op and the impact it has had on them.

Pastures a Plenty Kerkhoven, MN Vendor for 15+ years Available at Whole Foods Co-op: brats, sausage, bacon, pork chops, ground pork,

What did it mean to you the first

another look. We know it takes some

happy to have been able to do it.

logistics to make that happen and we are

#### time you saw your product on Whole Foods Co-op's shelves? Our families often vacation in the Duluth area and it was quite a thrill to see our products on the Co-op's shelves. In fact, we have been stopping in since to take

and pork roasts

What do you love about working with Whole Foods Co-op? Whole Foods Co-op cooperates well with us on ordering and in trying to help sell the products we feature. **Duluth Coffee Company** Ouluth, MN

LEZAMA

#### whole bean coffee, bagged and bulk What did it mean to you the first time you saw your product on

Vendor for 10+ years

**Co-op:** single-origin

I will never forget

shortly after our first

delivery to pick up a

few things and to see if

it was on display yet. I

Available at

Whole Foods

the first time I saw it in the gravity bins in the Hillside store. I stopped by

Whole Foods Co-op's shelves?

tried to not act overly excited, but couldn't help myself and walked directly to the coffee section. Seeing my product alongside other brands I had purchased for years was rewarding, humbling, and encouraging. At the time we were purchasing coffees from communities and cooperatives, and since that time we have expanded our relationships and connections at origin and now sell coffee from single producers that we know personally.

What do you love about having

Foods Co-op?

Co-op:

caramels

your products available at Whole

It means so much to us to have coffee

supported us since the beginning. We

available at the Co-op because they have

continue to source coffee with the same

integrity and intentionally that we know

the Co-op and its customers expect.

The Co-op has been a huge part of our

success and we are looking forward to

continuing to provide it with great coffee

#### from good people. Wild Country Maple Products Lutsen, MN Vendor for 10+ years Available at Whole Foods

organic maple syrup and maple

What did it mean to you the first

time you saw your product on

Whole Foods Co-op's shelves?

product on shelf made us feel very

Going into the Co-op and seeing our

proud to be part of Co-op community. We have been committed Co-op shoppers for most of our lives. In your experience, what is it about Whole Foods Co-op that makes it special? We appreciate that the Co-op is inclusive, buys local, organic, healthy

products, and supports the community.

Whole Foods Co-op: a variety of ice

cream flavors, vegan ice cream, and ice

What did it mean to you the first

time you saw your product on

Mint Chip

**Love Creamery** 

Vendor for 5+ years

cream sandwiches

Foods Co-op?

Ouluth, MN

Available at

and also one people looked forward to eating. What do you love about having your products available at Whole

Whole Foods Co-op stands for all that I

believe in our food system. I tell people

all the time that I am grateful that the

Co-op is in our community, as I know I

can trust the products that I purchase

Many of our Love Creamery customers

hold these same food values, so working

with Whole Foods Co-op means I can

connect directly to these customers

In your experience, what is it

about Whole Foods Co-op that

outside of our scoop shops.

from the Co-op are vetted for these

values. I can trust what I am buying.

is it is about new flavors or product ideas, sourcing ingredients, stocking and supply chain questions or really anything that relates to running a small local food business. The sense of "we are working together" to bring our community Is there anything else you'd like to add?

- Katheryn E. "We're new to town – our first grocery shop for our new house was at the Co-op and we fell in love!" - Maggie H. "It's more of an ongoing experi-

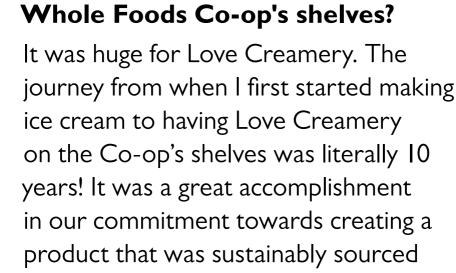
ing with the staff is very positive and satisfying. The Co-op is our absolute favorite place to shop

"The warmth of the workers;

Thank you for sharing your

past, present and future!"

Co-op memories!



makes it special? Definitely the ability to easily connect with staff and board members, whether wholesome food is truly at the core of

#### Whole Foods Co-op and this is indeed very unique and special. We have learned so much about getting our product beyond our scoop shops through our partnership with Whole Foods Co-op, and these lessons help us continue to grow as a business,

which means we are supporting more

small producers in our region through ingredient purchases, allowing us to employ people and pay better wages and of course, continue to scoop Love in the community. My favorite memory of Whole Foods Co-op is... "Meeting so many kind and helpful Co-op employees when I

first joined 23 years ago! I grew

in Wisconsin. It was like coming

up shopping at a small co-op

home again!"

ence. The shopping and interact-

and take classes."

– Paul C.

- Thomas B.



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

# Cooperative **Partners** Warehouse A LEADER IN NATURAL

## DISTRIBUTION IN TH HEART OF MINNESOTA

oistributors are a crucial

behind-the-scenes aspect

of the grocery supply chain.

AND ORGANIC

They create a central spot where farmers and food producers can bring their food to then be efficiently dispersed across a region to individual stores. Whole Foods Co-op partners with several distributors, including fellow cooperative Co-op Partners Warehouse (CPW). CPW is a prominent wholesaler and

food retailers, CPW has established itself as a key player in the growing natural food market. CO-OP PARTNERS WAREHOUSE

Founded in 1999, CPW was developed

by Edward Brown as an offshoot of his

work as produce manager at the Wedge.

CPW, part of today's Twin Cities Co-op

Partners, aims to offer higher-quality

distributor of natural and organic

products in the Midwest. Committed

to serving co-ops, local businesses, and

local and organic wholesale options Early on, CPW became a certified organic handler and has since focused on carrying organic produce, selling approximately \$25 million worth of organic produce each year. Based in St. Paul, CPW started off by collaborating with The Wedge Co-op, Seward Co-op, and Lakewinds Co-op. Over 20 years later, CPW has grown to serve over 400 clients, including Whole Foods Co-op.



work with a single entity. A CPW produce delivery arrives at Whole Foods Co-op.

indicator that their business is growing," said Brandon, "A local producer's first step is direct ordering with local businesses like us, but the next step is working with a distributor to scale up your business. All good things!"

Brandon, Hillside Grocery Assistant Manager stocks frozen

CPW can be a big step up for local

their reach and CPW values these

relationships with local farmers and

producers on their journey to expand

producers. Joleen Baker, CPW Director,

stewards to the partnerships, the better

shared, "The more we do to be better

products.

the relationships." In addition to taking care of their vendors, CPW's foundations in the cooperative movement foster a strong sense of community responsibility. The organization contributes to the local area by donating to neighborhood food

International Year of Cooperatives Cooperatives Build a Better World 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 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

having a positive impact on

creating quality products while

communities across the globe.



versus driving to dozens of individual stores. Small organizations can focus their time on other aspects of their business.

The system also creates efficiencies for

grocery stores, like Whole Foods Co-

op, where instead of ordering hundreds

of products with hundreds of individual

farmers and producers, the Co-op can

and benefit from a larger distribution

one trip to drop off their products

network. It enables businesses to make

Whole Foods Co-op shoppers benefit from the partnership with CPW. "We're

lucky to have a local distributer in our

area," said Brandon, Hillside Grocery

efficiency for ordering local products

In some instances, small businesses get

their start at Whole Foods Co-op, and

that not all co-ops have access to. It

helps bring even more foods from

Minnesota and Wisconsin to our

community."

Assistant Manager, "It creates an

as sales grow, they're able to leverage their strong sales and experiences to secure a spot with CPW. "It's a good

shelves and pantries. Additionally, the warehouse supports local farmers and producers through fair trade practices

and direct sourcing. By prioritizing these values, the company not only enhances the quality of its products but also strengthens local economies, ensuring that profits remain local. With CPW as a partner, Whole Foods Co-op has been able to expand local offerings and provide Co-op shoppers with a larger variety of organic options. The partnership is yet another example of communities benefiting from cooperation among cooperatives. 🗡



Stock up and save even more on all Field Day products Nov. 5 – Dec. 2

Field Day is the private label for coops, offering high-quality value-priced items, such as canned goods, cooking oils, spices and more. Experience even deeper discounts on all these products - over 300! - during this 4-week sale. And, remember – because these 300+ products are on Co+op Deals - Owners will save an ADDITIONAL 10% on all these items through **Owner Extras!** 

up for upcoming holiday celebrations with friends and family.

Pick up your favorite staples and stock



#### AND SUPPORT NĀTIFS! During this national campaign, National Co-op Grocers (NCG) will donate 5¢

to NĀTIFS for every Field Day product that is sold. North American Traditional Indigenous Food Systems (NĀTIFS) is dedicated

to addressing the economic and health crises affecting Native communities by re-establishing Native foodways. They imagine a new North American food system that generates wealth and improves health in Native communities through food-related enterprises.



The Sioux Chef's Indigenous Kitchen and his forthcoming book Turtle Island: Foods and Traditions of the Indigenous Peoples of North America. NĀTIFS is headquartered in Minneapolis.



sides and local pies Nov. 4 - 21

Let us make your Thanksgiving holiday

easier! Pre-order a pint or a quart of a

variety of Co-op-made sides, including

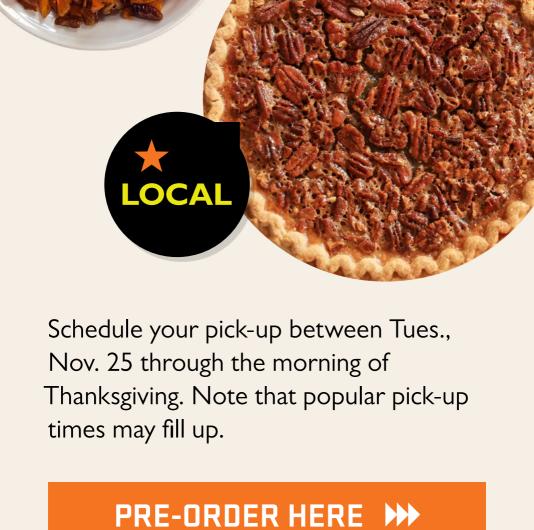
stuffing, gravy, yams, and more! Find

vegetarian, vegan, and wheat-free

options. Complete plated meals are also available. Choose from a Traditional Turkey Plate or a Vegan Wheat-Free Plate. Plus, order local pies from Rustic

Inn and gluten-free pies from Valley's

Own Bakehouse.



#### served.

**LOCAL TURKEYS** 

Frozen turkeys from Ferndale Market and Larry Schultz Organic Farm will be available Nov. I.

Fresh and frozen local turkeys will be

available in November first come, first

Fresh turkeys from Ferndale Market will be available Nov. 22.



# CO-OP OWNERS: USE YOUR COMMUNITY PERKS

- Shop local for the holidays
- Discover and support small businesses

Retail Perks include discounts at select stores in the Lincoln Park Craft District, Fitger's Complex, and more!

For a full list of perks and details, visit: wholefoods.coop/communityperks





## Holiday Treats Pre-Order

pies, sweets & breads

Pre-order online Dec. 2 - 19

PRE-ORDER HERE ►►►

# For every \$100\* you spend on Co-op gift cards get \$20 in Co-op Cash

for your shopping trip Dec. 8 - 28



\*Up to \$500 • Co-op Cash redeemable 12/8/2025 through 12/28/2025 • Gift Cards and Co-op Cash not valid for delivery, curbside pickup, or gift card purchases • No cash value





Round up at the registers in October, November, and December to support these Community Support Program recipients and the Grow Local Food Fund through our GIVE! round up program.



#### **Superior Hiking Trail Association** GIVE! funds will support maintenance

and management, renewal and protection of the trail, volunteer recruitment and coordination, Leave No Trace education, and trail user support and safety information.



#### Funds will be used to support

#### programming, such as the individualized On-Farm Consulting program and other educational opportunities that

enable farmers to achieve their social, environmental stewardship, and financial goals.



never having to turn a person away who

is seeking mental health or addiction

support here in our community.



The next Grow Local Food Fund application opens winter 2026! Local farmers and food producers are encouraged to apply. Learn more at: wholefoods.coop/growlocalfoodfund

#### **Abandoned Equity**

In compliance with its policy on the Abandoned Equity Process and in acknowledgment that in Fiscal Year 2025 Whole Foods Co-op achieved growth in new Owners, in new equity, and in earnings, the Board approved returning approximately \$6,000 net after any indebtedness owed to Whole Foods Co-op, of the oldest abandoned equity. Equity is considered abandoned when there is no current address on file and/or the Owner is more than one year behind schedule in the purchase of required equity. The balance of unclaimed abandoned equity will be donated to local nonprofits.

The process to return abandoned equity is to publish the names of these Owners in the Garbanzo Gazette and allow at least sixty (60) days (by November 30, 2025) for them to provide a current address for an equity refund or to complete their purchase of required equity.

Ahlquist, Sarah Beth Banks, Julie Barnes, Maryellen Baumann, Lisa Buoen-Beyer, Jerrold Chapman, Wendy David, Shana Dohm, Jean Eaton, James Engstrom, Joan Esala, Jennifer Florey, Todd Forrest, Benjamin R. Ganahl, Christopher Gilburn, Leigh Gustafson, Karen Hare, Sandra Hill, Chanelle Holmes, Elizabeth Horvik, Erik Leif Johnson, Michael L. Kang, Mora Ketelsen, Chris Larson, Jesse Lesky, Brian J. Letourneau, De Ann Leusman, Anna Marie Livingston, Karen A.

Mack, Susan

pher G.

Mackner, Christo-

Madison, Rosemary Manske, Waylon McRoberts, Priscilla Montgomery, R. Kent Murugesan, Thilagavathi Nitschneider, Bradley Olson, Floyd C. Paulson, Christine Pfannkuch, Barbara Polson, Michael S. Rasmussen, Brett Ritchie, Dennis W Rosenthal, John Rutledge, Ursula Salmila Swenson, Liana Sarabia, Elizabeth Scherer, Michael Schoenbauer, Connie Self, Linda Skye, Aurilla Jayne Striemer, Karolynne Thell, James Thiel, Babette E. Toonen, Michael R. Trompeter, Robert Van Doren, Sandra Voight, Barbara

Wing, Evelyn

Winter, April Leigh

Zorbas, Zachary



#### Did You Know?

Since 2020, Whole Foods Co-op has sold 57,665 slices of Rustic Inn Café pie and 67,995 whole Rustic Inn Café pies! That's a lot of goodness!!!

Rustic Inn Café makes pies along the shoreline of Lake Superior in Castle Danger, MN. Some of our most popular flavors at the Co-op are Raspberry Cream, Lemon Angel, and 5-Layer Chocolate, though — ask anyone — they're all delicious!



# 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**

Thanksgiving: 7 am –2 pm

Christmas Eve: 7 am -5 pm

Christmas Day: Closed

New Year's Eve: 7 am – 7 pm

New Year's Day: 9 am – 9 pm

Owned by YOU and 14,362 of your neighbors!

