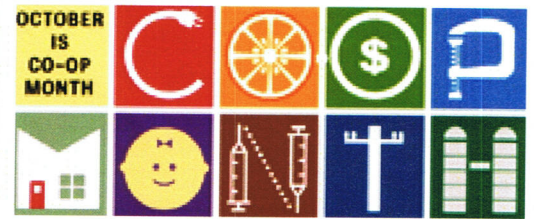


Co-op Month



Inter-Cooperative Council
Leaders and the Best through Cooperation!

337 E. William St., Ann Arbor, MI
<http://www.icc.coop/>
Phone: (734) 662-4414



Each October, cooperatives all across America celebrate the role, accomplishments and contributions of our nation's cooperatives.

There are more than 47,000 cooperative businesses in the United States that generate more than two million jobs and create more than \$74 billion in wages. These cooperatives also account for more than \$654 billion in revenue!

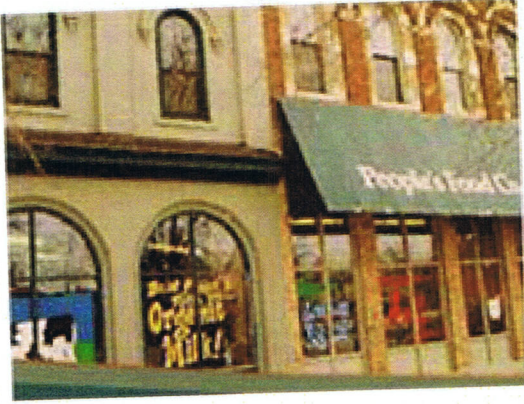
In many ways, co-ops are like any other business; but in several important ways they're unique and different. Cooperatives are:

- Owned and democratically controlled by their members-the people who use the co-op's services or buy its goods-not by outside investors; Co-op members elect their board of director from within the membership.
- Return surplus revenues (income over expenses and investment) to members proportionate to their use of the cooperative, not proportionate to their "investment" or ownership share.
- Are motivated not by profit, but by service-to meet their members' needs for affordable and high quality goods or services;
- Exist solely to serve their members.
- Pay taxes on income kept within the co-op for investment and reserves. Surplus revenues from the co-op are returned to individual members who pay taxes on that income.

Co-ops come in all shapes and sizes and range in size from small store-fronts to large Fortune 500 companies. There are electric and telephone services, insurance co-ops, food co-ops, credit unions, forestry co-ops, farm marketing and supply co-ops, just to name a few. And, of course, student housing co-ops are an important part of the American co-op movement.

Whether big or small, urban or rural, in the east, west, north or south, co-ops are committed to meeting people's needs through democratic control, sound business practices and collaborative community effort.

Other Co-ops in Ann Arbor



The People's Food Co-op is a business owned by its members and dedicated to selling fair trade goods.



The East Quad Bike Co-op is a student-run organization promoting bicycle maintenance and sustainability. Also, they host bicycle themed events, such as weekly rides and bike parties. "If your bike is broke, bring it in and we'll fix it."

JM CREDIT UNION
umcu.org
successful
members
everywhere

A credit union is a not-for-profit financial cooperative owned by its members. Members elect the Board of Directors. People helping people is the heart of the credit union philosophy. It has been the purpose of credit unions since the first credit cooperatives were formed among farmers in Germany in the mid 1800s.

Other Cooperatives



Ace Hardware

Ace Hardware became a retailer's hardware cooperative in the 70's. Supplying hardware for 80 years.



Ann Arbor Potter's Guild

The Potters Guild is a cooperative non-profit organization consisting of over fifty members who share the responsibility and administration of the studio in order to create a wide variety of quality ceramics.



Dexter Cooperative Nursery

"What makes Dexter Co-op a unique educational opportunity is the direct parental efforts and involvement in the classroom, on a Board of Directors, and on committees."



East Quad Music Co-op

A student run co-op dedicated to playing music for all ages.

<http://www.myspace.com/eqmc>