



COLLABORATIONS

December 2015

Issue: 6

Greetings,

2016 Predictions: Some Big Changes for Cooperative Development Services

As we start to turn the page on 2015, I reflect on the year past, and give thanks.

We celebrated our **30th Anniversary**; supported **over 75 co-ops and steering committees** with education and technical assistance; co-created the new **Small And Strong program** for small food co-ops; helped **clients access over \$400,000** in federal and state grant funds; and **exceeded \$20,000 in charitable contributions** for the first time in our history! To all of you who helped make this happen: **Thank you!**

And for 2016?

If you want to start a business in the U.S., you go to the Small Business Administration. They have over 900 offices, supported by \$115 million in federal funds, and \$115 million in state/local funds.

But they don't support co-op development!

If you want to start or grow a co-op in a rural area, there are a couple dozen organizations in the country (including CDS) that compete for \$6 million from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. By comparison not much, but something. **There are no federal or state programs dedicated to co-op work in urban communities.** But that doesn't mean there aren't needs for our services.

In 2016, CDS will launch a new program to bring cooperative solutions to issues of community development in **both urban and rural communities**. We will

- **Create and deliver a new curriculum to support co-op start-ups in partnership with the City of Minneapolis**
- **Create or expand partnerships in Saint Paul, Madison and Milwaukee**
- **Bring knowledge of worker and investment co-ops to rural and urban areas.**
- **Impact over 100 individual co-ops and start-up steering committees through education and technical assistance.**

To support this new initiative in 2016, we've launched a \$30,000 Matching Fund drive. Cooperators like you have helped jump-start our efforts with new donations or pledges of \$1,500 in just the last couple weeks. We're looking to double that by year end.

Will you invest with a year-end tax-deductible gift of any amount to make cooperative solutions available to all communities in the Upper Midwest in 2016?

Checks can be made payable to the "Cooperative Development Fund of CDS" and sent to:

CDS
145 W. University Ave., Suite 450
Saint Paul MN 55103

[Or donate online](#)

Thank you, thank you, thank you...and Happy New Year!

Kevin Edberg
Executive Director

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