



The 2012 Wheatsville Election

by Mark Wochner, Board of Directors

As owners of Wheatsville Co-op, we have the opportunity to exercise a unique right to choose who will represent us on our Board of Directors!

This year, we will be electing five people to the Board and will select ten non-profit organizations to support through our Community Action Wednesdays program. Our terms are staggered 3 year terms, such that three three-year terms come up for election each cycle. This year, however, we have two additional one-year terms up for election due to two of our 2011 Directors leaving Austin: Theron Beaudreau and Lee Blaney. They will be missed, and the great work they've done as Directors is greatly appreciated. Good luck, guys!

Throughout the past three years, we have continued to refine our nominations process and are excited about the eleven exceptional candidates running for your Board of Directors. Owners will have the opportunity to meet the Board candidates at the Oct. 9th Fall Owner Gathering. You may have already read about the Board candidates in the September/October issue of the *Breeze*. All of the candidates have been endorsed by the Board, which means that the candidate:

- Is a fully-invested Owner of Wheatsville Co-op;
- Turned in their application by August 1, 2011;
- Attended a Board orientation session;
- Attended at least one Board meeting; and,
- Pledged to abide by the Board of Directors' Code of Conduct.

**NOMINATION
COMMITTEE
ENDORSED**

The reason for our rather extensive nomination and endorsement process is to ensure that candidates understand the role of the Board of Directors and that they are excited to serve all of our owners.

However, being endorsed is not a requirement to get on the ballot. As per section 5.2 of our bylaws, anyone can be put on the ballot upon submission of a petition signed by 100 owners or 1% of the Ownership, whichever is greater. A full explanation of our procedures can be found on our website at: www.wheatsville.coop/Board Policy/Procedures for Co-op Vote.pdf.

The election will officially begin on October 1, 2011 and will run through 5:00pm on December 6, 2011. A detailed description of the voting procedure is available on the Wheatsville website (<http://www.wheatsville.coop/Board Policy/Procedures for Co-op Vote.pdf>).

Normally, the Secretary is accountable to the Board to ensure that these policies are followed, but this year I will be overseeing the election process since our newly-minted Secretary, Doug Addison, and Nomination Committee Chair, Kate Vickery, are up for election. Also, thanks to Gabriel Gallegos for being our 2012 Election Coordinator.

To encourage voting, we have made it easy for you to vote. Owners may cast ballots at the Wheatsville Hospitality Desk, by mail (a ballot is included on the back page of this issue of the *Breeze*), or online by clicking the VOTE button at www.wheatsville.coop. Your vote will help decide who leads our organization into the future and what non-profits we support. We hope that you take this opportunity to positively contribute to our thriving co-op community.

Thank you in advance for participating in the election and ensuring that your co-op continues to succeed!



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Sunday, October 9th 4-7pm Urban Roots Farm

Annual Fall Owner Gathering

MEET

Get to know the candidates for Board of Directors

THINK

Join General Manager, Dan Gillotte for the official kick-off of Wheatsville Food Co-op's BIG Direction!

SHARE

Share your thoughts about the future of Wheatsville Food Co-op

ENJOY

Live music from Vanessa Lively

EAT & DRINK

Enjoy light food and refreshments

FUN FOR KIDS

Urban Roots Field Trip for Kids

See page 3 for more information.

PLEASE RSVP at [wheatsville.coop](http://www.wheatsville.coop) or in person at Wheatsville or phone us at 512-478-2667

OCTOBER 2nd - Last day to sign up for the Urban Roots Field Trip ages 4 and up

OCTOBER 6th - Last Day to RSVP for adults attending the Fall Owner's Gathering

Owner Appreciation Days

Owners receive 10%

off of any ONE shopping trip

Saturday, October 8th

through Sunday, October 16th!





Cook Globally, Grow Locally

13TH ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL

Sunday, October 30

Gates open from noon to 3pm

Boggy Creek Farm

- Food from Austin's top restaurants
- Chef demonstrations
- Live music

Tickets available online
www.greencornproject.org

\$35 in advance, \$40 at the door,
children under 12 free



EMANCIPET+

Dear Wheatsville,

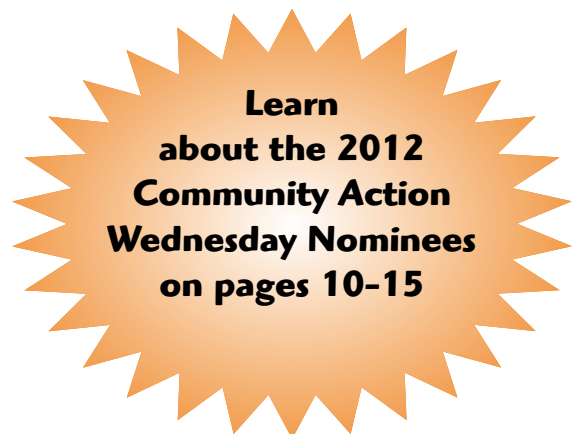
On behalf of the clients, volunteers and staff at Emancipet, I'd like to thank you for Wheatsville Food Co-op's recent donation of \$2,269.24. We are amazed that your incredible staff and generous customers continue to outdo yourselves year to year, and are humbled to have been chosen as a beneficiary of that generosity once again. Your donation this year will have a truly significant impact for the animals and people we serve.

As you have probably heard, this summer has been and momentous one at Emancipet. In July, our much anticipated new mobile clinic arrived. The new clinic, added to our original mobile unit and the stationary clinic on Levander Loop, marks the beginning of an exciting period of growth—adding some much needed capacity and expanding our reach in central Texas. The new unit should allow us to do an additional 4,000 surgeries annually.

We've come a long way in our twelve years of service -and we could not have done it without people and organizations like yours. As we continue to grow, we are ever grateful for the generous, compassionate community of people who have helped us get to where we are today.

I thank you for your continued investment and look forward to a continued partnership.

Jill Lally, Development Director
www.emancipet.org



**October is
CO-OP MONTH
Fair-Trade Month
Non-GMO Month**



The Wheatsville Breeze
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Wheatsville Food Co-op
3101 Guadalupe
Austin, Texas 78705
512-478-2667
email [aldia\(at\)wheatsville.coop](mailto:aldia(at)wheatsville.coop)
website <http://wheatsville.coop>

Editor & Production- Aldia Bluewillow

Contributors -
Aldia Bluewillow, Raquel Dadomo, Gabriel Gallegos, Kitten Holloway, the Wheatsville Nominations Committee, Mark Wochner

Photos by: Aldia Bluewillow
Mariana Salazar (Urban Roots)
except where otherwise noted or not known

The Wheatsville Board of Directors meets at 6pm the fourth Tuesday of every month at 3105 Guadalupe (building North of store). Check <http://wheatsville.coop/BODindex.html> for details. Members are encouraged to attend. Something that you would like discussed at the meeting? Contact General Manager Dan Gillotte at 478-2667 or [gm\(at\)wheatsville.com](mailto:gm(at)wheatsville.com)

Wheatsville 2011 Board of Directors

Rose Marie Klee	Kitten Holloway
Doug Addison	Steven Tomlinson
Mark Wochner	Reyna Bishop
Kate Vickery	

The purpose of Wheatsville is to create a self-reliant, self-empowering community of people that will grow and promote a transformation of society toward cooperation, justice, and nonexploitation.
The mission of Wheatsville is to serve a broad range of people by providing them goods and services, and by using efficient methods which avoid exploitation of the producer and the environment. The focus of this mission is to supply high-quality food and nondiscriminatory information about food to people in Austin, Texas.

Community Action Wednesdays

The group selected for October is the **Capital Area Food Bank**



The mission of the **Capital Area Food Bank** is to nourish hungry people and lead the community in ending hunger. This year, in their 30th year of service, more than 25.3 million pounds of food and grocery products were distributed in 21 Central Texas counties to 355 human & social service agencies. These partner agencies provide hot meals served on-site or groceries to families and individuals in need. CAFB is by far the most important source of food for its partner agencies, accounting for 76% of food for pantries and 38% for soup kitchens. www.capitalareafoodbank.org

Make it Count: Tips & Guidelines for Voting

by Gabriel Gallegos, Ownership Coordinator and 2012 Vote Coordinator



Each year, the Wheatsville Election is a tight race and many times the outcome of both Board of Directors and Community Action categories relies on the last few votes cast. That is why it is extremely important for each of us to follow certain guidelines to make sure that our ballots are valid and accurately counted. Here are some tips to ensure that your vote is tallied correctly.

Tip #1 – Voters Must be Current Co-op Owners

Democratic control of the co-op is a benefit outlined in the Cooperative Principles and is reserved for co-op owners. Encourage your family and friends to join so they too can participate in the election!

Tip #2 – Ballots Must Contain the Voter's Name

Because all voters must be owners, the Vote Coordinator must verify each ballot against our owner database. It is highly recommended that voters use the same name on their ballot that is listed on the ownership account. Using alternate names or nicknames on the ballot can complicate the verification process and may prevent your vote from being tallied. While we do maintain the anonymity of the votes, this information is essential to ensure your vote is tallied.



Tip #3 – One Name per Ballot

If you live in a household with more than one owner, make sure that each owner fills out a separate ballot. This is why in a multi-owner household each owner will receive an Election Breeze of their own. If more than one name is placed on one ballot, it may be difficult to determine if both owners intended to vote for exactly the same candidates and/or Community Action groups. Furthermore, each owner is entitled to their own separate vote.

Tip #4 – One Vote per Owner

Each owner is entitled to one vote during the Annual Wheatsville Election. Duplicate ballots will be declared invalid unless the owner contacts the Vote Coordinator and requests to cast a replacement ballot.

Tip #5 – Be Thorough

Filling out all the contact information on the ballot may help the Vote Coordinator contact you should there be a problem with your ballot. It is also a quick and easy way to update your contact information on your ownership account.

Note: When a ballot contains errors, the Vote Coordinator

will make every attempt possible to contact the voter before officially declaring it invalid. We want to make sure that each and every owner's voice is heard during the election.

This year we will be accepting paper ballots at the **Hospitality Desk**, **electronic votes on our website**, or you can **mail in the ballot included in this Special Election Issue of the Breeze**. For the first six weeks of the election, we will also have a **computer kiosk at the Hospitality Desk** for your voting convenience. If you have any questions about voting, feel free to contact me at [membership\(at\)wheatsville.coop](mailto:membership(at)wheatsville.coop). I look forward to serving as this year's Vote Coordinator and am excited to see all the votes come in. Don't forget to remind your friends and family to vote! Happy voting!



Join Us at the Annual Fall Owner Gathering!

by Kitten Holloway, Board of Directors

This year's theme for our Annual Fall Owner Gathering is "Community" and on **October 9th** we will be taking a close look at the impact Wheatsville Food Co-op has on all facets of our community. From being an important part of a robust local economy to our role in the larger community with colleagues in housing, worker and other industry cooperatives, find out how the future of Wheatsville matters.

We invite you to be a part of the discussion as General Manager, Dan Gillotte, unfolds a vision for Wheatsville that provides benefit and value for owners along with our community at large. Owners will learn how Wheatsville is putting Cooperative Values and Principles into action and what we, as owners, can do to support our cooperative's future success.

Our Board of Directors will also share a newly evolving initiative among a diverse group of cooperatives in Austin. The newly formed **Austin Co-op Think Tank** is being viewed as possibly a national model that will influence local economies! Come hear what we are doing!

The United Nations has declared 2012 as the "International Year of Cooperatives" and Wheatsville's continual evolution is a working example of the quote by United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, "Cooperatives are a reminder to the international community that it is possible to pursue both economic viability and social responsibility."

There are many exciting things happening in Wheatsville's near future. As owners we have the opportunity to contribute our voices and move us closer to achieving our cooperative's goals:

- to create thriving community centered on hospitality, kindness and generosity
- to create a robust cooperative economy
- and to provide easy access to sustainable, healthy food solutions."

Bring your family and please join us Sunday, October 9, 2011 from 4 to 7 pm at Urban Roots for this year's Annual Fall Owner Gathering!

Directions to Urban Roots Farm

7651 Delwau Lane, Austin, TX 78725

From the North or Central Austin - take either Airport Blvd South or 183 South (see below for both)

Going South on 183

- Take the exit for Bolm Rd.
- Turn Left under the highway in order to U-Turn under 183.
- Just as you are about to merge onto the highway, take a Right onto Smith Rd., which is a small side road.
- Turn left immediately (and proceed parallel to 183- This is Howard Rd.)
- Follow the road around to the right (never mind the street sign on your right),
- Come to the Y, veer left onto Delwau Lane
- Cross over Boggy Creek, follow the road to the right.
- In about 500 yds, you will see a sign on the right for Hands of the Earth Farm.

Going South on Airport Blvd. from I-35

- Drive south almost to the river.
- Pass Manor, MLK, and Springdale roads.
- Just after Springdale Rd, make a Left onto Bolm Rd.
- Drive straight through a stop sign, and just after the stoplight, drive under the highway (Rt 183) and make a left as if you were going to get on 183 North. Just as you are about to merge onto the highway, take a right onto Smith Rd, which is a small side road.
- Turn left (and proceed parallel to 183- This is Howard Rd.)
- Follow the road around to the right, past the water treatment plant (alongside Boggy Creek)
- Come to the Y, veer left onto Delwau Lane
- Cross over Boggy Creek, follow the road to the right.
- In about 500 yds, you will see a sign on the right for Hands of the Earth Farm.

From South Austin Via Riverside Dr.

- Take Riverside Dr. to Montopolis Dr.
- Turn Left on Montopolis Dr.
- And then follow the 183 N directions below Via East Ben White Blvd / TX - 71
- Take Ben White east to 183 N
- And then follow the 183 N directions below

Going North on 183

- Take the Bolm Road exit.
- Go through the stoplight at Bolm road and continue as if you are getting back onto 183.
- Just as you are about to merge onto the highway, take a Right onto Smith Rd., which is a small side road.
- Turn left immediately (and proceed parallel to 183- This is Howard Rd.)
- Follow the road around to the right (never mind the street sign on your right), past the water treatment plant (alongside Boggy Creek)
- Come to the Y, veer left onto Delwau Lane
- Cross over Boggy Creek, follow the road to the right.
- In about 500 yds, you will see a sign on the right for Hands of the Earth Farm.



FUN FOR KIDS

Our gracious hosts at Urban Roots have put together a **farm field trip** for kids ages 4 and up that will have them learning about sustainable farming and healthy eating. The field trip will be run by members of Urban Roots concurrent to the Owner Gathering in order to allow adults time to participate in the meeting. To register for this field trip and learn more about Urban Roots please visit our website www.wheatsville.coop by Oct. 2



photos Mariana Salazar



Meet the Candidates for the Board



Doug Addison

NOMINATION
COMMITTEE
ENDORSED

Place of employment: Self-employed
Position/Title: web producer
Education: Master's degree, journalism - Northwestern University
How many years have you lived in Austin? 16
How many years have you been a member of Wheatsville? 16

1. Why do you want to serve on the Board of Directors of Wheatsville Co-op?

As an incumbent Board member, I am eager to continue my service to Wheatsville Food Co-op for another term. My two years of Board service have provided me with a gratifying and inspiring experience, both from a personal perspective and as member of the Austin community. I have been proud to share my talents as a Board member, while also collaborating with and learning from my excellent Board colleagues and many of the Co-op's top-notch staff members. The next few years are going to be an exciting time to be a Wheatsville owner, and I want to help lead the Co-op to the next level as a Board member. I also appreciate the long view: Over the next 10, 20, 30 years, Wheatsville has the power to transform Austin with more and better jobs; healthy, sustainable food; and improved community well-being through cooperative economics, principles and values. I'm excited to play a part in making that happen.

2. What are you passionate about? How could we see that passion in action in your day-to-day life?

I'm most passionate about doing the right thing, leading by example, learning new things by challenging myself, and having fun while doing it. Shopping at Wheatsville and joining the Board are two ways I've acted on my passions. One thing I've come to realize since joining the Board is how much Wheatsville's operations, its mission and even the foundational principles and values of the cooperative movement align with my own outlook. Wheatsville reflects my own ideals for Austin by promoting concepts like providing information and educating customers; avoiding manipulation and exploitation of workers, customers and suppliers; and encouraging self-help through economic participation. Being on the Board enables me to represent and act on the ideals that matter to me. I also value the effort the staff puts in to making Wheatsville a fun place. From the friendly greeting at the door to the "Nom nom nom" banner above the deli to the "miles from Wheatsville" tag beneath the Tom's Tabooley hummus (which reads "Tom's Tabooley is located across the street from Wheatsville."), the store is full of things that make me smile and appreciate how much Wheatsville's staff tries to make the world a better and more fun place every day.

3. Describe an experience where you worked on a team. What did you offer the team? How did you compromise for the team's benefit?

My tenure on the Wheatsville board has been one of the most meaningful and engaging "teamwork" experiences in my life to date. My service has afforded me the opportunity to exercise critical thinking skills and confront intellectual challenges all while acting on behalf of a business that means a lot to me, my friends and neighbors, and all of Austin. The Board's work is a group effort, and one in which each member brings skills that build up and reinforce those of his or her colleagues. I think my colleagues have

benefited from my attention to details, my communication skills, my ability to listen carefully and add my input where I thought it would move our work forward. Compromise is also a key aspect of how the work of the Board gets done. Through our own internal policies, the nine members of the Board are committed to speaking with one voice on issues and decisions that affect the running of the Co-op.

4. You've recently been elected to the Wheatsville Board. A close friend and local food producer privately asks you to help her business by having the Board publicly denounce the alleged unethical business practices of her closest competitor, whose products are already sold at Wheatsville. The business owner says she will deeply discount Wheatsville's orders for her product for a year if you help her. Briefly describe two or three possible ways you could handle this situation, and how you would ultimately act.

I could privately pass on what I heard to the GM, but doing so would compromise both my personal integrity and my duty to the Co-op and my fellow Board members. I could keep it to myself, but even in the face of implied bribery, I have to remember that Board members represent all owners. Ultimately, I would remind my friend that Board members have no authority over product selection or day-to-day operations. We are bound by the Co-op's governing documents to avoid self-dealing, conflicts of interest, or acting individually on behalf of the whole Board. Wheatsville's Board keeps its focus on high-level issues and the long-term success of the Co-op, rather than meddling in staff decisions or trading favors for insiders. One thing that sets cooperatives apart from many other businesses are the standards of fairness and openness by which they operate. So I would encourage my friend to make her concerns known by one or more of the following actions: Contact the general manager, describe the situation to the Board and general manager during open time at a Board meeting, or initiate a petition process described in the Co-op's by-laws by which an issue may be brought before owners for a vote.

Is there anything else you'd like to tell us? Do you have other experiences that you see as being related to the work of the Board?

As a sole proprietor of a small service-oriented business in Austin, I have developed skills and talents that are complementary to the work of the Wheatsville board of directors. My job requires careful listening to clients' needs, acting on those needs while carefully managing expectations, and making informed choices in the face of limited time, money and resources. I believe these skills will continue to serve me well in another term on the board.

Short Bio

Doug Addison is an independent web designer and developer who has been building websites since 1996. Doug's business focuses on assisting businesses and organizations with how their websites are organized, what they do, and what they say. Doug's clients rely on his 10+ years of experience in web design - combined with strong editorial sensibilities and broad technical capabilities - to help them make the most of their online endeavors with feature-rich websites that are easy to deploy and maintain. Doug's background includes newspaper reporting and magazine writing and editing in the business and science fields. He earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism. Doug has written two books about web design: *Web Site Cookbook* (O'Reilly, 2006) and *Small Websites, Great Results* (Paraglyph, 2004). Doug moved to Austin in 1995 and has been a Wheatsville shopper and owner for several years. He lives in central Austin with his wife and two daughters.



Reyna Bishop

NOMINATION
COMMITTEE
ENDORSED

Place of employment: home
Position/Title: Mom
Education: Masters Nutrition
How many years have you lived in Austin? 8
How many years have you been a member of Wheatsville? 6

1. Why do you want to serve on the Board of Directors of Wheatsville Co-op?

I was elected to a one year term as a Director on the Wheatsville Board starting in January 2011. When I decided to run for the board last year, I only knew that I loved Wheatsville and wanted to contribute to its ongoing success. That remains true, but the past year has helped me to see the benefits of cooperatives in a larger context. I am learning to see coop as a viable model of sustainable and socially responsible enterprise. Studying the ins and outs of Policy Governance, increasing my understanding of the importance of Cooperative Economy, and being able to take part in the conversation about Wheatsville's "Big Direction" has been incredibly rewarding and has fueled my enthusiasm for the work of the Board. I have just gotten started and hope to have the opportunity to serve another term.

2. What are you passionate about? How could we see that passion in action in your day-to-day life?

I am passionate about food and issues around food safety and availability. I have a Master's degree in Nutrition and went through macrobiotic and natural foods culinary training at the Natural Epicurean. I previously owned a vegetarian food delivery business and was involved with the Austin Farmer's Market. Most recently, I have worked as a personal chef and I write a food blog dedicated to healthy eating for kids. Being pregnant last year served to heighten my awareness about issues like mercury in fish, pesticides in produce, hormone and antibiotics in meat, and controversy surrounding GMO labeling. I am fortunate enough to have the resources to choose healthy and sustainable foods for my family and it is my wish to see these choices afforded to all sectors of society. I am encouraged by the strength the local/sustainable food movement has gained in recent years and hope this movement will gain enough momentum to effect real change in both agriculture and politics. I see my involvement with Wheatsville Coop as a way to help effect this change.

3. Describe an experience where you worked on a team. What did you offer the team? How did you compromise for the team's benefit?

My family is the team I find myself most concentrated on these days. Shortly after joining the Wheatsville board, I gave birth to a baby girl. My husband and I agreed that I would stop working for a few years to care for the baby and our toddler. This decision to quit work, itself both a gift and a compromise, has also necessitated tough financial decisions and has required increased communication about our respective roles and responsibilities within the family unit. My husband and I find ourselves having an ongoing dialogue about religion, holidays, and what we want our family traditions to be and these conversations often result in compromise. Like most parents, we are acutely aware that we are the stewards of little people who will lead the next generation and it is our job to instill in them the values and ethics that will help them to become caring and productive adults. Everyday offers small opportunities to teach our kids kindness, empathy, justice, and yes... compromise.

4. You've recently been elected to the Wheatsville Board. A close friend and local food producer privately asks you to help her business by having the Board publicly denounce the alleged unethical business practices of her closest competitor, whose products are already sold at Wheatsville. The business owner says she will deeply discount Wheatsville's orders for her product for a year if you help her. Briefly describe two or three possible ways you could handle this situation, and how you would ultimately act.

Scenario 1: I would tell the close friend that the Board of Directors of Wheatsville does not interfere in the daily management or activities of the store, but rather that it is the Board's role to provide high level oversight to ensure that general policies and objectives set out by the Board are being adhered to. I would suggest that the unethical business practices be reported to the Better Business Bureau and that any buying agreements she hoped to offer be discussed directly with the department or store manager.

Scenario 2: As in scenario 1, I would explain the role of the Board to my friend so that she clearly understands the limitations and boundaries of the role. I would do my best to be sympathetic to her concerns, but also ask that she understand that her making these requests presented a conflict of interest for me. In order to avoid any bias on my part, I would ask that she present her concerns to the General Manager of Wheatsville. If the General Manager judged the issue to be an item appropriate to be discussed with the Board, I would share my bias with the other Board Members and excuse myself from any vote (if applicable) or input.

Ultimately, I would act out scenario 2. If the friend's concerns are legitimate and the alleged unethical practices are relevant, it allows an appropriate decision to be made without my bias.

Reyna Bishop...continued on next page

Meet the Candidates for the Board



Ellison Carter

Place of employment:
The University of Texas at Austin
Position/Title: PhD candidate
(environmental engineering)
Education: MS Civil Engineering (UT-Austin), BS Biology, BA Spanish (Indiana University)
How many years have you lived in Austin? 5
How many years have you been a member of Wheatsville? 5

NOMINATION
COMMITTEE
ENDORSED

1. Why do you want to serve on the Board of Directors of Wheatsville Co-op?

I would like to serve on the Wheatsville Board of Directors because I believe strongly that profit is only one priority among others of equal or greater value that include fair treatment of the people involved in providing a product or service and responsible use of environmental resources. I would really like the opportunity to work with the great team of people that make up the current Board to uphold our cooperative's mission and ensure our lasting success as an organization.

I had the opportunity to witness the transformative effect a cooperative can have on a local community when I was working in Costa Rica and took part in a local coffee cooperative. The long-standing coffee cooperative model had been so embraced by the community that in the 1990s the women of the community decided to start their own craft-based cooperative. Though dramatic changes did not happen overnight, the increase in interaction among women in the community as a result of their involvement in the cooperative eventually led to a drastic reduction in domestic abuse. I want to be a director to help Wheatsville have similarly meaningful impacts on the Austin community.

2. What are you passionate about? How could we see that passion in action in your day-to-day life?

I am interested in people over profits and creation over consumption. I am passionate about creating a healthy environment, whether that means protecting human and environmental health from pollution or fostering good relationships between family and friends.

I buy a box of produce every week from a local farmer because I believe local, small-scale agriculture is healthier for the environment. I choose not to drive a car because I think it is healthier for me to bike. My husband and I live in a house with friends because we think it is healthy for people to share space and things and rely on each other. We do not use heat in the winter or air-conditioning in the summer because it is unnecessary, and we would rather spend our money on something that lasts (or delicious food!). Professionally, I am pursuing a career in environmental engineering in which I can hopefully reduce the disproportionate impact of environmental pollution on people who don't have a voice in our society. Our current economic model allows the rich to dump their harmful by-products (and sometimes products) on the poor, and I want to be an advocate to make society more aware of this immorality.

3. Describe an experience where you worked on a team. What did you offer the team? How did you compromise for the team's benefit?

This year I volunteered for two weeks with an organization, Water for People, working with a team in several communities in Bolivia surveying local water and sanitation conditions and needs. My environmental engineering background and Spanish-speaking skills were a good fit for the type of work we would be doing. Within the span of one week, we needed to conduct over 800 household interviews, which included personal questions about the family member's bathroom habits. On top of being a complete stranger asking these intrusive questions, we were required to enter the responses into an electronic device during the interview. Too clinical for me, I was so opposed to the approach that I initially refused to use the technology. My refusal to do so, though, was slowing our team down. I consulted several of my teammates to learn how they were managing the technology and putting their advice into practice, I was able to provide the real-time information Water for People desired while still connecting with and being respectful of the people I interviewed. I was also able to provide Water for People with feedback they sought to improve the technology and integrate it inconspicuously into the interview process.

4. You've recently been elected to the Wheatsville Board. A close friend and local food producer privately asks you to help her business by having the Board publicly denounce the alleged unethical business practices of her closest competitor, whose products are already sold at Wheatsville. The business owner says she will deeply discount Wheatsville's orders for her product for a year if you help her. Briefly describe two or three possible ways you could handle this situation, and how you would ultimately act.

Allegations of unethical business practices should be taken seriously by the Board. In this case, I could ask my close friend to provide me with information in support of their allegation of unethical business practices by their competitors and bring this information before the Board to be investigated as the Board sees fit. Alternatively, I could invite this friend and local food producer making the allegations to attend a Board meeting and present their allegations themselves. In light of the bribe of deep discounts offered by this friend, which casts doubt on the veracity of their allegations, I would choose to invite them to present their allegations in person to the Board. If this friend and local food producer were truly compelled to ensure that Wheatsville only work with ethically upstanding businesses, the friend would be motivated to help the Board investigate the unethical practices. If their allegation were weak or even false, motivated more by a desire to further their own business, they would have the chance to reconsider making the allegation.

Is there anything else you'd like to tell us? Do you have other experiences that you see as being related to the work of the Board?

I am inspired to do way more than time or my talents allow. This year, for instance, with the help of my mother, I started working on my first quilt. My close friend (and house-mate) and I plan to build a chicken coop this winter and have the best intentions to fill it with chicks by the spring. I brewed my first batch of beer with the help of some friends, and my second batch is in the works. If I have the courage for it, I would love to learn to keep bees starting next year.

In keeping with my passion to help people live in healthy environments, I have worked in support of several UT graduate students to start a non-profit organization, Bridging Waters. For the past year, I have served as secretary, and I am learning a lot through the process of seeking our non-profit status and defining our role within the water and sanitation and development field. I am anxious to learn more about guiding an organization through challenging decisions that shape its future, and this desire to learn more has been additional motivation for me to seek a position as a Wheatsville director.

Short Bio

I am currently an environmental engineering PhD student at the University of Texas at Austin motivated to ensure the protection of human and environmental health. I am from Indiana, and after graduating from Indiana University, I spent a year working in Costa Rica, where I was able to take part in the local coffee cooperative and women's craft cooperative. This opportunity gave me a chance to witness the positive impacts a cooperative could have on the local community. Before coming to Texas, I also worked as an interpreter for migrant farmworkers. In this role, I learned about the wide range of working and living conditions these farmworkers experience as they move across the United States in their line of work, strengthening my conviction that there is still much work to be done to establish fair and just farm labor practices. I am currently working to apply my research in the area of air pollution treatment to improve the air quality in farm worker housing here in central Texas.



StrongerTogether.coop
is a new online community— a place for people to gather on their food journey. It's a place to find out more about what's in food, where it comes from, where to find great food, and a whole lot more. It's also a place for consumers to talk with others about food topics they're exploring, are passionate about, or want to get involved in.

We'd love for you to participate at <http://strongertogether.coop> or click on the link on Wheatsville's website at www.wheatsville.coop.

Reyna Bishop...continued from previous page

Is there anything else you'd like to tell us? Do you have other experiences that you see as being related to the work of the Board?

I have a background in Project Management. This kind of work requires an ability to balance global oversight with daily attention to detail in order to ensure that the project and staff are on track. I have experience conducting budget review working with team members from various business and educational backgrounds. The role of the board is strategic and visionary, but part of ensuring that the Board's vision is being realized is to provide clear policies and to monitor compliance of these policies. I think my experience as a Project Manager has helped me to function in both of these ways.

Short Bio

I have lived in Austin for 8 years and have been a member of Wheatsville for 6 of those years. I was elected to serve a one year term on the Wheatsville Board of Directors in January 2011. Education and work experience include a Master's Degree in Nutrition, work as a Project Manager for clinical research, graduate of the Natural Epicurean, owning a vegetarian food and delivery business, and work as a personal chef. I am passionate about food issues, my community, my family, and Wheatsville Coop. I am excited about Wheatsville's "Big Direction" and about its role in the Cooperative movement. I hope to have the opportunity to contribute through serving another term on the Board of Directors.

Meet the Candidates for the Board



Monika E. Cavazos, CTBS

NOMINATION COMMITTEE ENDORSED

Place of employment: The Tissue Center of Central Texas
Position/Title: Manager- Customer Service & Account Management
Education: Bachelor's Degree in Health & Wellness Promotion & Women's Studies
How many years have you lived in Austin? 7-8 Years
How many years have you been a member of Wheatsville? Between 5-8 years

1. Why do you want to serve on the Board of Directors of Wheatsville Co-op?

I strongly believe in the 7 principles by which co-operatives put their values into practice. I feel that it would be a wonderful experience to be able to participate in the actions and processes that make Wheatsville such an integral part of Austin's sustainable development. I feel that it's important to continue to keep the mindset of being motivated not necessarily by profit, but by service, in order to meet members' needs affordably while still being able to offer high quality goods and services that are produced and cultivated responsibly.

2. What are you passionate about? How could we see that passion in action in your day-to-day life?

I'm fueled by social consciousness and being able to create awareness and social change through direct humanitarian action, empowerment and education. Gandhi encouraged us to "be the change we want to see in this world", and so I am motivated to do so in my life through my actions. I'm devoted to the idea and practice of volunteerism because of the economic savings to organizations that can be established by this type of supplemental workforce as well as being a means to tie a community together for a good cause. Community volunteers enrich and add value to an organization's standing within the community and reflect the goodwill of an organization's efforts to illustrate their investment in the community's growth and progress in both a cost effective and mutually beneficial way. Through my work as a donation advocate, I work continuously to change people's negative attitudes about the donation process and challenge them to focus on the amazing impact that donation and transplantation can have on individuals and their families. I believe in and strongly encourage others to be the stewards of their communities and commit to creating change that will make the most positive local and global impact.

3. Describe an experience where you worked on a team. What did you offer the team? How did you compromise for the team's benefit?

Donation events occur at all hours, especially at night. The stress of answering multiple calls in between talking with families, desperately needing sleep before the office day starts, and trying to complete donor consent and recovery paperwork can really put your team cohesion skills to the test. My role in donation events is typically completed once donor information and consent paperwork is handed off to a surgical team so that they can prepare for recovery. If a team is ineffectively able to meet time limits for tissue recovery, donation cannot occur. During several events where a team was pressed for time and staff, to keep the case moving, I've stepped in to meet up with funeral home or hospital agents at our recovery site to receive, identify, and perform an initial physical assessment on the donor. These actions, which are imperative to the recovery process, have allowed the team to continue packing supplies, travel cases and readying their staff. The compromise and benefit is to keep the donation process moving, save the team time and achieve our desired outcome which is making the donation happen for families who want so much for their loved ones to become legacies through donation.

4. You've recently been elected to the Wheatsville Board. A close friend and local food producer privately asks you to help her business by having the Board publicly denounce the alleged unethical business practices of her closest competitor, whose products are already sold at Wheatsville. The business owner says she will deeply discount Wheatsville's orders for her product for a year if you help her. Briefly describe two or three possible ways you could handle this situation, and how you would ultimately act.

In offering to sell their product at a lower cost; this kind of business practice is not conducive to the co-op belief system which strives to provide goods and services that are mutually beneficial to all. I'd inform my friend that this request is a direct breach of my duty to act in good faith for the benefit of the organization and our collective.

I've been elected by owners of the co-op itself. I'm expected to be accountable to them and act in a manner that serves all of our best interests. By colluding in arrangements that involve the slander of competitors and a commitment to what in itself is an unethical business practice, this isn't in the best interest of owners nor does it reflect positively on the image that we're trying to reflect on our end users, our shared service providers and the community overall.

Ultimately, I'd state that my role on the board is one in which I serve in the capacity of strategic planning, financial oversight, ownership linkage, and community outreach. Although our goal is to position ourselves to provide the maximum benefit to our owners, this should not be accomplished through self-seeking and biased actions.

Short Bio

I'm manager of accounts, customer service and hospital development at the Tissue Center of Central Texas here in Austin. I work with hospitals and donation agencies to aid in developing resources that support organ, tissue and eye donation and help in facilitating successful tissue recoveries. I maintain our metrics and relationships with our shared service partners. I also provide customer service follow up to our partners and provide education within our community about laws regarding donation, end of life decisions and the many benefits of donation and donor designation.

I love volunteering my time to provide support for organizations that I feel are impactful and reciprocally beneficial to local residents and their families. Most of my free time is spent involved in activities that help to assist organizations including the Capital Area Food Bank as a general volunteer and Community Ambassador, defending reproductive rights alongside Planned Parenthood of the Central Texas Region and collaborating with the Texas Organ Sharing Alliance trying to get the message about donor designation out into the community. People have the power to make positive changes happen in their lives. I'm a strong believer in learned optimism to achieve success over learned helplessness.



Christopher de Mers

NOMINATION COMMITTEE ENDORSED

Place of employment: Self
Position/Title: Teacher & therapist
Education: MBA, BS, SPHR
How many years have you lived in Austin? 20
How many years have you been a member of Wheatsville? 1

1. Why do you want to serve on the Board of Directors of Wheatsville Co-op?

First and foremost, I love the Wheatsville experience. I actually look forward to going there! More importantly I think I am an open-minded intelligent person, and have been involved in civic and church leadership positions in the past, as well as having over 20 years of business experience including managing contracts and vendors. Compromise and collectivism is part of my nature. A board is the sum of its parts - not individuals; I think I could add to that sum.

2. What are you passionate about? How could we see that passion in action in your day-to-day life?

Passionate about living a life I'm happy with. Making choices about friends, family, my partner, my vocation and experience that let me live a life that contributes to my neighborhood as it nourishes my soul. I love art and creativity as much as freedom of choice. It makes me happy to see people express themselves.

3. Describe an experience where you worked on a team. What did you offer the team? How did you compromise for the team's benefit?

In grad school I worked on a team analyzing and presenting a difficult financial case to our class and professor. Our team of busy professionals including people from engineering, sales and management backgrounds worked mostly on-line with little face time. My offering was to be the "closer" - to summarize the case and make recommendations to the class; I did this very well according to our teacher. In terms of compromise, I lobbied for more face time and discussion time but recognizing family and work constraints I moved to the mode that the team felt better with and adopted a practice I might not have otherwise.

4. You've recently been elected to the Wheatsville Board. A close friend and local food producer privately asks you to help her business by having the Board publicly denounce the alleged unethical business practices of her closest competitor, whose products are already sold at Wheatsville. The business owner says she will deeply discount Wheatsville's orders for her product for a year if you help her. Briefly describe two or three possible ways you could handle this situation, and how you would ultimately act.

Have had this experience before in 20 years of management for companies buying services; the only way to act authentically is to do what you say you will do - provide the same opportunity for everyone and ignore these "special" deals. I would also tell my friend to stop abusing our friendship with these unethical requests.

Is there anything else you'd like to tell us? Do you have other experiences that you see as being related to the work of the Board?

I have had leadership positions in civic groups (former VISTA volunteer) as well as in my church (finance chair, board president) and in my discipline (1998 President, Austin Human Resource Association). I feel this, in addition to my professional experience, has prepared me to be a good team member - to act in the interests of the Co-op always. That's a higher calling, and it is powerful to me.

Short Bio

Hello there, my name is Christopher. I've lived in Austin since 1991, and have shopped at Wheatsville almost that long! By trade I'm a teacher and a bodyworker; I love helping people. Personally I enjoy the arts and many sports, and love being outside even in Austin's warm weather!

I live and simple and joyful life with my wonderful partner, and our dog and cats. My children are all grown now, and I enjoy seeing them do what they want with their life knowing they are loved by their family and friends. Growth is important.

Have obtained an MBA and a BS from St. Ed's, as well as becoming lifetime certified as a senior professional in HR.

I've had significant experience in technology and consumer product companies, and for the last five years have been self-employed, and happy for the most part!

My interest in the board is simply to extend what I can to do more for Wheatsville; to me it is more than a store, it is a place that embodies every day what our lives can be like when we live to help each other in a manner of mutual support and respect. In short, Wheatsville replenishes me, and I'd like to give back.



Meet the Candidates for the Board



Christina Fenton



Place of employment: University of Texas at Austin
Position/Title: Program Administrator
Education: BA-Political Science
How many years have you lived in Austin? 5
How many years have you been a member of Wheatsville? 3

1. Why do you want to serve on the Board of Directors of Wheatsville Co-op?

I believe in Wheatsville's mission, I believe that we as consumers vote with our dollars and that a vibrant, healthy coop is good for our community. I believe in supporting businesses that support the community, that are good employers and stewards of our resources. I am convinced that the coop business model offers a vibrant and viable alternative to corporations and would like to contribute to the long-term health and well being of our coop and to learn more about the cooperative economy in Austin. I have the time and energy to give back to Wheatsville as a Board member and I believe the Board would put my talents to good use. I believe that my program management experience in particular will help me contribute to Wheatsville's work in serving the community and accomplishing its mission.

2. What are you passionate about? How could we see that passion in action in your day-to-day life?

I'm passionate about food and people. That certainly makes Wheatsville a great fit for me. I've been a member of a CSA here in Austin for almost five years and think supporting local farmers and eating locally and seasonally is one of the greatest ways to feel connected to your food. It's especially easy to eat seasonally in Austin where we can grow produce all year! This year we started keeping backyard chickens, eating fresh eggs and raising chickens has been such an eye opening experience for me. As a culture, we are so disconnected from our food sources and I love that Wheatsville works to educate its members on where our food comes from. To me, food is much more than fuel-it's a cultural experience, a creative outlet, a community building activity and something to take pride in. I strive to be engaged in my community as much as possible and try to make the best food choices possible. I think eating sustainably and making educated food choices is our responsibility as citizens.

3. Describe an experience where you worked on a team. What did you offer the team? How did you compromise for the team's benefit?

I am an effective team member because I am good at being a "bridge" connecting people with divergent perspectives, skill sets, and goals. I work at UT Austin where I coordinate two continuing education programs for adults. Most of the members of my programs are retired or semi-retired. The programs are volunteer-driven and I spend a large portion of my day working with these volunteer members. Within the last two years we have designed a database/web management system in conjunction with the IT team at UT. The IT team is obviously very technical while our office and our members aren't, though we are the main users. I often help the team communicate, expressing the needs of the users and then expressing the capabilities of the web team. I have had to compromise a lot on this project, reprioritizing our needs based on the amount of time the IT team has to spend with us.

4. You've recently been elected to the Wheatsville Board. A close friend and local food producer privately asks you to help her business by having the Board publicly denounce the alleged unethical business practices of her closest competitor, whose products are already sold at Wheatsville. The business owner says she will deeply discount Wheatsville's orders for her product for a year if you help her. Briefly describe two or three possible ways you could handle this situation, and how you would ultimately act.

This is a tricky situation and there are a few ways that this could be handled. Obviously, I have a personal connection to the business owner, which keeps me from being impartial. Also, the Board of Wheatsville does not deal in the daily operations of the store, that is the General Manager's duty.

First scenario:

I could bring this issue to the Board, relying on their expertise to navigate the situation. This puts me in a difficult situation considering my personal relationship with the business owner and the fact that the Board does not make operational decisions.

Second scenario:

Suggest the friend bring her grievance up to the Board. Board meetings are open to the owners and she could attend a meeting and share her story.

Third scenario:

I could send the friend to the General Manager with her story. The General Manager handles the operations of the store and makes all decisions about products. The decision to investigate the allegations or to carry another product would be his to make. Ultimately, I would choose the third scenario, explain the role of the Board and ask my friend to bring her issue up to the General Manager.

Short Bio—resume available online.

My passion is food and the local food economy. I will work hard as a board member to maintain the integrity of Wheatsville's mission as it grows and expands. I have a diverse professional background in program management, committee work, and daily program operations. In my job, I work on the day-to-day operations involved in running a program such as putting on events, customer service, and technological logistics, all while keeping long-term program sustainability in mind. I have experience setting a program budget, and reporting on that budget throughout the year and I find joy in working on a team to achieve a common goal. I believe that all Wheatsville owners share my desire to have a coop which is focused on preserving and expanding the local food economy and which is financially successful in the long term. I have the professional skills and the passion help the coop achieve these goals by serving as a Board member.



Jason Heffron



Place of employment: Juice Homes, LLC
Position/Title: Owner/REALTOR
Education: Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service and Master of Business Administration
How many years have you lived in Austin? 10
How many years have you been a member of Wheatsville? 1st became a member in 2001; became a fully vested member in 2011

1. Why do you want to serve on the Board of Directors of Wheatsville Co-op?

I am interested in how communities develop into thriving, mutually supportive groups and what we can do as individuals to nurture these groups so that they benefit their members and the larger community in which they are housed. By its very nature, the grocery store sits at the middle of so many communities. Because Wheatsville is not profit-centered, it can spend more time grappling with the questions revolving around its role as community builder. I want to be a part of that discussion, particularly as Wheatsville looks to strike out into new communities.

2. What are you passionate about? How could we see that passion in action in your day-to-day life?

Joy. Happiness. I worked in the not-for-profit world for 7 years and have worked helping people buy or sell homes for the last 8 years. Despite the very different chores of these two fields, my avocation has not changed . . . "how can I affect the environment of the people I am serving so that they can more easily discover richness and joy in their lives." It is the litmus test I use in the decisions I make as a parent . . . will the choices I make contribute to the long-term happiness of my child or endanger it. I see community development the same way - the end goal is happiness among the community's individual members. It is not about short-term pleasure. It is about creating an environment that bolsters the individual's chances for developing their own deeply rooted joy.

3. Describe an experience where you worked on a team. What did you offer the team? How did you compromise for the team's benefit?

I started Juice Homes (my real estate company) by myself in 2006. For the first several years everything that was the company was a reflection of me. I had detailed plans of what the company could be as it grew, but ultimately I wanted it to be more than my vision alone. So a number of years ago I brought other agents into the partnership and gave them equal voice in building the company. The success that Juice Homes has achieved to this point is because of a collective vision that has exceeded where I would have been alone.

4. You've recently been elected to the Wheatsville Board. A close friend and local food producer privately asks you to help her business by having the Board publicly denounce the alleged unethical business practices of her closest competitor, whose products are already sold at Wheatsville. The business owner says she will deeply discount Wheatsville's orders for her product for a year if you help her. Briefly describe two or three possible ways you could handle this situation, and how you would ultimately act.

I would explain to her that Wheatsville is member-owned organization and that boycott decisions can not be made without the input of the members.

I would explain that there are procedures in place for recommending a boycott and point her in the direction of those procedures.

Short Bio—resume available online.

Please provide a 200 word "conference bio" summarizing you and your relevant experiences. This should be a "snapshot" of you that will help Owners understand your background.

I own a boutique residential real estate company here in Austin that helps people buy and sell homes in central Austin. I graduated from the University of Texas - Austin with an MBA in 2003. My undergraduate degree is in Foreign Service from Georgetown University in DC. Before going back to school I worked for years in a number of different not-for-profit organizations in the international humanitarian aid and youth service learning fields. I'm married with two young kids.

International Cooperative Alliance: Principles for Co-ops

1. Voluntary and Open Membership
2. Democratic Member Control
3. Member Economic Participation
4. Autonomy and Independence
5. Education, Training and Information
6. Cooperation among Cooperatives
7. Concern for Community

Co-operatives are based on the values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity. In the tradition of their founders, cooperative members believe in the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others.

Meet the Candidates for the Board



Sukaynah Joyan

NOMINATION
COMMITTEE
ENDORSED

Place of employment: Self
Position/Title: Owner
Education (degree, major, etc.): B.A. Business Education; M.Ed. Master of Education in Business; M.A.Ed Master of Arts in Education in Counseling; Master of Social Work
How many years have you lived in Austin: 22 years
How many years have you been a member of Wheatsville? 1

1. Why do you want to serve on the Board of Directors of Wheatsville Co-op?
Serving on the Wheatsville board would be a joy and is in full alignment with my values and passions. I wouldn't put myself forward for this position if I didn't believe I could contribute real value. One of the things I am excited about is the expansion. I feel that through my experience with other organizations in rapid growth phases, I am familiar with the types of challenges that come with this kind of growth and may have some things to contribute. The most valuable successes of my business life that I would bring to Wheatsville have been with organizations with whose values I was aligned. I have been blessed to achieve great things with the right people, i.e., being in a major leadership role as part of the team that lined up millions of people joining hands from coast to coast; having one of my consulting projects profiled in The Economist magazine; being recognized as one of 2000 notable businesswomen in America; bringing a failing organization to financial solvency within one years time. It is because of these types of possibilities of Wheatsville achieving great things that I want to serve and be part of that exciting process.

2. What are you passionate about? How could we see that passion in action in your day-to-day life?

How well I remember the simpler life of the 1950's, when the milkman used to show up at the back door with milk with the cream on the top, and Sam, the vegetable man would drive up the driveway twice a week and open his truck up like a stall at the farmers market. That was how we shopped. Little did I know how much I had been shaped by those experiences nor the impact they would have on the rest of my life! Eating the way I did as a child...clean, healthy whole foods...has become one of the great passions of my life. Like most Americans I used to shop at regular supermarkets; then I wondered if memory was playing tricks on me. I realized one day that food didn't taste as good. I realized that I wasn't getting the nutritional value. That caused me to become an enthusiastic devotee of organics, which led to a diet relying on fresh whole foods. And now, having come full circle, I share my passion for healthy eating by influencing my friends, family and spiritual healing clients to consider this healthier way of life.

3. Describe an experience where you worked on a team. What did you offer the team? How did you compromise for the team's benefit?

When I became CEO of the University of Spiritual Healing and Sufism, a new management team needed to be built. I brought value through a combination of business sense with a deeply spiritual component. The problem had been that the leadership was purely spiritual which appeared to be in conflict with the realities of the business world. My contribution in addition to leadership was to demonstrate that spiritual principles are not out of alignment with prosperity. From my experience I was able to shore up the weaknesses within the systems to bring them into right alignment and to increase the focus on marketing and revenue generation. I made it okay to appreciate prosperity. I presented the revenue generated as a measure of the positive impact the university had on the world. With my collaborative leadership style which allowed everyone's point of view to be heard and considered, I was able to offer the team something they didn't have...a new perspective as well as understanding and experience in the business world. Regarding compromise, I helped the team focus on outcome rather than be attached to a particular position which led the organization to operate in financial stability, prosperity and harmony.

4. You've recently been elected to the Wheatsville Board. A close friend and local food producer privately asks you to help her business by having the Board publicly denounce the alleged unethical business practices of her closest competitor, whose products are already sold at Wheatsville. The business owner says she will deeply discount Wheatsville's orders for her product for a year if you help her. Briefly describe two or three possible ways you could handle this situation, and how you would ultimately act.

I would consider her request for as long as it took for me to come to a decision that would both serve her need to be heard and serve my need to take myself out of the equation as early in the process as possible because as a board member I would not be able to help her directly. I would listen closely and honor her concern. My priority would be what is best for Wheatsville in this situation because as a board member, that is what I would be committed to. I would let my friend know that the board's job is not day-to-day management of the store but rather has an oversight position to ensure that the policies and goals are carried out. I would then suggest to my friend that I felt her concerns could best be heard by the general manager as a starting point and suggest to her that she bring her concerns to him. If at any point the issue came before the board, as a board member I would recuse myself from the discussion and vote.

Short Bio—resume available online.

Sukaynah Joyan helps people and organizations re-invent themselves to come into alignment with their greatest strengths and potential for realizing their mission. She is a visionary who was given the ability to see what needs to happen today to leverage the possibilities of the future. Over the years her colleagues, staff, students and clients have lauded, admired and appreciated her ability to inspire and empower them to step into their greatest potential. Sukaynah lives and works from a heart-based framework; she is a truth teller with love and empowerment and her top personal value is integrity. She was the founder of the St. Louis Women's Counseling Center and the Austin Women's Project, both community based organizations devoted to the empowerment of women from all walks of life. Women who participated in these projects accomplished many things such as being empowered to go back to school to gain training to be able to let go of welfare, get a job to begin supporting themselves and their families. She was the keynote speaker for the Texas Women in Business conference.



Jim Reed

NOMINATION
COMMITTEE
ENDORSED

Place of employment: Self Employed
Position/Title: Electrical Engineer
Education: BS Physics, BS Electrical Engineer
How many years have you lived in Austin? 16
How many years have you been a member of Wheatsville? 9

1. Why do you want to serve on the Board of Directors of Wheatsville Co-op?

I believe in democratizing the world around us, which is not limited to elected public office. A sustainable community needs to be informed and empowered to make decisions

that affect their daily lives. At the basic level, a community should have considerable influence over their utility power and water, public transportation, housing opportunities, financial lending, education and work force development, environmental protection, and of course means of food production. We vote every day when and where we purchase food. And when you shop at Wheatsville, you are promoting a local economy with sustainable farming practices where workers and local farmers alike share a living wage. If selected to serve on the Wheatsville Board, I would serve in the capacity of continuing the Wheatsville tradition of creating local and sustainable economic solutions.

2. What are you passionate about? How could we see that passion in action in your day-to-day life?

I am passionate about being active in community solutions. I started my community involvement with pro-democracy solutions for elected office such as preferential voting systems (IRV), proportional representation, and public financed campaigns from 2000-2002. Then I served on the City of Austin Ethics Review Commission for 8 years, 7 of which as Chair. For the last 3 years I have been serving on the Community Council of the Community Action Network (CAN), also serving as Chair for 2010. At one time I had a talk radio program on KOOP, and I also was a producer for a program on public access TV. Currently I live in Cherrywood Neighborhood Association, where I serve on several committees, including Land, Use and Transportation Committee, Web Committee, and Summer Film Night Series. We create the world around us, and as a society, I subscribe to the notion that we have more unimplemented solutions than problems. I attempt to focus on the gratifying nature of the work without being overly attached to timely outcomes, a lesson anyone would learn in progressive politics.

3. Describe an experience where you worked on a team. What did you offer the team? How did you compromise for the team's benefit?

I have worked in many volunteer community boards and commissions. I attempt to serve as both information miner and to assist in keeping the discussion on track while ensuring all voices have been heard. I truly believe an informed group will make a better decision through consensus than an individual, so I anticipate my first impression on a topic to evolve with the group's discussion. Listening to others, not holding firmly to one's own disposition, is the best way to compromise.

4. You've recently been elected to the Wheatsville Board. A close friend and local food producer privately asks you to help her business by having the Board publicly denounce the alleged unethical business practices of her closest competitor, whose products are already sold at Wheatsville. The business owner says she will deeply discount Wheatsville's orders for her product for a year if you help her. Briefly describe two or three possible ways you could handle this situation, and how you would ultimately act.

The proposed scenario does not appear to be within the scope of a Board member's responsibilities. Any such communication from a food producer with ethical allegations would be brought to the attention of the General Manager and the Board Chair to be placed on an upcoming Board agenda for discussion if merited. Another approach would be to ask the plaintiff to communicate directly to the General Manager and Board Chair.

Is there anything else you'd like to tell us? Do you have other experiences that you see as being related to the work of the Board?

I enjoy forward thinking and stretching existing boundaries of what is currently possible. At the same time, I have a very pragmatic personality. I take my community responsibilities serious, and if elected, I will serve to my full capability. At the same time, after meeting several of the other candidates, Wheatsville is blessed with an array of invested and capable individuals for these positions. Whatever outcome this election has will be a positive outcome.

Short Bio

I am the youngest of four siblings, born and raised in Fort Worth, TX. My family valued athleticism, music and academics, so I grew up involve in all three. My higher education degrees are BS Physics from Southwest Texas and BS Electrical Engineering from the University of Texas. I have lived in Austin most of my adult life with much pride and gratitude for this community. I enjoy traveling and outdoor recreation. Sailing holds a special place in my heart. For the last 12 years, I have been active in the community with varies boards, commissions, and public media. My profession is in the technology field, and for the last 8 years I have run my own company. I am recently married and had a beautiful son, both of which have been the most humbling and empowering experiences of my life.

Short Bio—resume available online.

John Vinson...continued from Page 9

After graduating law school in Portland, Oregon, I moved to Austin and began practicing constitutional and nonprofit organizations law as well as representing clients in other civil and criminal matters. I then served as an attorney in the Consumer Protection Division practicing nonprofit charity regulatory law, including litigation of major probate and trust cases. I have now returned to private practice, where I concentrate in estate planning, probate and guardianship law. This involves helping people with the sometimes complex legal issues surrounding the incapacity or death of a partner, relative or friend, and helping people themselves to prepare for those eventualities. I also continue to provide expert consultation and advice to nonprofit charitable organizations. I am politically and socially progressive and a dedicated co-op advocate. In addition, I am a cook, gardener, and proud new urban farmer with 5 chickens in our yard. Together with my wife, Martha, I enjoy biking, hiking, birding, swimming and kayaking ("aller en pirogue," as we say in Louisiana). I am keenly interested in bettering our society, and as quality groceries, good nutrition and appropriate farming are important parts of our lives, I feel that serving on the Wheatsville Board will further that interest.

Meet the Candidates for the Board



Kate Vickery

NOMINATION
COMMITTEE
ENDORSED

Place of employment: Texas Land Conservancy
Position/Title: Development & Communications Director
Education: BA-Sociology, Kalamazoo College; MPAff, LBJ School of Public Affairs (in progress)
How many years have you lived in Austin? 3
How many years have you been a member of Wheatsville? 3

1. Why do you want to serve on the Board of Directors of Wheatsville Co-op?

I have been honored to be able to represent our Owners as a board member for the past three years and am excited have the opportunity to continue to do so if elected again. I am deeply passionate about the difference that Wheatsville is making in the Austin economy and the ways that I believe our little co-op - as well as the national movement of which we are a part - is changing the world. In an era when our traditional capitalist system is failing citizens on the most basic levels, I believe that we have a responsibility to make a fundamental shift in the way we think about assets, community, food, and the way we treat each other. I truly believe that co-ops are part of the solution to many of our current social ills. I am anxious to help lead Wheatsville into an era of co-op development, where more Wheatsville's will help our community by providing more excellent jobs, more socially responsible food, and more engaged and happy Austinites. Serving you as a board member has been an incredible privilege and I hope I have the chance to continue this important work!

2. What are you passionate about? How could we see that passion in action in your day-to-day life?

I am passionate about food and community. There is no sound in the world more joyful than a group of people sitting around my table eating food that my husband and I have cooked with ingredients from the farmer's market. My Italian family heritage ingrained this ritual into my understanding of how to live a full life and it has informed the way I choose to build new communities. In Austin, I have tried to incorporate this passion into not only my social life, but also in the other activities, like volunteering on the Urban Roots farm. I am inspired by the passion I see in the good people who run the farm, in the meaningful community and leadership being built among the youth interns, and the time spent, not around the table, but around the rows of vegetables. I believe that our world is better when people spend more time in each other's company enjoying the fruits of their communal labor.

3. Describe an experience where you worked on a team. What did you offer the team? How did you compromise for the team's benefit?

I have worked on many teams over the years but the one that has been the absolutely most meaningful has been my Wheatsville team. I have never been a member of a more high-functioning, hard-working, accountable, careful and thoughtful group of people. Our president, Rose Marie reminds us often that a group of smart, well-meaning people don't inherently know how to be an effective board, and has worked diligently to establish a culture of continuous learning, clear expectations, regular evaluation, and just the right amount of fun. While my role in past teams has often been to be the one who volunteers to get a project done, it has been a joy to work with folks who all have that level of accountability and excitement for the work. I believe that I offer this team a unique ability to synthesize complex discussions and to help bridge the gaps between discussion and actionable steps forward. When debating the more heated topics, I've never felt the need to compromise my values because I feel confident that everyone on our team is being thoughtful and well reasoned, which gives me confidence in the decisions we make, regardless of my own personal opinions.

4. You've recently been elected to the Wheatsville Board. A close friend and local food producer privately asks you to help her business by having the Board publicly denounce the alleged unethical business practices of her closest competitor, whose products are already sold at Wheatsville. The business owner says she will deeply discount Wheatsville's orders for her product for a year if you help her. Briefly describe two or three possible ways you could handle this situation, and how you would ultimately act.

There are two primary issues in this scenario: whether the board can or should take action on the issue of "alleged" unethical business practices of a vendor, and the appropriate relationship for an individual board member with a local food producer. The second issue is straightforward and simple. Through a polite conversation with my friend, I would explain that what she is asking is taking advantage of our relationship, is particularly inappropriate because the board does not deal with individual product selection or individual vendors, and, most importantly, that outside of the board room, I have no more authority than any other Wheatsville Owner. While the second issue is more complicated as it deals with our mission, Ends policies, and responsibility to our Owners, the solution would still most likely fall into the wheelhouse of our excellent management team. I would direct my friend to have a conversation with our General Manager about her concerns with the business practices of the other vendor. If Dan felt that the alleged practice was in fact unethical, and not simply sour grapes from a competing vendor, and that the issue warranted further discussion from the board, we would work together to find a solution.

Short Bio

I have been a board member of Wheatsville since 2009 and am so excited about having the opportunity to continue to work for my beloved co-op if elected again. Professionally, I serve as the Development & Communications Director for the Texas Land Conservancy, an environmental non-profit with a mission to protect land in Texas by working with rural landowners. I grew up in Michigan and have a B.A. in Sociology and Environmental Studies from Kalamazoo College and am starting a Master's in Public Affairs from the LBJ School at UT this fall. I am deeply committed to both the environmental and cooperative communities in Austin, volunteering regularly with Urban Roots, a youth-development farm program, and the fledgling Austin Cooperative Think Tank, a new coalition of co-op folks dedicated to expanding the cooperative economy in Austin. You can often find me shopping the aisles of Wheatsville or enjoying a pint at Black Star Co-op!



John W. Vinson

NOMINATION
COMMITTEE
ENDORSED

Place of employment: John W. Vinson, PLLC
Position/Title: Attorney
Education: Law degree (J.D.)
How many years have you lived in Austin? 27
How many years have you been a member of Wheatsville? 5

1. Why do you want to serve on the Board of Directors of Wheatsville Co-op?

The quality of Wheatsville's grocery items and related services make it an Austin treasure. Even though Austin has an incredible number of gourmet and specialty grocery stores, Wheatsville stands out as the place I prefer to shop for safe, wholesome food. Wheatsville strives to carry products that I can buy and consume with the knowledge that the farmers, farm workers and store employees responsible for the products have all been treated fairly. This cannot necessarily be said of other Austin grocery stores. I also strongly support the co-op model and believe that many more of our needs should be met through co-ops and that most major corporate institutions throughout all segments of our society should be operated cooperatively. Based on my experience as an attorney and former nonprofit regulator, an organic gardener, and a dedicated Wheatsville shopper, I believe that the Board would benefit from my input. I would also like to participate in the governance of such a treasured cooperative hopefully to ensure that Wheatsville continues to thrive far into the future. When my wife and I are contemplating our next meal or where to find a nice beverage or snack, I often refer to Wheatsville as our "Second Home."

2. What are you passionate about? How could we see that passion in action in your day-to-day life?

I am passionate about Wheatsville and the nonprofit, co-op model. I believe that direct involvement of citizens in the institutions that provide their goods and services increases the quality and appropriateness of those goods and services, and leads to greater general cooperation and understanding in society. I am passionate about the local food movement and living as simply and inexpensively as possible (as a matter of resource use) so that maybe one day we can all live comfortably and healthily. I have also been involved in various forms of organic gardening for more than 40 years. I recently joined my neighborhood community gardens trying - despite the weather - to grow various vegetables for myself and my wife, as well as our friends and neighbors. I have also recently joined the yard egg movement: I have 5 hens who lay 3 to 5 beautiful blue or brown eggs every day, which are also shared with friends and neighbors. So, I am passionate about cooperative efforts to promote community goals, striving for self-sufficiency, and activities that help to sustain our environment and our planet. I believe that most Wheatsville members share these passions.

3. Describe an experience where you worked on a team. What did you offer the team? How did you compromise for the team's benefit?

I have been involved as an attorney in the creation and management of several businesses and nonprofit entities. My legal expertise was my main contribution to these endeavors, but I also believe that my understanding of interpersonal relationships and the essential need for respectful treatment of all involved assisted in the success of the entities. I am a pragmatic person and understand and appreciate that other team members will have specialized expertise or unique experiences and perspectives, and so I will appropriately defer to those persons in making a decision on a matter. Compromise is essential in group decision making and open-minded flexibility will usually lead to a good decision or result. Yet there will always be times when important values are at stake or strong opinions are involved, and when compromise is difficult to obtain and tough votes have to be made. At such times an involved, informed and collaborative team or board with members who fully understand their duties and roles is essential. After an issue is fully processed and the team votes, dissenters should graciously accept the result and move on to other matters important to the organization.

4. You've recently been elected to the Wheatsville Board. A close friend and local food producer privately asks you to help her business by having the Board publicly denounce the alleged unethical business practices of her closest competitor, whose products are already sold at Wheatsville. The business owner says she will deeply discount Wheatsville's orders for her product for a year if you help her. Briefly describe two or three possible ways you could handle this situation, and how you would ultimately act.

There are many possible ways to handle this situation, but only one that I believe is appropriate for these circumstances (assuming that no laws were broken). I would first tell my friend that the request is inappropriate and that I cannot initiate any action with the Board for the purpose of benefiting her. I would further explain that I would also be required to divulge the conversation to the Board - my friend may have also contacted other members, or might do so after contacting me, so it would be in the Board's best interest to know who has been contacted in this matter. I would, however, also bring to the attention of the Board any valid allegations of unethical behavior on the part of my friend's competitor, based on verifiable facts. The Board would then be able to act or not based on the facts, not as a favor to any Board member seeking to assist a friend. In short, my friend would be told that I will not take action simply to provide an unfair advantage for her, but I would convey any allegations of unethical behavior to the Board. If any action were taken against my friend's competitor, I would advise the entire Board to be very cautious of providing my friend any quid pro quo for the information.

Is there anything else you'd like to tell us? Do you have other experiences that you see as being related to the work of the Board?

For 14 years I served as an Assistant Texas Attorney General with the Consumer Protection Division, Charitable Trusts Section, charged with protecting the state's charitable and nonprofit entities. Ensuring that funds dedicated for charitable or nonprofit purposes were truly used for such purposes was the goal of my position. Unless fraud was clearly indicated, I would attempt to correct any issues or problems with a particular entity by collaboratively working on solutions with the entity's board, but sometimes I was compelled to sue board members for breach of their duties. In my current practice I continue to represent and advise charitable and nonprofit entities. I have also written several papers on the duties of nonprofit board members, so I am intimately familiar with the requirements of nonprofit board members. I consider myself to be an ethical, collaborative, pragmatic, determined and resourceful person and I would like to put my expertise and experience to work for Wheatsville.

John Vinson...continued on bottom of Page 8

Community Action Wednesday Nominees

AIDS Services of Austin www.asaustin.org



The mission of AIDS Services of Austin is to enhance the health and well-being of the community and people affected by HIV and AIDS. Founded in 1987, AIDS Services of Austin is the region's oldest and largest community-based organization addressing the local AIDS crisis. Annually, we provide direct care services to over 1,500 people and HIV prevention education to over 10,000 people.

There are an estimated 6,000 people living with HIV and AIDS in Central Texas. To address this

issue, we have an array of time-tested programs run by some of the most professional, compassionate people around. Our core programs include:

- **Capital Area AIDS Legal Project (CAALP)**—provides free legal assistance to low-income Central Texans living with HIV in matters such as estate and family planning, access to public assistance, landlord-tenant and debtor-creditor issues.
- **Case Management**—Connecting people living with HIV and AIDS to services such as home health care, wellness services, and financial assistance programs through screening and assessment, case managers assist individuals with managing living with HIV disease and improving self-sufficiency
- **Helping Hands Food Bank**—providing fresh and healthy food, nutritional supplements and personal care items to individuals living with HIV disease
- **The Jack Sansing Dental Clinic**—offering comprehensive primary dental and oral medical care to people living with HIV.
- **Paul Kirby Emergency Financial Assistance Fund**
- **Prevention programs (Community PROMISE, VOICES, Q, PATH)**
- **The Q Program**—promotes safer sex and other healthy norms within a community of young men who have sex with men.
- **Women Rising Project**—nurturing leadership, fostering self-empowerment, promoting health, improving quality of life, breaking down isolation and building community among women living with HIV.



Capital Area Food Bank of Texas

www.austinfoodbank.org

In its 30th year of service, the Capital Area Food Bank of Texas (CAFB) provides food and grocery products to more than 350 Partner Agencies in 21 Central Texas counties. In 2010, CAFB provided more than 25 million pounds of food. The CAFB service area covers 19,064 square miles in Central Texas.

Nearly 96% of all resources received by CAFB are returned to the community in programs and services. And with every \$5 donated, CAFB provides \$25 worth of nutritious food.

CAFB distributes more than \$25 million worth of food and grocery products each year. Although the agencies pay a small handling fee for the food they receive, the total of those fees is less than \$800,000 per year for more than 350 agencies. This means that millions of dollars are saved by CAFB Partner Agencies – money that can be used instead for programs and other needs. Pounds of food and grocery products provided in 2010: 25.3 million
Number of meals provided in 2010: 20.2 million

How We Help

- **CAFB Food Pantry—St. John Community Food Center**, part of a collaborative effort with For The City and other nonprofits providing complementary services for clients.

- **CHOICES A Nutrition Education Program**—Classes include: Basic Nutrition, Nutrition & Health, Planning Healthy Thrifty Meals, Cooking for Your Life, Cooking Demonstrations, Eat Smart Live Strong, Power of Choice, and Kids in the Kitchen
- **Central Texas Food Rescue**—collects fresh foods from area grocers and wholesalers and distributes them in the 21-county Central Texas area.
- **Disaster Preparedness and Relief**—In addition to providing direct food and water assistance, CAFB works with Feeding America to obtain and transport food supplies to affected areas. In times of national disaster, CAFB is a collection point for local donations to be shipped to the disaster site.
- **HOPE**—Healthy Options Program for the Elderly helps curb hunger and food insecurity challenging the elderly.
- **Fresh Food for Families**—provides low-income families with quality fruits, vegetables and other fresh foods free of charge, on a regular basis.
- **Kids Cafe**—safe, nurturing places where neighborhood children can go after school and receive a hot dinner, serving more than 33,500 meals to an average of 3,300 children per month.
- **Regional Food Delivery**—delivers fresh and packaged foods to centrally located drop sites in outlying areas that are easily accessible for the more remote Partner Agencies serving rural populations.
- **SNAP Outreach**—(Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), formerly known as Food Stamps, helps individuals and families meet basic nutritional needs and afford a balanced diet.
- **Summer Food Service Program**—provides free meals to children ages 18 and under during the summer, when National School Lunch and School Breakfast Program meals are not available.
- **Teaching Garden**—teaches CAFB Partner Agencies how to grow food to supplement their needs.
- **Texas Second Chance**—Non-violent prison inmates help sort through thousands of pounds of incoming donations each week and learn job skills.
- **Wheels of Sharing Mobile Food Pantry**—fill geographic and service gaps in emergency food assistance.

Caritas of Austin

www.caritasofaustin.org

Vision—Caritas envisions a community where there is respect for all individuals, hope for those experiencing poverty and opportunities for self-reliance.

Mission—Caritas provides a service continuum for those experiencing poverty that begins with a safety net and links them to resources to achieve self-sufficiency

Housing—Caritas offers the homeless, working poor and documented refugees comprehensive services that support their housing stability.

Food—Caritas serves hot meals every weekday through our Community Kitchen and take-home groceries through our Pantry to individuals and families in need.

Education—As Caritas provides vulnerable individuals with financial assistance, we also equip clients with the knowledge and life skills to manage their finances more effectively through offering education classes on practical topics.

Employment—Utilizing our business and community contacts, Caritas assists low income individuals and refugees find stable employment to support their self sufficiency.



Sign up for the Wheatville Email List!

A few times a month, you'll get an e-mail from us informing you of upcoming events, new products or changes in the store.

Go to <http://wheatville.coop> to sign up!

We will not sell, lease, lend or otherwise disclose your email address to any other entity.

Community Action Wednesday Nominees



ecologyaction
of texas

Ecology Action

www.ecology-action.org

Our mission is to educate and empower people to create a healthier environment through waste prevention, accessibility to recycling and cooperation. We operate recycling drop-off centers across Central Texas and maintain a recycling drop-off and processing center in downtown Austin.

Besides recycling and composting we provide:

- Educational tours
- Customer service
- Hands-on volunteer opportunities
- Training programs and partnerships for traditionally marginalized and differently-abled communities.
- Staffing for public events throughout the year
- Educational talks
- Consultations and waste audits to small businesses
- Mutual aid and support to other workers in labor disputes
- Services to members of the homeless population.
- Incubation and support for other cooperatives
- Interface with policy makers about environmental issues in Central Texas
- Clearinghouse for information about recycling and waste prevention through the City's 311 service.

Waste we diverted last year: We recycled enough aluminum to save 232,000 kilowatt hours of electricity. The glass we recycled saved an equivalent of 4,432 gallons of fuel oil. The paper we recycled saved 16,924 trees and 6.9 million gallons of water as well as 3,285 cubic yards of landfill space and 4 million kilowatt hours of electricity.

E M A N C I P E +

EmanciPET Mobile Spay/Neuter Clinic

www.emancipet.org

EmanciPET envisions a world where no cat or dog is ever killed just for being homeless. We work towards realizing that vision every day, by providing services and advocacy that effectively and humanely reduce the homeless pet population in our community.

High Volume, High Quality Spay/Neuter

EmanciPET advocates for and provides free and low-cost spay/neuter services because we believe it is one of the most efficient and effective methods of reducing the homeless pet population. We provide spay/neuter services throughout the Central Texas area via both mobile and stationary clinics, and serve between 1,200 – 2,000 pets each month. We employ highly skilled veterinary surgeons and veterinary technicians, and our medical protocols exceed the highest standards in veterinary medicine today.

Wellness Clinics

Emancipet offers low cost, walk-in wellness clinics for dogs or cats who are already spayed or neutered. This service grew out of an obvious need in the community for more affordable basic services such as vaccines and preventative medicine. One of the leading reasons people cite for giving up their pets to shelters is their inability to afford veterinary care. We believe that by providing just basic services at a reduced rate, we are helping people keep their pets in their homes through tough economic times. We encourage all our clients to establish a relationship with a veterinarian at a full service clinic, because our services cannot and should not take the place of an annual comprehensive veterinary exam and screenings for health problems. The services we provide are limited to basic vaccines, flea and heartworm prevention, testing for heartworm and some other common diseases, and de-worming of puppies and kittens with NO exam fee. Please note: we must see your pet once every 12 months in order to dispense medication.

Family Eldercare

www.familyeldercare.org

Family Eldercare provides essential

services to seniors, adults with disabilities and caregivers. Enables elders and adults with disabilities live in a supportive community with dignity and as much independence as possible.

How We Help:

In-Home Care and Caregiver Services—Assistance with personal care and homemaker services. We also offer relief for full-time caregivers.

Custom Cleaning for Independent Senior Living—heavy house cleaning

Guardianship Services—Provides court-appointed legal guardianship for vulnerable elderly and people with disabilities who are at risk for abuse, neglect or exploitation, and have no family to assist them.

Money Management Program—Assistance with bill paying and budgeting, preventing financial exploitation and neglect.

Geriatric Consultation—Individualized eldercare consultation and coordination of services and benefits.

Lifetime Connections Without Walls—Free senior networking on the phone!

Service Coordination—Provided at several low-income housing properties to help older adults identify and acquire the services they need to remain self-reliant and engaged in the community.

Aging In Place Initiative—Helps older adults remain independent by creating a community where they can remain active and engaged.

Low-Income Senior Housing—Lyons Gardens is an affordable senior housing community in Central East Austin.

Summer Fan Drive—Distributes fans, air conditioners and other critically-needed support services during the hot summer months.

Holiday Giving Drive

Green Corn Project (GCP)

www.greencornproject.org

Green Corn Project's mission is to educate and assist Central Texans in growing organic food gardens. GCP's vision is all about sustainability: helping people feed themselves in ways that conserve natural resources, promote self-reliance, and strengthen communities.

GCP installs organic food gardens for elderly, low-income, and disabled community members as well as for elementary schools, community centers, and shelters in underserved areas of Austin. We turn unused land into garden beds that provide food, education, and a sense of accomplishment and pride for all involved in their creation and maintenance.

For family and individual gardeners, GCP volunteers help plant the starter vegetables and seeds. For school gardens, volunteers double dig the bed, add compost, and then leave plants and seeds for the teachers to plant with their students.

During the growing season, gardeners maintain the bed, watering, weeding, and harvesting. GCP mentors offer advice and support to the gardeners.

After the initial Dig-In, volunteers return the next season and refurbish the bed. They add more compost and plant starter vegetables and seeds for that season.

After the two-year period of active support, GCP continues to provide compost, seeds, and plants to gardeners who have gained enough experience to garden independently.



Community Action Wednesday Nominees



Green Doors

Homes through Community Partnership

www.greendoors.org

Green Doors' mission is to prevent and help end homelessness and poverty, and make sure that all Central Texas families and individuals will have the opportunity to live in affordable, safe, quality housing.

Green Doors' goal is to return residents to self-sufficiency through stable housing, individualized case management and self-sufficiency programs.

Green Doors accomplishes this by: creating affordable, safe, quality housing; providing residents with access to supportive services; and educating about, and advocating for, individuals and families struggling with homelessness and at-risk for homelessness.

Our Core Values

- To provide high quality housing & services to our residents & the community;
- To be effective stewards of our financial, social, and environmental resources;
- To conduct our activities in a responsible, disciplined, and ethical way;
- To be ambitious, honest, and creative in addressing the housing needs of lower income individuals and families;
- To conduct our activities in a manner that is tolerant, compassionate and respectful of all people; and
- To partner in collaborative ways with non-profit organizations seeking permanent solutions for homelessness and poverty.



Hospice Austin

www.hospiceaustin.org

Hospice Austin is a non-profit organization that serves terminally ill and bereaved persons in our community with integrity, compassion and respect. Hospice Austin provides comprehensive, specialized care to patients and families living with a life-threatening or advanced illness. We provide our services in the home, in the hospital, in a nursing home or assisted living facility, or at Hospice Austin's Christopher House

At Hospice Austin the emphasis is on living each day to the fullest, in a comfortable place, free of pain and in the company of loved ones. We provide family-centered, quality end-of-life care that emphasizes compassion, dignity, independence and respect. Hospice Austin is committed to relieving physical, emotional and spiritual pain so that life can be experienced as fully and hopefully as possible.

Hospice Austin offers a full range of health care services such as medical and nursing care, spiritual and emotional support, social work, personal care, special therapies, volunteer and bereavement services. Our services are designed to improve comfort, manage symptoms and deal with other difficulties such as emotional distress and grief. Hospice Austin also provides important emotional and spiritual support to families and friends as they cope with caring for a loved one with an advanced illness, and the grief they experience after their loved one dies.

LIVESTRONG

LIVESTRONG Cancer Navigation Center

www.livestrong.org/Get-Help/Get-One-On-One-Support/LIVESTRONG-Cancer-Navigation-Center

The LIVESTRONG Cancer Navigation Center, located in East Austin, provides a range of free services for anyone affected by cancer. This includes people diagnosed with cancer, their families, friends, loved ones and the health care professionals who work with them. We help people with any cancer type and at any stage of treatment. Assistance is available in both English and Spanish.

The Navigation Center provides free, confidential one-on-one support to anyone affected by cancer. This is not a medical facility, but rather a center that provides the following support services:

Emotional Support—assistance coping with a cancer diagnosis, help accessing support groups, as well as peer-to-peer connections

Fertility Risks and Preservation Options—information on fertility risks and help accessing discounted rates for fertility preservation options

Insurance, Employment and Financial Concerns—information on employment rights and benefits, financial assistance and debt management, including insurance and billing issues as well as medication co-pay assistance

Treatment Concerns—general cancer and treatment information, matching to clinical trials

Mary House

www.mary-house.org

Mary House Catholic Worker of Austin, Inc. is a community of hospitality in the tradition of Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin.

The house welcomes street people, immigrants, and displaced people regardless of their age, ethnicity or citizenship.

House guests include single adult men and women who are indigent and homeless who are critically ill, dying or who have long-term debilitating health conditions. However, the house is not a nursing home facility.

Mary House also offers those who would like to perform works of mercy the opportunity to do so. The main goal of the house is to give the people of faith the opportunity to "feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the prisoner, etc."



Mary House

Meals on Wheels and More

www.mealsonwheelsandmore.org

Meals on Wheels and More seeks to nourish and enrich the lives of the homebound and other people in need through programs that promote dignity and independent living.

Meal Delivery Program - is a holistic nutrition program that provides healthy food and case management services to older adults and individuals with disabilities throughout the Greater Austin area. Individuals enrolled in the Meals on Wheels program receive one hot meal per day during the week and may have an option of receiving supplemental frozen meals for the weekend.

H.O.P.E. is for our most needy clients. Volunteers deliver an extra bag of non-perishable groceries one Saturday a month.

Care Calls matches homebound clients with a volunteer who calls either once a day for a friendly check-in or twice a week for a longer chat.

Mike's Place, a once-a-week program for folks with Alzheimer's Disease and other types of memory loss and dementia. It also serves as a source of support and rest for caregivers.

Meals for Kids provides over 300 low-income children in after-school programs with a nutritious evening meal each weekday.

PALS (Pets Assisting the Lives of Seniors) assists homebound clients by providing assistance with pet food and veterinarian care.

Home Repair and Architectural Barrier Removal Program provides major home improvements for low income homeowner clients who face serious structural issues with their homes resulting in a decline in health and safety.



Community Action Wednesday Nominees

Handy Wheels provides minor, safety-related home repairs and improvements to those in need.

Medi Wheels provides transportation for clients to and from medical appointments and day surgery.

Groceries to Go is for clients who can still do some cooking, but can't get to the store on their own.

Country Wheels Once a week, our van driver delivers 7 frozen meals to older adults in remote, rural areas.

Second Meals are additional meals delivered to clients who are most nutritionally at-risk.

The Congregate Meal Program provides a place for older adults to gather for games, physical activity, conversation and a shared nutritious lunchtime meal.



OutYouth Austin

<http://outyouth.org>

Out Youth promotes the physical, mental, emotional, spiritual and social well being of sexual and gender minority youth so that they can openly and safely explore and affirm their identities. Out Youth envisions a world where sexual and gender minority youth receive the support needed to develop positive self-images, empower themselves and become active citizens in their communities.

Out Youth provides many programs and services that promote the educational, mental, emotional, physical and social development of LGBTQIA (lesbian/gay/bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, intersex, and asexual) youth and their allies.

Among the programs and services offered are:

Drop-In Center is a safe space for where LGBTQIA youth can participate in programs and services, be themselves, make friends, and develop into happy, healthy, and successful young adults.

The Jerry Strickland Library of books and a growing collection of movies, and an online database that can be searched at any time.

The David Bohnett CyberCenter provides computers with broadband internet access so that our youth can stay connected anytime the Drop-In Center is open.

KYSS (Knowing Your Status is Smart) is Out Youth's free HIV testing, education, and outreach program. It seeks to reduce the spread of HIV.

Counseling—Out Youth offers free individual counseling and in-school counseling to youth 1 between the ages of 12 and 19.

Support Groups—Out Youth offers several types of free support groups to youth who visit the Drop-In Center.

The Texas Gay-Straight Alliance Network is a youth-led statewide program that connects school-based Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) student clubs to one another through peer support, leadership development, and training.

Writers' Block and You Gotta Have Art are programs that give youth a space to express themselves through writing, drawing, painting, embroidery, or creative and artistic means.

insideOUT, Out Youth's Digital Storytelling Project, is designed to teach youth creative and innovative ways to tell their own personal stories or the stories of their communities.

The Young Adult Leaders Group, made up of Out Youth alumni and youth who will soon "age out," is a forum to share ideas on how to continue making Out Youth a space where young voices can be heard.



People's Community Clinic

www.austinpcc.org

PCC's mission is to improve the health of medically underserved and

uninsured Central Texans by providing high quality, affordable healthcare. The Clinic has been offering care with respect and dignity since 1970.

Programs include:

PCC's Center for Adolescent Health (CAH) provides high quality medical care to infants through 17 year olds who are placed at the Austin Children's Shelter (ACS) due to abuse, neglect, or abandonment.

The Center for Adolescent Health provides affordable, specialized, interdisciplinary healthcare for teens and young adults ages 11-23.

The Chronic Disease Management Program's goal is to improve the healthcare outcomes of patients with chronic conditions through disease registry maintenance and clinic-based interventions.

Emilie Becker Cancer Screening Fund raises awareness and support for colon and rectal cancer screening.

The Goals Program is a developmental, behavioral and primary care program that promotes optimal developmental functioning, wellness and success for youth ages 4-23.

The Health Education Department offers educational sessions on family planning, prenatal, chronic disease and adolescent health topics.

Healthy Babies Initiative The Pediatrics Department provides a medical home that is accessible, comprehensive, family centered, compassionate, and culturally sensitive.

The Immunizations Program provides vaccines to patients as part of our efforts to provide cost-effective healthcare through preventive measures. The majority of immunizations are given to children 1-6 years of age. The program also provides routine immunizations to uninsured and underinsured walk-in patients.

The mission of the **Integrated Behavioral Health Program (IBH)** is two-fold: to provide effective, evidence-based behavioral health services to patients with mental health issues and to increase the skill and comfort level of primary care providers in addressing mental health concerns.

Laboratory Services

Our on-site laboratory works with our providers to provide accurate, cost-effective results for patients.

The LifeWorks Street Outreach Program (LWSOP) clinic provides weekly medical care and health outreach for homeless, street dependent, at-risk or runaway youth ages 16-23.

The Nutrition Education Program works intensively with patients as they develop the confidence to make long-lasting lifestyle changes that will improve their health.

People's Community Clinic maintains an **on-site Pharmacy** on a limited basis.

Phoenix House residential drug rehabilitation program provides comprehensive medical care for enrolled adolescents.

The Reach Out and Read Program enriches the parent-provider-patient relationship and increase reading time in the home by providing parents with both guidance and children's books.

SafeHealth: Health Care Services for SafePlace Clients

The Tandem Teen Prenatal & Parenting Program is designed to provide medical, mental health, educational/vocational, and social support to low-income young parents and their children.



We Wanna Adopt Your Mac

Got a G4, G5 or laptop sitting around since you got your new Mac? We'd appreciate the donation of iMacs, G5s, G4s, or peripherals like DVD Burners, LCD monitors, or external drives, etc. We can't offer you a tax-deduction but you will definitely amass some good karma. Call Aldia at 478-2667 or email aldia@wheatville.coop to place your Mac in a loving home.

Community Action Wednesday Nominees



SafePlace

www.safepace.org

SafePlace exists to end sexual and domestic violence through safety, healing, prevention and social change. Vision—A community free of rape, sexual abuse and domestic violence.

SafePlace:

- Provides safety for individuals and families affected by sexual and domestic violence.
- Helps victims in their healing so they can move beyond being defined by the crimes committed against them, and become Survivors.
- Promotes safe and healthy relationships for the prevention of sexual and domestic violence.
- Works to create change in attitudes, behaviors and policies that perpetuate the acceptance of, and impact our understanding and responses to, sexual and domestic violence.

Programs:

24-hour Hotline connects the community to crisis phone support and information.

Hospital Advocacy – provides accompaniment and support to survivors of rape in need of support for forensic and physical medical examinations.

Kelly White Family Shelter – an emergency shelter for women and children escaping domestic violence; an off-site shelter is available for men seeking safety.

Legal Advocacy & Accompaniment – supports survivors of domestic violence as they navigate court systems, particularly to assist with obtaining protective orders and referrals to free and sliding scale legal assistance.

The Stockton-Hicks Family Tree Child Development Center provides care and education for the children living in shelter and supportive housing.

Individual and family counseling for survivors of rape, sexual abuse or domestic violence.

Transitional Services Program provides supportive housing coupled with services for families and women leaving shelter that assists them in re-building their lives free of family violence.

Resource Advocacy supports survivors who are homeless or struggling financially with short-term emergency assistance.

LifeSkills classes designed to support the development of skills for self-sufficient living.

Disability Services ASAP (A Safety Awareness Program) – an abuse prevention and counseling program.

Expect Respect counseling and education on the prevention of dating violence, sexual assault/abuse, domestic violence and bullying.

Community Dialogue – changing the social norms that promote violence in intimacy.

Community Education – information and training on the issues of sexual harassment, sexual assault or abuse, domestic violence and other related topics.

Family Violence Protection Team – collaborating with APD, Travis Co. Sheriff's Department, Legal Aid, County Attorney's Office, and Texas Advocacy Project to encourage arrests and to provide survivors of domestic violence with integrated legal and support services.

Systems Advocacy – working with other agencies to ensure that each system is optimally responsive to the needs of survivors of sexual or domestic violence.

The Save Our Springs Alliance

www.sosalliance.org

SOS works to protect the Edwards Aquifer, its springs and contributing streams, and the natural and cultural heritage of the Hill Country region and its watersheds, with special emphasis on Barton Springs.

Education and Outreach

Because urban development occurs (and degrades water quality) in increments, and mainstream media coverage is sporadic, on a project-by-project basis, the vast majority of citizens have no real understanding of either the rate or extent of suburban and ex-urban sprawl and what that will mean for the future of our region. The effects are not limited to destruction of rural lands, wildlife habitats, and pristine Hill Country streams and springs. Severe financial and social costs are occurring, such as declining water quality and decreased spring flows. Degradation of water supplies results in Austin residents spending more money to secure water supplies and to treat this water to drinking water standards.

SOS communicates to new citizens and the general public on where the Edwards Aquifer is located, why it is important and vulnerable, and why development upstream in the Hill Country pollutes Barton Springs.

Legal Advocacy for Aquifer Protection

SOS Alliance attorneys provide a legal voice for the water, wildlife and open spaces. Maintaining attorneys on staff ensures the most informed and cost-effective advocacy possible for our major program areas: biodiversity, transportation, and land and water stewardship. We are the only public interest legal staff in Texas dedicated to preservation of the Edwards Aquifer, its Hill Country watersheds, and Barton Springs.

Our attorneys engage in policy research and writing and communicating with the public and key decision-makers. We focus our actions on the largest threats to the Hill Country watersheds, including, for example, regulatory rollbacks, major highway expansions, and large developments.

The current political and economic climate in Texas leaves the Aquifer in great peril. There is significant pressure to pave the Hill Country with subdivisions and strip malls claiming "grandfather" status from current environmental standards.



The Sustainable Food Center

www.sustainablefoodcenter.org

Grow Share Prepare

From seed to table, the Sustainable Food Center creates opportunities for individuals to make healthy food choices and to participate in a vibrant local food system.

Through organic food gardening, relationships with area farmers, interactive cooking classes and nutrition education, children and adults have increased access to locally grown food and are empowered to improve the long-term health of Central Texans and our environment.

Through work with community and school gardens, workshops, and technical assistance, **SFC's Grow Local program:**

- Empowers individuals to meet their basic food needs
- Encourages the sharing and consumption of fresh produce with family, friends, neighbors, and food pantries
- Promotes sustainable gardening practices
- Educates youth about food systems, gardening, and nutrition
- Provides opportunities for urban residents to work cooperatively
- Transforms vacant urban lots into places of beauty, community, and abundance

The Farm Direct program organizes the thrice-weekly SFC Farmers' Market, Farm Direct gives local growers direct access to urban residents in demand of freshly harvested produce. Through direct marketing projects, like farm-to-cafeteria, farm-to-school and farm-to-work, Farm Direct additionally connects local farmers with hospitals, universities, schools, and worksites to provide fresh produce and strengthen the local economy.

Community Action Wednesday Nominees

Happy Kitchen/La Cocina Alegre™ cooking and nutrition education program teaches skills and self-sufficiency in preparing healthy, economical meals that consist of whole grains, fresh produce and low-saturated fat ingredients.

Sprouting Healthy Kids is SFC's farm-to-school and food systems education project which includes: locally-grown, fresh fruits and vegetables served in school cafeterias; classroom lessons designed to introduce students to healthy food and food systems; and a hands-on afterschool gardening and cooking program.

TreeFolks

<http://treefolks.org>

TreeFolks grows the urban forest of Central Texas through tree planting, education and community partnerships. Since 1989, TreeFolks has planted tens of thousands of trees in and around Austin at schools, retirement homes, and housing projects, and in medians, residential right of ways, community gardens, parks, preserves and green belts.

Programs:

City Shade—TreeFolks partners with municipalities and other organizations to plan events giving citizens hands-on opportunities to improve their communities by planting trees.

TreeFolks offers 2-hour workshops that focus on a variety of topics such as tree care and maintenance, fruit tree pruning, and tree identification.

Citizen Forester—an 8 hour training course designed to cover the basics of urban tree care and installation.

Barkly, TreeFolks' mascot is a 9-foot-tall, walking, talking, teaching tree who is available to teach about the many benefits of urban trees

CommuniTrees offers trees and planting expertise to volunteer groups planning tree planting projects on a variety of public lands. TreeFolks provides trees, design assistance, tools, training, educational materials, planting supervision and instructions for the long-term care of the trees.

NeighborWoods—delivers free street trees. Sponsored by the City of Austin's Climate Protection Program to lower summer temperatures and reduce energy consumption by investing in tree canopy cover that will shade paved streets.

Sapling Days dispel the popular notion that trees should be planted in the spring. In Texas, the best time to plant trees is in autumn.

The Urban Orchard Project reintroduce the knowledge of how to grow fresh, local fruit to ordinary people by planting groves of locally adapted fruit and nut trees.

The Great Texas Tree Roundup maps urban trees in Texas.

Urban Roots

www.youthlaunch.org/programs/urbanroots.php

Urban Roots is a youth development program that uses sustainable agriculture as a means to transform the lives of young people and increases the access of healthy food in Austin. By growing sustainably farmed vegetables, young people work together to serve the community, cultivate farming and business skills, learn the value of meaningful work, and discover how to eat and cook in healthy ways.

Each year the Family Feast marks the end of the season and creates the space for us to take a step back from the hard work to reflect on how we've grown as people and what we've accomplished. This year, we are excited to announce that we exceeded our harvest goal of 30,000 lb. for a total of 32,191 lb. grown on just 3.5 acres! Of this, 10,929 lb. of produce were donated to different hunger relief organizations in Austin.



The Austin Yellow Bike Project

<http://austinyellowbike.org>

The Austin Yellow Bike Project is an all-volunteer initiative to put bicycles on the streets of Austin and Central Texas by operating community bike shops, teaching bike mechanics and maintenance, and acting as a local bike advocacy group.

The Yellow Bike shop is an educational facility open to anyone who wants to learn about fixing and riding bikes. At the Yellow Bike Shop, we don't fix your bike for you; instead, we show you how to fix it yourself.

YBP accepts donated bikes, parts and cash. Projects are targeted towards children and those without the means of purchasing bikes.

Kid's Classes

We offer a six week course for youth aged 12-16 years. Participants get to pick out a bike from our warehouse, or bring their own. We lead them through a complete teardown and rebuild of the bikes, teach basic rules of the road, practice riding skills, and go on a safety ride. At the end of the course we outfit graduates with lights, a lock and a helmet.

After School Programs

YBP works with various schools in the Austin ISD to develop riding, mechanics, and leadership skills for youth. These programs help students learn basic bike mechanics and safe riding skills. The students keep repair diaries that will be turned into a small bike repair manual that they can give to their peers when the semester ends. There is also a bike safety rodeo where students from the class can check and adjust their peer's bikes.

Adult Mechanics Class covers all basic bicycle maintenance and repairs including flat tires, brake set up and adjustments, overhaul of hubs/bottom brackets/head sets, setting up and adjusting derailleurs, truing wheels, and basic road safety.



local connection

Wheatsville has supported
local farmers, ranchers,
& food producers since 1976

+STRONGER TOGETHER

Thundering Paws Animal Sanctuary

Offering a safe haven for animals who are homeless, neglected, injured or abused. Our goal is to respect animals as individual beings with spirits who deserve the right to live a happy and healthy life, regardless of their attitude towards humans and human contact. For information about adoption visit our website

www.thunderingpaws.org
Dripping Springs TX