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## *A Message from your Food Co-op Staff Members*

Hello Member-Owners: Happy Spring, from your co-op staff!

We feel privileged to update you on the status of your cooperative, and pleased to share with you so many items of good news!

**The co-op is profitable!** In the first quarter of this year our staff has been committed to prudent scheduling and lean inventory. We have been able to pay all our vendors, our property tax, our staff, and still have a healthy sum remaining in our bank account. We can officially report a profit of around \$12,000 for quarter 1 (hooray!!) This positive turn has also enabled us to expand store hours again. In response to your requests, we are now open 9am-7pm, seven days a week.

**We are bringing back some favorite items.** Look for returning favorites and some wonderful new local products in Grocery and Bulk. Please let us know if there is anything you are missing. Our new Grocery buyer Tuesday, and our long-time Bulk Manager Oakley are eager to hear your requests.

**We are improving store infrastructure.** Notably, in the next few weeks we will be modifying the Bulk room to be a bit more accessible/user-friendly. We will be repositioning shelving, and increasing work-table space, per your requests. Additionally, we are looking into purchasing a new produce cooler to better care for

our fragile veggies. Stay tuned as these exciting changes unfold!

**We love the Co-op!** We are committed to making it the best that it can be! With the departure of our most recent General Manager, the staff has banded together to create an alternative management model-- that is, seven of our senior staff are working collectively to manage the store. In light of the co-op's current financial condition, we are doing this without additional compensation. It may take a few weeks for us to settle into our new roles, but we are highly optimistic that our shared passion for the co-op, combined with our many years of experience (78 altogether!), will reflect favorably on the store.

Please don't hesitate to let us know if there is anything we can do to better serve you, our members. You are why we are here!

If you have further inquiries, you can reach us at: [generalmanager@fcfood.coop](mailto:generalmanager@fcfood.coop) or call the co-op during business hours: [970]484-7448. We look forward to hearing from you!

Your Co-op Management Team:

Chris, Kalidas, Trinity, Stephanie, Oakley, Theron and Tara



*A Letter from the President of the*

# *Board of Directors*

**Dear Fellow Co-op Owners,**

I'm excited to be writing this first "letter from the BOD" as your brand-spanking new BOD president!

When my husband Don and I moved to Ft. Collins on a fine spring day in 1989, the very first place we headed was to the Food Co-op to sign on as members (We did some shopping, too! We were thrilled that Fort Collins had a Food-Coop; it was one of our reasons for deciding to move here, since food co-ops had been an important part of our lives wherever we lived. We knew it would feed us good food and good community. We were right on both counts. Of all the things I love about the Co-op (the list is long), my favorite is that every time I shop I can anticipate bumping into someone who I know and care about. It isn't just a grocery trip. And it's not just other customers - it is the friendly, passionate staff I have come to know and love. I always think to myself: Where else can I grocery shop where the staff who run the store also own it, along with you, me and more than 2,400 others?

Which brings me back to the business of this letter, a BOD update. Having a new president and mostly new BOD is just one of the many transitions happening at your Co-op (We still need two more members to join us; consider joining our dynamic team). We are so pleased to present to you our interim General Management Team made up of current store Department Heads, who stepped up to the plate when Sherpa resigned in December. We are so blessed to have such an amazingly dedicated, committed and knowledgeable staff that they could, overnight, take the reins and not miss a step! Take a few moments to thank them personally; they have been working incredibly hard to make the Co-op better serve you! The staff management team model is being used successfully in other food co-ops around the country. Don't you feel and see a difference in the store? You can sense for yourselves how empowering it is, bringing staff morale and efficiency to a new high. In three short months, our financial hemorrhaging has been halted, so that instead of running thousands of dollars every month in the red, we are showing a healthy profit - enough so that the team may be able to replace the failing produce cooler with a new one - paying cash. Amazing! Everyone has been pulling together: That dramatic turnaround is also in a large part thanks to YOU, who increased your spending when we first put out the SOS in November that things had to change FAST. Thank you to each and every one who increased your purchases because of your love for and commitment to this precious and unique little store! Small as we are, we are truly a very important heartbeat of Old Town, Fort Collins.

What is next for us, 44 years young and still growing? Our 10+ year dream to move to a large community marketplace seemed to shrivel right along with the drying up of funds, especially those offered by the Downtown Development Association to foot most of the bill. But just in the last weeks, a tiny group of visionaries who helped create the Poudre Valley Community Farm is reviving that Community Marketplace dream, and inviting us to be a part of it, both in making it happen in the next several years, and in becoming the anchor grocery store; again, this is just in the dreaming stages. There are those who favor staying in the space we have (with perhaps a

renovation); it is a sweet spot in Old Town that we already own. We perhaps will soon face a new challenge: there are rumors of the opening of a large chain natural food store in Old Town in the next few years. All the more reason to make our Co-op vital and important to you and all of our shoppers! Want to be a dream-catcher? A mover and a shaker? I invite you to start by attending our upcoming Town Hall Meeting, on Thursday May 5, from 6-7:30 p.m. Come at 5:45 p.m. for some socializing and snacks first. We've got a lot to talk about!

Thanks for loving the Co-op; we make it thrive, together!  
Ruth Widrick, BOD President



## ***Food Co-op Staff Favorites:***

*Get the low-down on what the staff is loving, and why!*



### **Oakley:**

Taco-flavored Sunflower seeds. New, In Bulk. Says Oakley: "They make me feel in a Fiesta mood!"

**Kalidas:** Chooses new, **Colorado Flour Bin** sweets tempting Cinnamon Rolls ("sweet, without the sin")-



they're Vegan!, and Sweet bread slices (Apple, Pumpkin-Walnut, or Banana) ("Gluten, yes, not gluttonous"). These are amazingly priced at just \$1.50 a roll, and \$1.25 for a thick slice of sweet bread!



**Trinity:** loves the Thai curry Cashews in Bulk. "Sweet, Tangy and Delicious!" she says. Try some!



**Chris:** is never without the **San-J brand** Black Sesame Rice crackers, by the case, in her pantry. "These are by far my favorite cracker, flavorful and substantial. They're Gluten-free, so they go to any gathering with me without worry." With her Norwegian roots, Chris favors a piece of pickled Herring on her cracker, but a nice piece

of smoky cheese is good too : )

**Jordan:** chooses **Hemp I scream** sandwiches. "These Boulder-born treats will be besties with your tastebuds" he promises.



**Isabella:** recommends the **Wild Wood Wellness** line of Salves and Tinctures. They are all wildcrafted or made from herbs grown locally.



**Tuesday:** **Savory Harvest Pizza Bars**, FCFC is the only store in Fort Collins that carries this item and Tuesday loves them because they're low in sugar, high in protein, and super yummy!



**Stephanie's** staff pick this month is **Horsetooth Hot Sauce's General mustard** flavor. "It goes on ANYTHING" she says. And she means that.



**Theron:** chooses **Hazel Dell Shiitake mushrooms**. Period. Any time you ask him.

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The Fort Collins Food Cooperative | 970-484-7448 | [info@fcfood.coop](mailto:info@fcfood.coop) | [fcfood.coop](http://fcfood.coop)

