



FREE RANGE FOOD CO-OP

Development Updates for August 2018

- Our food co-op is owned by 531 amazing community members from Grand Rapids and the surrounding cities!
- We are in Stage 2B of our development timeline, which means we are preparing to work on finding a site for our co-op, hiring a general manager, and capital campaign planning. Before we will start working on these large, critical tasks, we are focusing on building up our board and volunteer team both in numbers and foundational structure.
- We have created a Governance Committee, which is a committee of the board that focuses on board member recruitment strategies, interviews, orientation and mentorship.
- Our board has been working on drafting and approving the policies that will direct how the board and co-op functions. These policies will help to strengthen our foundation and serve as a guide for all board members as they serve our co-op.
- We are preparing to hire our first paid staff person – a volunteer and event coordinator. This person will manage our outreach and educational efforts, and be responsible for recruiting, retaining and recognizing volunteers as we move through co-op development. We would like to have this person on board by November.
- We are working with two attorneys from Dorsey & Whitney in Minneapolis to help us navigate our way through this employment process.
- We have a team of volunteers planning an event called the “Co-op Grow-Op”. This event will be held at a local farm, and is an invitation only gathering powered through the social circles of co-op owners that have volunteered to be table hosts. 19 table hosts have invited their friends and family (who are not already owners) to an evening to learn more about the co-op, and decide if they would like to become owners. The Grow-Op is scheduled for Aug 21st.
- In March of this year, our co-op received an award from Food Co-op Initiative and Indiana Cooperative Development Center called “The Best of the Best”. This award is their recognition of our use of best practices during co-op development.
- In June of this year, our co-op received a \$1000 grant from Lake Country Power to help pay for our community education program. This program will be coordinated by the volunteer coordinator once they are on board.