

## **Oshkosh Food Co-op Board Nominee: Kristin Hartman, Oshkosh**

My name is Kristin Hartman. I presently own my home in Oshkosh. I would like to be considered for a position on the Oshkosh Food Co-op Board of Directors. I have been a member of the Co-op since May 14, 2015 and am very excited to be a part of a new venture in Oshkosh's thriving community. I am a firm believer that when we nurture our community, everyone benefits economically and socially.

Most recently I was on a search committee to find a new pastor for First Congregational Church in Oshkosh. The retiring pastors had been there for 27 years, and much loved in the community. It was of utmost importance to find a replacement who could embody the same generous, civic minded, and compassionate traits that this city had grown accustomed to by the retiring pastors. The committee searched for a little over a year before we found a candidate who was met all of our requirements. By vote, our candidate was approved with a 99 percent positive vote. It was a fantastic experience to be a part of new, positive change and working together with so many different people to make that change come to fruition.

I have volunteered for many local organizations and events including: Habitat for Humanity, Empty Bowls Fundraiser, Dragon Boat Races, Oshkosh Area Jaycees, Turkey Trot, United Way, Muslims for Peace Blood Drive, Oshkosh Benevolent Society (JerMo Glow 5k and Bowl for Kids Sake) as well as actively belonging to other committees at First Congregational Church, namely Buildings and Grounds and the capital campaign that is underway. I have experience supportively working with others offering ideas and insight in order to achieve a common goal.

My dream for the Oshkosh Food Co-op is that it becomes a thriving marketplace and community staple providing natural, healthy food and goods to our greater community, and economic stimulation for local residents through job creation, and grassroots efforts. I would like the Co-op to become an all-inclusive place for the residents of Oshkosh.

I think the Co-op is important for the greater Oshkosh community for the reasons I previously mentioned, as well as being able to find products that are currently not available in the chain stores while promoting our local economy without a sole proprietor benefiting from the sales and business.

I have frequently shopped at co-ops in other communities even while not being a member, because of the all-inclusive, local, and equal interests mind set and practices. I believe in supporting local communities and their endeavors for the greater good of all residents. I embrace that everyone works together to make the entire co-op process work and everyone has equal say in the direction and practices that drive the business model.

I am currently licensed to work in the commercial insurance industry and am a Notary Public for the State of Wisconsin. I am very excited to see the Oshkosh Food Co-op become established and an integral part of our community.