

## Nomination Statement

1. Name: Kathi Reindl

2. Address: 3978 Highland Shore Lane, Oshkosh, WI 54904

3. What would you bring/offer to the Oshkosh Food Co-op Board?

I am motivated to give back to the community and believe that my skills and abilities would be beneficial as the Oshkosh Food Co-op becomes a brick and mortar reality in the next three years. I would bring my passion for the Oshkosh community and 30 years of experience in human resources, change management and overall business operations. My HR experience includes attracting and retaining talent, providing guidance and partnership to functional teams such as IT, finance and treasury, procurement, legal and risk, and manufacturing/operations leadership. My career has spanned critical and ongoing experiences at the manufacturing, divisional, corporate, and executive levels, and across a number of project based roles that focused on significant organizational change. My style is extremely collaborative and I operate within the three E's of a high performance culture: Energy, Empowerment, and Execution. I believe my experience in the business world would bring a valuable business oriented perspective to the board.

4. What is your dream for the Oshkosh Food Co-op for the coming years?

My dream for the Oshkosh Food Co-op for the coming years is to see the development of a community of people who share values of respect for each other, the environment, and a healthy lifestyle. It is my hope that the Oshkosh Food Co-op will provide much-needed alternatives to traditional grocery store chains, such as:

- Consumer products that are safe, ethically produced (responsible farming practices and ingredients that are safe and healthy), and support local business and other co-ops
- Members being able to be a partial owner and have a say in the direction of the co-op as well as receive opportunities for engagement and reduced costs
- Giving back to the community through potential programs, such as:
  - Rounding up to the nearest dollar at the register, where the extra change goes toward a different local cause/organization each month
  - The cost of bags used at co-op could go to local causes
- Classes at the co-op which could include free and low costs cooking classes, presentations by local business owners (some of which provide products at the co-op), yoga classes, and activities for children and young adults

5. Why do you think the Oshkosh Food Co-op is important to the greater Oshkosh community?

The Oshkosh Food Co-op will enhance the greater Oshkosh community by supporting local business and connecting people with a shared vision. I have been excited to see the rejuvenation, especially of our downtown businesses and services over the past several years and having a food co-op in the heart of the city will round out the offerings, offer local economic growth, and reflect the values of our community. The positive effects of the co-op will reach far beyond its doors, giving back to the community by partnerships with local businesses and organizations in addition to the ethically sourced and sustainable products that will be stocked on its shelves. A values- and community-based approach to business is important to Oshkosh, to show it as a city that welcomes new businesses that share similar values and ethical practices

6. Why cooperatives?

I had limited knowledge of food cooperatives in the early stages of this development; however, I have since learned more about the concept of cooperatives and I have seen first-hand how important they are in a community and to the members of the community. My son and daughter-in-law went to school at Michigan Technological University in Houghton, MI (pop 10,000) and they have shared such positive feedback and passion about their experience as a partial owner of a co-op. They describe that before they shopped at a co-op, they did not enjoy grocery shopping at all and now it is something they actually look forward to doing together each week. They have since moved to Duluth, MN (pop 95,000) and are now partial owners of a co-op there. I see how important it was to them, as they were just starting out as young adults and how it has continued to be important to them as they move to different areas; it is something they seek out, not only in their home city, but as they travel and visit other communities. They love being part of a co-op and I believe many people in our community would find the same value that they have. Cooperatives build and foster community values among and within the areas where they are established and bring together diverse groups of people with a shared vision.

7. Offer any additional thoughts you would like Oshkosh Food Co-op members-owners to know about you

I was born and raised as what I like to call a “hybrid” farm girl. My grandparents managed a 250-acre dairy farm, along with a substantial garden. I spent weeks there each summer, as well as time throughout the year and have a deep appreciation for the manner in which they cared for their animals and their crops, while providing sustainable food/means for their family. My parents both held full-time jobs in industry, but we maintained a 70-acre hobby farm with various animals and a large garden through the course of my child through young adult life. I have ultimate respect for farmers and the farming community. I am excited to see the Oshkosh Food Co-op as a means and opportunity to build our local farming communities.