

# Co-op Connections



Published by the Northwest Cooperative Development Center  
*Serving the Northwest States of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Alaska & Hawaii*

Summer 2006

## Workplace Giving with a Co-op Twist

The United Co-op Appeal (UCA) campaign is a workplace-giving program to consider hosting this fall, either as an alternative to more familiar recipient organizations, or as a giving program dedicated solely to co-op development as a means of economic empowerment. A project of the Cooperative Development Foundation (CDF), the UCA allows you to contribute to the cooperative development non-profit organizations listed in their brochure. All the organizations are using the cooperative enterprise model to bring economic opportunity to people in your community and in rural areas in the United States and around the world.

**UCA gives employees the satisfaction of helping people through a workplace donation.**

The 15 recipient organizations in the 2006 UCA campaign are engaged in many forms of co-op development, including developing co-op businesses in economically-

depressed rural American communities, improving access to affordable housing through housing co-ops, and helping people make living wages through worker-owned co-ops. Employees may also choose to support work to create co-ops in developing nations around the world.

**UCA helps broaden your employees' understanding of co-ops.**

UCA exposes your employees to the potential of the co-op form of business, and how co-ops can provide solutions to many of our current national and international challenges.

**UCA is compatible with other workplace giving programs.**

Today many organizations combine several charitable giving programs, such as United Way, UCA and others, so their employees have more choices. Organizations that host UCA as well as another campaign usually develop their own contribution forms that incorporate all of the organizations and all of the campaigns.

**100% of the contribution goes to the recipient organization.**

Every dollar of every UCA contribution is passed on to the UCA organizations they choose to support. CDF provides administrative support, and receives a grant from the Nationwide Insurance Foundation to cover most of the administrative costs of the campaign.

**UCA is easy for you to administer.**

Individuals can support UCA by writing checks, which can then be sent to us for distribution to the recipient organizations. You tell us how many campaign booklets, UCA campaign posters and contribution forms you need and we will deliver them to you. You kick off the campaign (with a management letter and/or employee meeting) and your HR staff will handle the contribution forms and set up the payroll deduction. CDF manages the allocation of contributions to the recipient organizations after we receive periodic checks from your HR staff.

For further information on hosting the UCA plan in your organization, please contact the NWDC at (360) 943-4241.

## Food Co-op Workshop Comes to Olympia

The NWDC will conduct Session 2 of the **Grow Your Own Food Co-op** workshop series in Olympia, WA, **Aug 11-13**, exact schedule and location to be available on the NWDC website.

The focus of this session will be building membership and leadership. It will be useful for cooperative planning groups at any stage of development. This session will feature Richard Dines, National Co-op Bank and coordinator of the Food Co-op 500 grant and loan program.

Registration is \$50 per person, which includes materials and some meals.

The event will start at dinnertime on Friday and conclude shortly after lunch on Sunday. Prior participation in Session 1 is not necessary, but NWDC recommends that participants familiarize themselves with the materials presented in that session. The Session 1 booklet is available for \$10.

For further information and registration, visit <http://www.nwcdc.coop/projects/files/food.htm>, or contact Andrew McLeod at 360-943-4241, [andrew@nwcdc.coop](mailto:andrew@nwcdc.coop).

**Please Pre-Register by August 7.**

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NWDC is an association of consumer, producer and worker cooperatives in Washington, Oregon, Alaska, Idaho and Hawaii. Formerly known as Puget Sound Development Foundation, NWDC was founded by cooperatives in 1979. The mission of the NWDC is to foster community economic development, primarily through use of the cooperative business model.

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Laura Aymond, Public Relations Mgr.  
Eric Bowman, Project Manager  
Mark Johnson, Business Consultant  
Andrew McLeod, Co-op Dev. Specialist  
Teresa Young, Organizational Dev. Spec.  
Mary Webb Johnston, Co-op Dev. Spec.  
Ben Dryfoos-Guss, Intern

1063 S. Capitol Way, Suite 211  
Olympia, WA 98501  
Phone: (360) 943-4241  
Fax: (360) 570-8415  
nwcdc@nwcdc.coop  
www.nwcdc.coop

## Internship Program Adds Value

In 2003, NWDC began an internship program with The Evergreen State College (TESC) in Olympia, Washington. Our first intern was **Eric Bowman**, who volunteered to help manage the Sustainable Forestry Co-op Development Workshop series. Eric did an outstanding job, and when he graduated in spring 2004 with a Bachelor of Arts degree (Nonprofit Administration and Political Economy focus), we hired him as an employee of NWDC.

Our positive experience with Eric prompted us to become formally involved with the annual TESC Internship Fair. The next interns, **Tim Gage** and **Layne Nakagawa**, joined us in spring 2005. We designed individual work plans tailored to their educational interests and the Center's needs. Tasks included research for a renewable energy revolving loan fund; survey design, implementation and analysis of small wind turbine owners; drafting an employee policy manual, and general office support.

"Although I was immersed in the co-op world for only six months, my experience has made me respect the hard work, effort and the importance of maintaining grassroots work," Layne stated. She

graduated this spring with a Master of Environmental Science.

This fiscal year we were fortunate to have assistance from three interns. **Ben Dryfoos-Guss** interned from fall 2005 to spring 2006, when he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree (Cooperative Development focus). Ben continues to volunteer his services and we plan to hire him part-time this fall. **Rachel Williams** joined us this spring and recently graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree (Sustainable Community Development focus). **Dinea Norrell**, who earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from TESC (Fund Development focus), also joined us this spring.

Intern tasks included Articles of Incorporation research for preschool co-ops in Washington; nonprofit center viability research; meeting facilitation; drafting a fundraising plan for the Center, and research for a "Co-op Starter Series."

Our interns bring the Center fresh ideas and recommendations that we value. We consider our internship program a success and believe we have made a difference in the way our interns view cooperative business development.

## Project Notes

**The Virtual Frontier and Merrill-Malin-Tulelake Quilters** have come together to serve both businesses. The two NWDC-assisted projects are partially funded through the 2005 USDA Rural Cooperative Development Grant.

Based in Republic, Washington, the Virtual Frontier is a technology co-op that offers business training and micro-lending programs to artists and crafters in rural areas, and markets their work on the Virtual Frontier website.

The Merrill-Malin-Tulelake Quilters consists of 40 residents of two southern Oregon towns and one Northern California town. The group is examining the feasibility of the co-op to provide entrepreneurial opportunity and business training for local women and stimulate the local economy.

The quilters plan to display their products on the Virtual Frontier website, at [www.shopthefrontier.com/Vfstore/](http://www.shopthefrontier.com/Vfstore/).

In the environmentally-conscious South Puget Sound area, demand for biodiesel is booming. In response, NWDC is leading the **Olympia Biofuels Co-op (OBC)** through feasibility research, visioning, capacity-building and education.

The Center looks forward to using the experience gained in this project to help other biofuel co-ops emerge throughout the Pacific Northwest.

The OBC mission is to locally produce and distribute quality renewable fuels utilizing sustainable methods and innovative technologies.

NWDC is assisting this project through funds from the USDA Rural Cooperative Development Grant.

If the project proves feasible, the Center aims to spend next year authoring bylaws, and providing board training and business planning to assist in launching the co-op.

## CHS Nurtures Co-op Leaders of Tomorrow

"With a history that dates back to the 1930s and 40s, CHS's predecessor organizations made a commitment to build a future for their producer-owners. More than 50 years later, the CHS Foundation continues to plant seeds for the future by supporting programs that invest in the future of agriculture, cooperatives and rural America. We recognize that shaping the future of rural America is a long-term commitment. We're proud to help develop the producers, scientists, agronomists, teachers and cooperative leaders of tomorrow."

### CHS New Leader Institute

Nov. 28 - Dec. 1, 2006, Portland, Oregon

#### *Building leaders*

Agriculture and rural America need up-and-coming professionals in production agriculture who are prepared to lead the next generation.

#### *Advancing agriculture*

Farming and ranching leaders must constantly seek new information and innovations to enhance their businesses in today's ever-changing, global agricultural industry.

#### *Strengthening rural America*

Emerging agricultural leaders play vital role in influencing community development and prosperity throughout the nation.

In conjunction with the CHS Annual Meeting, a specially selected group of top young producers will participate in the New Leader Institute. Over the course of four intensive days, participants will examine in-depth issues and challenges facing cooperatives, agriculture and rural America; as well as learn ways they can build their leadership skills to benefit their cooperatives and communities. Sessions feature top-notch, professional speakers and agribusiness experts.

#### *Are you ready to be a part of something big?*

It's time to check out the New Leader Institute.

#### *Do you know someone who has what it takes to lead the next generation of agriculture?*

Nominate him or her to participate in the New Leader Institute.

#### *Selection criteria*

Cooperative managers submit nominations based on agreement of the emerging leaders (and spouses) to attend the complete New Leader Institute with the basis of least cost transportation; suggested age range is 25-45 years old. The Institute is intended for participants who have not previously attended. For institute candidates who do not have connections with a cooperative, locally, registration is available through sponsorships from producer-related organizations or by calling 1-800-232-3639, ext. 5481.

To receive more information about the Institute or to nominate future participants, email names and contact information to [william.nelson@chsinc.com](mailto:william.nelson@chsinc.com), or call 651-355-5481. Institute materials and applications will be sent in late summer.

Source: CHS website



### NWCDC to Assist Oregon Woodland Co-op

NWCDC recently met in Portland with members of the Oregon Woodland Cooperative, a group seeking to revitalize their organization. NWCDC will facilitate the revamping of their business plan.

The co-op was launched in 1981 with 40 members who owned primarily large tracts of timber. The current 39 members own about 7,000 acres total, with individual holdings of smaller woodlands. The co-op's goals are twofold—to pool resources to hire a forester to assist members with forest management, and to help members market their logs.

Tom Nygren, a co-op steering committee member, explained that timber marketing has changed significantly over the life of the co-op, beginning with the fact that logs were in demand from many mills. Today fewer mills are operating, so the price of hauling has increased and demand is growing for specialty logs and other forest products.

In addition to rewriting their business plan, the co-op will complete their inventory this summer and update member woodland plans using the American Tree Farm System standards.

#### *Co-op Calendar*

##### September

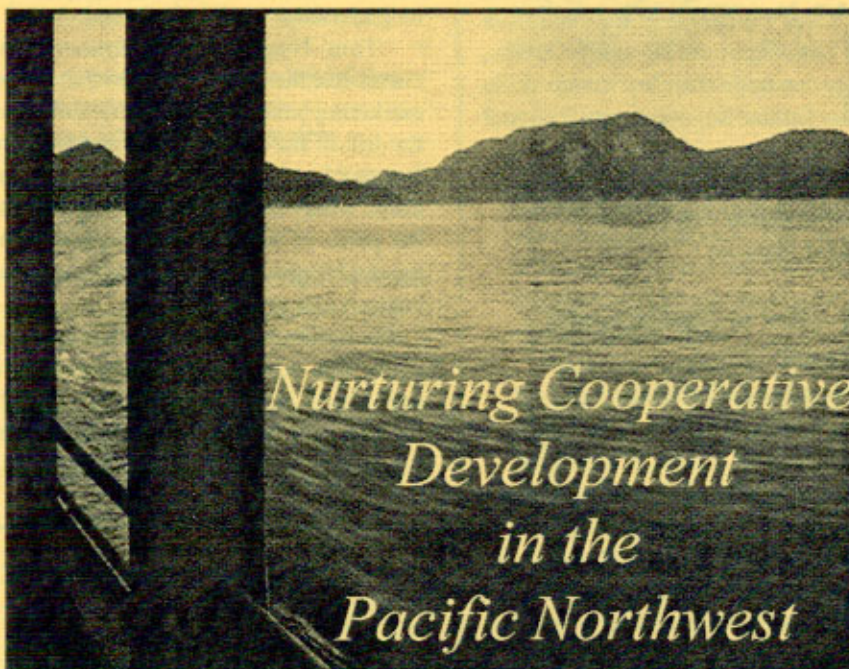
7 - 8 National Cooperative Business Assn., Conference for Purchasing Cooperatives, Rosemont (Chicago), IL  
28 - 29 National Cooperative Business Assn., Board Meeting, Durham, NC

Northwest Cooperative Development Center  
1063 S. Capitol Way, Ste. 211  
Olympia, WA 98501  
nwcdc@nwcdc.coop  
www.nwcdc.coop



### *NWCDC Services*

- Cooperative Education
- Co-op Board Training
- Bylaw/Articles of Incorporation Training
- Business Plan Facilitation
- Feasibility and Market Studies
- Co-op Development Workshops
- Strategic Planning Facilitation
- Organizational Development
- Democratic Governance Training
- Leadership Training



*For information on training content, scheduling, and fees,  
please contact Mary Webb at (360) 943-4241 or at  
mary@nwcdc.coop.*