



What is a Co-op?

A co-op is owned by people who pool their resources together to meet their common needs, for example...Food.

Food Front was created by people who wanted a source of wholesome food. These initial member-owners bought a share in the co-op and the money raised enabled Food Front to buy its property, build the store, and invest in equipment and inventory.

A co-op is run democratically.

Each member-owner purchases one share and becomes an equal owner with over 3000 others. There are no outside investors, so Food Front is fully locally-owned and operated. As a democratic organization, owners are eligible to run for the board and vote in board elections. A co-op principle is one share-one vote. The board sets policy for the co-op and oversees the general manager who, in turns runs the store.

A co-op is a business, but it has a larger mission than making money.

In addition to making a financial profit, we look far beyond the bottom line and work to build a vibrant community and a healthier world by selling wholesome food and empowering people.

We do this by supporting:

- Local control of food choices
- Local food enterprises, local organic farmers, and fair trade.
- Other organizations and people working to build a sustainable community.

Benefits of Ownership

Benefits to Food Front

- All businesses need capital to finance improvements, repairs, new equipment, and potential expansions. New owners keep us thriving.
- As a Food Front shopper you are already part of a community of people that is building a vibrant community and a healthier world. By becoming an member-owner, you make an additional investment in the success of the store and ensure that Food Front will continue to fulfill its mission far into the future.
- Food Front does not pay taxes on sales made to owners. So more of your dollars stay in the community.

Financial benefits of becoming an owner

- Discounts: You will receive a 5-10% discount on your purchases during Owner Appreciation Days, four times a year.
- Monthly Discounts on select items each month
- Patronage Dividends: When the store makes a profit, you will receive dividends based on how much you spend. Part of each year's patronage is re-invested in the co-op and paid out in subsequent years.
- 10% discounts on special order cases
- Co-op Advantage coupon book twice a year, mail to your home.
- Discounts with participating community partners

Becoming an owner is easy: Two plans

- Payment of \$150 in full.
- Initial investment of just \$5. Then, \$5 a month (payable at the register) until the full share of \$150 is paid.
- With either plan, ownership starts immediately. Share is refundable.
- Applications are at the register and online.