



Cooperative Development Foundation

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10 NEW FOOD CO-OPS RECEIVE GRANTS FOR STAFF & BOARD TRAINING

Washington, D.C.—The Howard Bowers Fund of the Cooperative Development Foundation is pleased to announce \$14,200 in grant awards for staff and board training for ten newly-organized and organizing food cooperatives across the country. The grant funds are the result of fundraising done specifically for this purpose by food co-ops nationwide as part of their annual observance of Howard Bowers Day.

“Food cooperatives throughout the country pick a day each October to donate 1% of their receipts for that day to a good cause – to support education and training programs to help food cooperatives learn best business practices,” said CDF Executive Director Liz Bailey. “In October 2007, the focus for Howard Bowers Day was even more specific -- the training needs of newly-organized and organizing food cooperatives.”

“Startups depend heavily on talented and committed volunteers, so training in best co-op business practices is essential, not only for staff and management, but also to enable those committed volunteers to become savvy board members,” Bailey said. In selecting the recipients of these grant awards, the Bowers Fund trustees placed the highest priority on strong proposals from co-ops that are scheduled to open in 2008; six co-ops in this category each received \$1,700 grants. The second tier of grant awards, \$1,000 each, was made to four co-ops that are in early stages of organizing and won’t open until 2009. The complete list of food co-ops receiving grant awards is attached.

“The Bowers trustees are pleased with the amount of funds raised on Howard Bowers Day 2007 and hope to have even greater participation from food co-ops and their members in 2008. It’s a wonderful way for established co-ops to help startup co-ops learn best business practices. It’s an investment in the future that Howard Bowers would have heartily endorsed, so it’s especially fitting that these funds were raised on a day set aside annually to honor his memory,” Bailey said.

The Howard K. Bowers Fund of the Cooperative Development Foundation was established in 1993 to honor Bowers, an outstanding food co-op general manager. The Fund’s focus is the education and development of board members, management and staff of food cooperatives. The Cooperative Development Foundation (www.cdf.coop) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization promoting community, economic, and social development through cooperative enterprises.

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Start-up Food Cooperatives Receiving Grants from the Howard K Bowers Fund

Source of Grant Dollars: 2007 Howard Bowers Day Contributions

Startups Opening in 2008 -- \$1,700 Grant Awards

Yahara River Grocery Co-op, Stoughton, WI
Mandela Foods Cooperative, Oakland, CA
Fiddleheads Food Co-op, New London, CT
Miami-Oxford Organic Network (MOON), Oxford, OH
Harvest Moon Natural Foods, Long Lake, MN
Sierra Vista Natural Foods Cooperative, Sierra Vista, AZ

Startups Opening in 2009 -- \$1,000 Grant Awards

Friendly City Food Co-op, Harrisonburg, VA
Community Market Cooperative, Carroll, IA
Company Shops Market, Burlington, NC
Vancouver Food Co-op, Vancouver, WA