



COLLABORATIONS

September 2016

Issue: 7

Greetings,

We Stand on the Shoulders of Giants

From Kevin Edberg, CDS Executive Director

Since our organization was established in 1985, Cooperative Development Services has benefited from the life and work of so many great cooperators in our region and nationally.

Most recently, CDS was proud to champion the induction of Dennis Johnson into the Cooperative Hall of Fame. But Dennis is just the most recent in a long line of cooperators who saw a vision for how cooperatives can make our communities better, more resilient places to live, and who supported that vision in part through the work of CDS. He joins other CDS board and staff colleagues like Walden Swanson, Kate Sumberg, Bill Gessner, Rod Nilsestuen, Judy Ziewacz (Cooperative Hall of Fame inductees) and Bob Bauman (inductee in the Iowa Cooperative Hall of Fame). All were instrumental to our organization's success.

At CDS, we embrace new people, new partnerships, and new approaches to cooperative development. Understanding what has worked in the past, and standing on the shoulders of giants, we have insight and capacity to innovate to meet emerging needs in communities in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa, and to cultivate a new generation of leaders. We take our leadership role here seriously.

This month, our board adopted a preliminary budget for 2017. While funded in part by federal, state and foundation grants, CDS will rely on \$50,000 in gifts from co-ops and individuals in 2017, or a little over 10% of our annual budget. Making a [tax-deductible contribution](#) to CDS is how co-ops and people...people like you...can act on their visions for vibrant communities and an evolving co-op sector. We welcome all who would join us in our work of growing cooperative enterprise in our region.

Kevin

CDS Feature Story

Dennis Johnson: Proponent of Cooperative Capital and Development

Promoting a national vision for cross-sector cooperation, while holding tight to a grassroots emphasis on co-op development, is quite a balancing act. Dennis Johnson, a 2016 inductee into the Cooperative Hall of Fame, has built his career on creating alliances that allow cooperative solutions to take root and thrive.



Dennis has supported the creation of all kinds of cooperatives, particularly within the senior housing, finance and agricultural sectors. His impact has been far-reaching, from financing national cooperatives ventures through the St. Paul Bank for Cooperatives (now CoBank), to securing Congressional authorization and appropriations for the USDA Rural Co-op Development Grant program, promoting senior co-op housing development, and with Rod Nilsestuen assisting with the creation of Cooperative Development Services-which served as a model for the development of other cooperative development centers around the U.S.

[Read more](#)

Events

Community Ownership Forum: Artist Cooperatives

Tuesday, September 27, 2016
3:00-5:00 p.m.

Habitat for Humanity, 1954 University Ave W., Saint Paul, MN
For more information contact Gretchen Nicholls, Twin Cities LISC at 651-265-2280 or email at gnicholls@lisc.org.

Small & Strong - 2016 Registration Now Open

SUPPORT AND TRAINING FOR SMALL FOOD CO-OPS IN MINNESOTA, WISCONSIN, MICHIGAN, IOWA, NORTH DAKOTA, AND SOUTH DAKOTA

We're excited to announce a new addition to the Small and Strong Initiative. In addition to the annual Small and Strong Conference, we will be offering a Support Program, designed specifically for small food co-ops in the Upper Midwest. The Support Program will include:

- FREE WEBINAR:

Merchandising and Competition

Monday, Sept. 19, 2016, 4:00-5:30 p.m. CDT, with Jeanie Wells and Mel Braverman.

- Follow-up phone consultation with industry professionals to talk about specific issues and questions facing your co-op.

Click here to view webinar and consulting details, and to find a link to register for webinars and consulting:

<http://northcountryfoundation.org/small-and-strong-2016/>

Click here to go directly to the Eventbrite registration page:

<http://www.eventbrite.com/o/small-amp-strong-support-for-small-food-co-ops-10949823956>

We highly recommend that you register now to reserve your spot, and no later than one week before each webinar.

Mark your calendars for the 2nd Annual Small and Strong Conference: **Saturday, November 12, 2016.**

CDS will be Positive Change Program recipient during Co-op Month



We are pleased to announce that CDS has been chosen as a recipient of Mississippi Market's Positive Change donation program. During the whole month of October, food co-op shoppers who

"round up" on their purchases at all three St. Paul, MN locations will be donating to Cooperative Development Services. Celebrate October is Co-op Month by using your patronage and donation at Mississippi Market to support the good work of cooperatives and positively impact communities in our Midwest region.

Resources

Co-op 101 Tutorial

Want to know more about the cooperative business model and what you need to start one successfully? At Cooperative Development Services we're here to help answer your questions and point you in the right direction. Every day we hear from people from around the country interested in doing things together cooperatively. We've developed an online tutorial to give individuals and organizations an overview of how co-ops are organized, and an understanding of the resources you'll need to get started. We also do in-person presentations to interested groups or business associations. Review our [Co-op 101 presentation](#) or contact us <http://www.cdsus.coop/about/contact>. We especially look forward to hearing from co-ops and would-be-cooperators in MN, WI and IA.



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CoMingle Brown Bag Lunch

The Evolving Role of Food Co-ops in Community Wealth Building

Wednesday, September 21, 2016
11:30 A.M - 1:00 P.M.

Future home of Wirth Co-op
1835 Penn Ave. N
Minneapolis, MN 55411

What is the current role of food cooperatives in building community wealth? How is this changing? And how does this compare to the roots of the 1970s wave of cooperative development?

Join Raynardo Williams and LaDonna Sanders-Redmond from Seward Cooperative, and Tabota Seyon and Candy Bakion from Wirth Cooperative, who will share their perspective on how these two cooperatives support community wealth building in their communities. Brenda Pfahnl of Shared Capital Cooperative will moderate and frame the discussion.

Prior to this CoMingle brown bag event please view the trailer for the upcoming film "Radical Roots," which explores the origins and the future of the natural foods cooperative movement, particular in the context of the 1970s food cooperative movement in the Twin Cities: www.radicalrootsfilm.com. One of the filmmakers of this film, Hilary Johnson, will join the brown bag discussion.

Feel free to bring your lunch or pick it up Breaking Bread Cafe (1210 West Broadway Ave., Minneapolis) which is located about 0.6 miles from the Wirth Co-op location.

CoMingle Happy Hour

Wednesday, September 28, 2016
5:00 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.

Location to be determined!

We follow up each of our CoMingle Brown Bag lunches with evening Happy Hours the following week where the conversation starter will be about the topic of the month. You are welcome to join us at one or both. The important part is to **just CoMingle with us cooperators for fun and collaboration!** Find out more at www.cominnesota.coop.

