

Hey Oshkosh Food Co-op Member-Owners!

We are using a new format this month as we are transitioning some of our communications to our NationBuilder platform! You'll still get a monthly newsletter, keeping you up-to-date on our progress – it will just look a little different!

OVER 500 MEMBERS STRONG – with our incredible Co-op Grow Op 3.0 success (123 new members in one night!), we reached a mighty milestone in our Co-op development work – **we now start writing our business plan**. A business plan?! What's the big deal about that? **Business plans are one of our keys to securing funding for our building**. Business plans bring together information on the board, the financial plan, and the reason why a store is needed. It documents the need in the community as well as the commitments already shown (number of members, grants received, etc.). We are proud of the work we've done so far in developing our Co-op and look forward to showcasing it all in a strong business plan!

If you would like to see a sample of a business plan for food co-ops, check out this [document](#) from a Co-op that successfully opened in 2011.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING? Growing to over 500 Member-owners marked a big milestone for us and it also means there will be new work for us to do to stay on track to get the store open! Volunteer opportunities range from delivering yard signs to new members, dropping off brochures to interested businesses, taking a shift at the Oshkosh Farmers Market at our OFC table, helping event plan, to technology support, writing a business plan, and the possibilities will grow! **Volunteering can be short term or longer, based on your interest and time availability**. Email us at OshkoshFoodCoop@gmail.com and we will put you in touch with Roy, our awesome Volunteer Coordinator! We are also putting out the call to any interested Member-Owners if you would like to be considered for a position of Event Planner for our upcoming Member Event – this would be a paid, short-term position. Email us to let us know if you are interested!

A special **volunteer shout-out to Matt Mutz** – our tech support extraordinaire for helping us with our e-blasting capabilities! Your help goes a long way in streamlining communication!



Speaking our **Volunteer Coordinator, we welcome Roy Owensby** to the position – Cynthia Thorpe was previously handling this work and she's stepped aside to be able to spend more time with her amazing new grandbabies! Roy will help schedule volunteers to staff our booth at the Farmers Markets (the 2nd Saturday of the month and a few Wednesday afternoons/evenings at the South Park market!) as well as coordinate the other ways you would like to help contribute your skills and talents! [That's Roy, in the cow suit, pictured with board member Melissa – don't worry, he's promised he won't put you in the cow suit unless you want to!]

We have another new contributor as well – **Anne Dickey will be our new Member Benefits Coordinator!**

We are exceptionally excited to announce this position as Anne will be working with local businesses to secure benefits for Co-op members. Now that we have our shiny new member cards, we can put them to use before the store opens! As benefits are secured, we will post them on our website and Facebook page, so stay tuned! [Anne with her son]



Did someone mention **Member Benefits**? Mark your calendar for the morning of **September 16th** – we are bringing back our **Titan Gold compost sale** exclusively for OFC Members! You get Titan Gold compost at a discount – the Co-op gets a fundraiser! And your garden gets some of the best compost around as you get ready to tuck it to sleep for the Fall! Ordering details to come!

Out and about: we will be at the **Farmers Market on August 12th** – stop by and say hi! We love sharing updates, answering questions and signing up new members!

Board meetings: we are relocating board meetings to 21 W New York St (Blue Door Consulting) for the month of August. Times remain the same – 6:30 to 8:30PM.