



## Welcome to the first ever Election Issue of the Breeze!

by Bob Kinney and Jane Kurzawa Cravey, members of the Board Nominations Committee, Board



This special issue has been mailed to all our owners who've kept the co-op informed of address changes.

Inside you will find information on all candidates for our board of directors election and a nice selection of local community action groups who will receive a portion of our Wednesday sales in 2008 – based on your votes.

You will note that four persons are running for an equal number of non-staff open board seats while three candidates are vying for two staff seats. Board incumbent Bryan Butler and two other staffers – Mike Crissey and Reagan Taylor – round out the staff slate.

The board's nominations committee – Jane Kurzawa Cravey and myself – have talked with several owners about running for the board in recent months. We extended the search by posting on some neighborhood association listservs and reaching out to other community

groups. Two board incumbents – Tom Wald and myself – are on the ballot. Stephanie Johnson and Johanna Divine are new candidates who both have impressive, previous co-op experience and want to be your board members.

You can fill out the election ballot in this issue and mail it back to Wheatsville or drop it in the election box at the member center in the store. You may also vote online at [www.wheatsville.coop](http://www.wheatsville.coop). Whatever way you choose is up to you. It's also up to you to vote.

Another First in Wheatsville history is a detailed owner online survey that we hope you will complete soon. What do you like about your co-op? How can we improve it? The survey is the result of your board of directors wanting to gather owner opinions. There have been a few owner surveys in recent years but nothing on this scale and detail. Visit our website [www.wheatsville.coop](http://www.wheatsville.coop), and click on the big red button to take the survey or while your voting online you will be asked if you want to take the survey.



asked if you want to take the survey.

Many thanks to General Manager Dan Gillotte for crafting the survey with input from Jane Kurzawa Cravey, Marilyn Fowler and other board members. Kudos as well to Aldia Bluewillow, Breeze editor, for designing and setting up the survey.

Thanks for being an owner of Wheatsville!



# Please join us at the Fall Owner Gathering Tuesday Oct. 23rd

6:30 - 9:30pm Starts promptly at 6:30!

at the Alamo Drafthouse Cinema South  
1120 South Lamar

- ✦ Expansion project update!
- ✦ Meet the board and board candidates!
- ✦ Appetizers and popcorn provided, plus a drink ticket!
- ✦ Feature Movie—

**Independent America** : The Two Lane Search for Mom & Pop

In this cool documentary, a couple travels across America using only secondary highways and country roads doing business with only Mom & Pop stores. They meet small business people struggling to remain independent in a land smothered by big box stores and fast food chains.

Limited seating! Free for owners + 1 guest.  
Get your tickets at the registers starting October 15th until they're gone!



Owner  
Appreciation Day  
Saturday, October 20th

Members receive 10% off all purchases!

FREE SAMPLES!

# 2008 Board Candidate Forum

## Bryan Butler



Wheatsville Meat Buyer  
TSTC Meat Fabrication/Business Management

**1. How does or should Wheatsville fit into the community and greater Austin.**

Wheatsville is in a position to become a great community leader. After the store's renovation a community/owner gathering area will be provided allowing for coming together of members like never before. Wheatsville should take the opportunity to become a teacher to the community about supporting fair trade, sustainable resources, local agriculture, Co-ops, & just how to be a more conscience consumer. We should educate externally and internally on how to become faithful stewards of the environment for ourselves and our children.

**2. What goals would you like to see the co-op achieve in the next five years? 10 years?**

I would like to see Wheatsville go through the expansion successfully in the next few years. Hopefully reach sales of 9.5- 10 million in sales which would be a 25% increase store wide. After a successful expansion, plans to make a second location or possibly a third, would be very exciting. In ten years time I'd like Wheatsville move into new area that hasn't yet been explored. Like a Wheatsville owned certified organic farm, Wheatsville's own bio-diesel pumps at a new store location, and increased recycle program/ drop off.

Wheatsville should make a true effort to limit our carbon imprint in Austin and the world. Wheatsville should also strive to educate our workers and mold them into leaders that are aware of the world and how they can impact it.

**3. What skills, qualities, and past experience do you have to help Wheatsville accomplish these goals?**

I'm a hard working natural leader, compassionate and forgiving with my fellow employees. I'm a diligent listener and always eager to learn. I believe in accountability, honesty, and fairness. I support sustainable resources, fair trade, organic produced foods, and locally produced foods. As a Journeyman meat buyer/ cutter/ manager I have 13+ years of experience in grocery stores and markets in central Texas. I've learned, trained and worked with several hundred of years of experienced butchers and managers in all aspects of the retail grocery business. I do my best to use this experience in everything I do.

**4. Why are you interested in serving on the Board of directors of the cooperative?**

Having only served one term as the representative for the staff I feel like I've only just wet my whistle with the co-op experience. I've learned much in the past year and would like to continue my pursuit of co-op values into another term. As a director I will make the most of my responsibility and seek out the best solutions during and new phase of Wheatsville. I will support fellow directors and seek out strong future candidates for the board.

**5. What Co-op issues do you have a particular interest in?**

As a pledged member of the seafood watch advocacy group I have dedicated myself to the education of sustainability and sustainable seafood. I feel strongly about the role of stewardship for the planet we all inherit at birth. I believe Wheatsville represents the ideas of environment protection, non-exploitation of workers and education. We provide well researched products to our owners with confidence that it's the right choice for them and our planet.

## Mike Crissey



Wheatsville Food Co-op Refrigerated Buyer

Bachelor's of Journalism, University of Texas

**1. How does and should Wheatsville fit into the community and greater Austin?**

It's been three decades but Wheatsville hasn't forgotten where it came from or why it's still here. Thousands of local owners is a big reminder. The co-op to some degree reflects the community naturally. Wheatsville is a hub for the city, where we members bring ideas together and work toward common goals. The co-op has also established relationships with local producers, nonprofits and a credit union. I feel like the co-op is on the right track but would like to see more.

**2. What goals would you like to see the co-op achieve in the next five years? Ten years?**

The renovated store should be the beginning of an exciting period of expansion for Wheatsville and perhaps other co-ops as well. I'd like to see the co-op become a larger part of the city with another storefront as well as stronger ties to local businesses, nonprofits and community groups.

**3. What skills, qualities, and past experience do you have to help Wheatsville accomplish these goals?**

I've been learning as much as I can about the co-op and natural foods since I started working here almost two years ago. I'm committed to the co-op and can talk earnestly about it. I'm a tireless worker and a great talker but mediocre listener.

**4. Why are you interested in serving on the Board of Directors of the cooperative?**

I want to help Wheatsville grow not just its bottom line but its footprint. I've been involved in the store day-to-day for almost two years. I'd like to help co-op make another 30 years.

**5. What Co-op issues do you have a particular interest in?**

The co-op's connections to the community cannot be overlooked. The co-op should become a larger part of Austin with more established ties to local businesses and nonprofits.

## Johanna Divine



Self-Employed Writer, Filmmaker, Development Consultant

M.A. Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (2003, Northern Arizona University),

B.A. Sustainable Community Development (2000, Prescott College)

**1. How does and should Wheatsville fit into the community and greater Austin?**

Wheatsville is an organization people can trust. I trust Wheatsville to support local and regional producers by offering their products at a fair price, to prepare fresh and healthful foods in the deli, to hire knowledgeable friendly staff, and to ensure that members feel like part of a community. In contrast to other Austin-area grocers, Wheatsville maintains a firm commitment to supporting local and regional producers, thereby setting a high standard for responsible food merchandising in central Texas. I think this is where Wheatsville does and should shine in Austin—people can trust the co-op and know they are supporting friends and neighbors through their membership and patronage.

**2. What goals would you like to see the co-op achieve in the next five years? Ten years?**

The Wheatsville Expansion project is an exciting undertaking and I look forward to seeing the co-op complete the renovation and "settle in" to its new space over the next 5 years. With an expanded store, it follows that membership, events and community programs will grow in size and scale in the long term. This will help increase Wheatsville's visibility in Austin and provide a model for other co-ops around the country. I would also like to see the co-op emphasize employee benefits and new job opportunities in the next 5 to 10 years. Within the next 10 years, I hope that Wheatsville's growth will encourage members to consider opening a second store in Austin to expand markets for local products.

**3. What skills, qualities, and past experience do you have to help Wheatsville accomplish these goals?**

My introduction to Wheatsville was in 1992, delivering salad mix from a farm in Dripping Springs to the produce dept. Over the last decade, I've worked on organic farms from Florida to Alaska, run a farmers' market and youth garden project, co-founded a non-profit organization, and worked as a grantwriter and project manager. This experience helps me understand what goes into the everyday operation of an organization like Wheatsville—from receiving produce to writing new by-laws. I'm a good communicator, fundraiser, and a quick study; familiar with board service; and enjoy working as part of a team toward a common goal. Lastly, I am committed to supporting local businesses, especially local farmers.

**4. Why are you interested in serving on the Board of Directors of the cooperative?**

I believe in the mission of the co-op and want to support local, sustainable agriculture. Wheatsville is one of Austin's greatest assets, and I want to share my enthusiasm about the co-op with others.

**5. What Co-op issues do you have a particular interest in?**

In particular, I'm interested in seeing the Expansion Project through to completion while maintaining the quality and "feel" of the co-op. I'd like to help raise awareness about the value and accessibility of local food at Wheatsville and encourage expansion to more Austin neighborhoods. Wheatsville offers a great mix of products at very reasonable prices and I'd like to see more people aware of what a great place the co-op is.

## Stephanie Johnson



Center for Research in Water Resources (University of Texas)

Ph.D. Candidate/ Graduate Research Assistant Pursuing my Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering

**1. How does and should Wheatsville fit into the community and greater Austin?**

Wheatsville provides an alternative: an alternative grocery option and an alternative business model. Not only is WV an alternative to the big box grocery or the trendy flash of some "natural foods markets"; the store provides an alternative community that's built around a belief in healthy food and lifestyles. This community is at the heart of what co-ops represent; they are much more than the function that they serve. I believe that Wheatsville speaks to the very heart of what Austin represents in Texas: a grassroots, independent community that focuses on the betterment of all over the benefit of one.

**2. What goals would you like to see the co-op achieve in the next five years? Ten years?**

Over the next five years I would like to see WV successfully complete the current expansion and begin the move toward establishing a second store. I would also like to see us build internally by adding new membership and increasing the participation of the members that we currently have. A strong cooperative comes from an active membership. Lastly, I would like to see WV reaching out more in the greater community of Austin. We should reach out to communities that are typically not involved in cooperatives by extending our visibility in the less served communities of Austin.

**3. What skills, qualities, and past experience do you have to help Wheatsville accomplish these goals?**

Born and raised in Minnesota, I come from the land of co-ops and have actively shopped at them for over a decade. For the last 5 years I have been intimately involved, serving as a working member at North Country Co-op (Minneapolis, MN) and as a board member of Mountain View Market Co-op (Las Cruces, NM). While serving on the Board of MVM I learned the function of a co-op as we worked on issues such as recruiting/hiring a new GM, store upgrades and expansion, addressing new competition and reaching out to under-represented portions of our community. These opportunities have deepened my appreciation of the co-op model and taught me the unique, inner-workings of cooperative governance.

**4. Why are you interested in serving on the Board of Directors of the cooperative?**

Being fairly new to Austin, serving on the Board of WV would allow me to be involved in my new community. I am a true believer in the alternative that co-ops provide and would be proud to use my previous experience to assist WV in reaching its goals and serving the community of Austin. As a Ph.D. student it is often too easy to get wrapped into the theoretical world of the "ivory tower"; serving on the WV Board would provide an opportunity to work with like-minded individuals toward a common goal with direct implications.

**5. What Co-op issues do you have a particular interest in?**

My interests lie in communicating the mission of cooperatives to the larger public. I believe the most important thing that co-op groceries offer is a community gathered around the idea of health, participation and social change. Purchasing our groceries at a co-op provides us with a tangible way to express our values through the power of the American dollar while filling our bodies with healthy, delicious food and our hearts with the community that surrounds that. My interests are in communicating that message to others. This, to me, is the value that WV brings to Austin and the vision that we should express to the community at large.

# 2008 Board Candidate Forum

## Bob Kinney



Episcopal  
Seminary of  
the Southwest  
Communications  
Director

Bachelor of  
Science degree  
in Journalism

### 1. How does and should Wheatsville fit into the community and greater Austin?

Wheatsville enjoys a special place in Austin. Many, many folks – owners and others – cherish Wheatsville. Our co-op is iconic, trustworthy and constantly shows a Better Path. Our support of non-profits through Community Action Wednesdays models not only cooperative values but also care and support for others.

### 2. What goals would you like to see the co-op achieve in the next five years? Ten years?

WV is on its way to fulfilling our immediate goal of renovating and expanding our Guadalupe store. Your board is now exploring the second phase of our expansion – the launching of a second store. More long-term goals include being a resource for other folks to set up their own co-op in Austin or Central Texas. We are the only food co-op in the state so we are responsible for fostering more. I expect Wheatsville to continue improving staff salaries and widening benefits. Fostering living options for baby boomers in retirement years interests me – helping to create a retirement housing co-op or getting several households to share access to reliable repair people, painters, yard mowers and tree trimmers.

### 3. What skills, qualities, and past experience do you have to help Wheatsville accomplish these goals?

I enjoy working with people – sharing ideas and knowledge. Now in my fourth decade of being a journalist, I value communication, justice and respect for everyone. I first was elected to the Wheatsville board in 1994. Prior to that, I was volunteer president of the CenTex Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union in the early 1980s.

### 4. Why are you interested in serving on the Board of Directors of the cooperative?

Giving Back is very important to me. I am proud of my thirteen-year service on your board of directors – many as president of the board. I seek re-election to a board seat in this election but will not run for president again. It's time for another generation of co-ops to lead our board.

### 5. What Co-op issues do you have a particular interest in?

I am interested in more ways of linking up with co-op owners, as well as community groups. Your board's growing participation with the greater co-op world in our country excites me. Wheatsville's matching contributions to the Sow the Seed flood relief program for flood-ravaged farmers in Minnesota and Wisconsin is meaningful and exemplary.

## Reagan Lea Taylor



Wheatsville Co-op Cashier

### 1. How does and should Wheatsville fit into the community and greater Austin?

For 31 years, Wheatsville has been a place where people can expect to find quality products, exceptional customer service, and a true sense of community.

We are a place where old friends bump into each other and catch up on lost time. We are a place where mothers and fathers come to find good food for their growing children. We are a place for people with ailments to find the vitamins and herbs they need to help them with their recovery. We are the place and we are the people who want to provide our community with the popcorn tofu that they are craving, the cold water on a hot day, the local honey to sweeten their tea, the fair-trade coffee to help them through the day, the sticker to make their child happy and all with the smiles and care that they deserve.

### 2. What goals would you like to see the co-op achieve in the next five years? Ten years?

What I personally think the co-op should accomplish in the coming decade is not of importance, it is the vision of our member/owner's that I hope to honor. So here, I will try and convey what I think THEY would want.

First I think it would be grand to get the expansion under way. Of course things like that take time, but I can't wait to see the pleased looks of our patrons the day it is finished.

With the passing of time, it is an inevitability that things change, but I would love to see Wheatsville stay a small, grassroots co-op that serves nothing but the best to those who step through the door. I know how much our member/owners appreciate the environment that we strive to create. So many people (including me) prefer the hominess of Wheatsville vs. the bustling business of many of our huge competitors.

### 3. What skills, qualities, and past experience do you have to help Wheatsville accomplish these goals?

I love to make people happy, and I would love to get the things done that our member/owners envision. It is important to me to achieve my own personal goals and to help others achieve theirs. Usually when I get it in my head that something needs to be done, it gets done. I am very ambitious, smart and attentive to the needs of those around me.

### 4. Why are you interested in serving on the Board of Directors of the cooperative?

It is important to me to really get involved with the inner workings of my co-op and be a part of the hard work that is necessary in running our community store. It is through this experience that I feel I can truly understand and appreciate the hows and whys to Wheatsville's 31 year success.

### 5. What Co-op issues do you have a particular interest in?

I've heard whispers about the opening of another store. Personally, this is something I am against. Yes, it would be nice to have another location in south Austin, but why take our focus away from the Wheatsville we have worked so hard create? There are still so many improvements we can make here and now.

I think another store is unnecessary and wouldn't serve our member/owners any better than we already do. What happens after we open another store? Then another? Then another? Would our values stay intact after so much growth? I doubt it. I say keep the focus on our little store we love so much and keep serving the community that appreciates us for what we already are.

## Tom Wald



Self-employed  
Web  
Developer

B.S. Physics  
1997, U of M,  
Minneapolis;

currently studying **Philosophy at UT Austin**

### 1. How does and should Wheatsville fit into the community and greater Austin?

Food will always be important to us. Since Wheatsville is a cooperative, it facilitates closer and more-complex involvement from the consumers than corporate and private grocers do. Wheatsville should continue to be a role-model in Austin for sustainable and just food distribution (at the retail level). Wheatsville can grow as an information resource and grow stronger as an example for new grocer co-ops to sprout about Austin.

We want Wheatsville to be awesome and popular, but I believe we need to focus on the creation of new, autonomous food co-ops in other Austin neighborhoods.

### 2. What goals would you like to see the co-op achieve in the next five years? Ten years?

In five years:

- A. Stability: Financial, Staff, Local Reputation, Mission and its fulfillment.
- B. Through the assistance of the Wheatsville board, member-owners, and staff... the formation of three or more additional food/grocery co-ops in the Austin area, at least two of which are organizations independent of Wheatsville.
- C. Wide, local notoriety as an innovative and practical grocery store.
- D. Solid member-owner involvement/participation in Wheatsville.
- E. Successful completion of the Wheatsville expansion on Guadalupe.
- F. A strong source of information on sustainable and just food production and distribution, including thorough on-site and online publications and books. This can be accomplished either through Wheatsville or in close partnership with another local organization.

In ten years:

- A. National notoriety as a co-op grocery store innovator and leader with staff influential and active on a national level. (For example, in the late 1990's the produce buyer at the Wedge Co-op in Minneapolis was instrumental in ensuring that the USDA Organic rules prohibited methods such as gene splicing (GMOs), high-energy radiation sterilization, and sewage sludge fertilizer, among other methods proposed but not typically thought of as "organic". In addition, the Wedge Co-op was the first official USDA Organic retail grocer.)
- B. Through the assistance of the Wheatsville board, member-owners, and staff... the formation of independent, non-grocery cooperative businesses in the Austin area.
- C. Wheatsville plays the part of instigating an Austin culture of neighborhood grocer cooperatives.

### 3. What skills, qualities, and past experience do you have to help Wheatsville accomplish these goals?

Creative problem-solving  
Ability to facilitate connections between various interests  
Patience and Listening

In previous co-op and non-profit experience, I have found the tremendous value to each organization in recognizing the existing passion in individuals to see through completion of important tasks.

I have a genuine and strong interest in serving Wheatsville. I began attending Wheatsville board meetings last December in order to become aware of the current issues addressed by the board and to become familiar with how the board operates. I was appointed to the board in June to fill a vacancy.

### 4. Why are you interested in serving on the Board of Directors of the cooperative?

Much of what I want to accomplish in serving the cooperative could be done as a 'lowly' member-owner. Generally, the board welcomes member-owner participation at board meetings. Also, decisions are typically made with a consensus of the board after all perspectives at the meetings are considered. However, there are a number of ways in which being an official board director will help me to accomplish my goals. As a director,

- My commitment to serving Wheatsville is clearer to others, especially those on the board,
- I can participate in closed meeting sessions, including some important management and financial discussions and decisions,
- It is currently much easier to stay up to date with board issues than when not on the board,
- I can receive training from other cooperatives and organizations,
- I can more easily make connections with individuals at other cooperatives and organizations.

### 5. What Co-op issues do you have a particular interest in?

A. Organizing and facilitating member-owner participation: I would like to help create an environment where interested member-owners can readily participate and augment the Wheatsville experience. There is a wealth of knowledge, creativity, and interest among our member-owners. Utilizing these resources and energy are essential to the vitality and sustainability of our cooperative. Without participation from member-owners, Wheatsville would be a cooperative in name only.

B. Ensuring that staff are satisfied with their relationship to Wheatsville: This includes learning what the concerns of staff are, finding and implementing solutions to any problems, and monitoring staff satisfaction more frequently in the future. Since these tasks are primarily the duty of management, as outlined in Wheatsville Board Policies D.1 and D.2, my efforts will be done in concert with the general manager.

C. Wheatsville can and should stay a few steps ahead of other Austin grocers in becoming a sustainable and just grocer. In the past, other grocers have learned from the examples set by Wheatsville and other cooperative grocers across the country. The natural foods movement, the organic food movement, the local food movement, have all been ways in which cooperative grocers have influenced and taught the corporate grocers. The USDA Organic standards we now have are due, in no small part, to the efforts of grocer cooperatives sustaining the organic food industry and ensuring that the new standards were meaningful and relevant.



# Wheatsville 2008 Board of Directors Election Ballot

All Wheatsville members are eligible to vote. In order for your ballot to count *you must include your name, address, and member-owner number.* All information is confirmed and confidential.

Vote for **FOUR** candidates to fill two-year terms.

- Johanna Divine \_\_\_\_\_
- Stephanie Johnson \_\_\_\_\_
- Bob Kinney (incumbent) \_\_\_\_\_
- Tom Wald (incumbent) \_\_\_\_\_

Staff Representative to the Board of Directors.  
Vote for **TWO** candidates to fill one -year terms.

- Bryan Butler (incumbent) \_\_\_\_\_
- Mike Crissey \_\_\_\_\_
- Reagan Lea Taylor \_\_\_\_\_

### Items proposed for boycott by the membership:

Any proposed boycott must have at least 400 ballots cast or that product will not be boycotted.

Yes  No   
Boycott Do Not Boycott

Products Tested on Animals

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Member-Owner Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Drop off or mail to Wheatsville Food Co-op, Attn:Aldia, 3101 Guadalupe, Austin TX 78705 or vote online at <http://wheatsville.coop>

Vote for **NINE organizations** to be recipients of a monthly donation program. You may nominate an organization of your choice as your tenth vote.

- \_\_\_\_\_ **ACLU Central TX chapter**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **AIDS Services of Austin**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Austin Parks Foundation**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Capital Area Food Bank**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Caritas**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Casa Marianella**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Community Partnership for the Homeless**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Ecology Action**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **EmanciPET Mobile Spay/Neuter Clinic**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Family Eldercare**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Friends of Barton Springs Pool**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Green Corn Project**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Hospice Austin**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Literacy Austin**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Meals on Wheels and More**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **People's Community Clinic**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **SafePlace**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Save Our Springs Alliance**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Sustainable Food Center**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Tree Folks**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Yellow Bike Project**

(write in vote)

**GET TO KNOW THE CANDIDATES!**  
Read the Candidate Forum in the Breeze, at the Member Center or online at [www.wheatsville.coop](http://www.wheatsville.coop)



## Wheatsville Community Action

We donate 1% of sales each Wednesday (one organization per month) to benefit community groups involved with causes important to our members. Members vote on the recipients each year, expanding democratic involvement and member participation in our co-op.

Twenty-one local non-profit organizations are on the ballot. Members may vote for 9 groups and also may vote for a 10th group (write in) of their choice. The lead vote-getters will each be given a month and may have a table in front of the store on Wednesdays of their month. We encourage them to invite their friends to shop on those days. November and December of each year are reserved for the Wheatsville Community Cooperative Fund.

## Boycott Ballot

A boycott of products tested on animals has been in effect since the member vote last year.

At least 400 ballots must be cast within 60 days (2/3 of which must be FOR the proposed item) to initiate or sustain a boycott.

## Short Description of each of the Community Action Wednesday Nominees

Our rights as individuals depend on our willingness to defend them. The **ACLU of Texas** has established or is supporting projects to target specific civil liberties issues: Police Accountability, Cyber-Liberties, the Banned Books Project, and the Prison & Jail Accountability Project.

**AIDS Services of Austin** provides services that enhance health and well-being in the face of an evolving epidemic. Services include confidential HIV testing with pre- and post-test counseling, prevention programs, temporary emergency financial assistance for basic living needs, food, nutritional supplements and personal care items to case managed individuals, free legal assistance to low-income persons with HIV.

**Austin Parks Foundation** seeks to fill the gap between what needs to be done and what our parks department can afford to do. Since 1992, APF has initiated, promoted, and facilitated physical improvements, new programming, and greater community involvement for Austin's parks. Each year, APF generates millions of dollars in volunteer time, in-kind donations, and financial support for city parks.

**Capital Area Food Bank** The mission of the Capital Area Food Bank of Texas is to nourish hungry people and lead the community in ending hunger. Today more than 15 million pounds of food and grocery products are distributed each year. Food and grocery products distributed by CAFB go to human & social service agencies. These partner agencies provide hot meals served on-site or groceries to families and individuals in need.

Since 1964, **Caritas of Austin** assists with basic needs in times of crisis. Caritas works to prevent homelessness and hunger by assisting low-income community members and refugees with basic needs and promoting self-sufficiency. Caritas is one of Travis County's largest non-governmental sources of assistance.

Founded in 1986, **Casa Marianella** provides shelter and services yearly to over 400 homeless Central American refugees and immigrants. In addition to housing, Casa Marianella provides food, clothing, and English and Spanish literacy classes. Casa assists clients to gain access to comprehensive services from additional service providers. Extended stays and special care is provided to clients with debilitating injuries and illnesses.

**Community Partnership for the Homeless** is dedicated to ending homelessness by providing safe, affordable housing. They create alliances and networks to maximize resources, increase coordination, and avoid duplication of services. They acquire & develop housing, refurbish substandard housing & administer transitional shelter & affordable housing.

**Ecology Action** operates a recycling drop-off and processing center in downtown Austin, a rural recycling drop-off and provides recycling for special events and music venues in downtown Austin. They conduct tours and provide hands-on volunteer opportunities, staff booths at various events, conduct classroom visits to educate children about recycling, host Austin's Earth Day Celebration each year, and serve as a clearinghouse for information about recycling and waste prevention.

**EmanciPET Mobile Spay/Neuter Clinic** is dedicated to the emancipation of pets from euthanasia and overpopulation through the provision of low-cost or free, easily accessible surgical sterilization of dogs and cats. Since 1999, over 35,000 animals have been sterilized at the mobile hospital. Their goal is to make Austin the nation's second "no kill" city in the United States by 2008 by expanding its spay/neuter service capabilities.

**Family Eldercare** is the primary agency serving frail elders, people with disabilities and their caregivers in Central Texas by providing an array of services that span the continuum of care. Their programs are designed to prevent abuse, neglect, self-neglect and financial exploitation; promote health, well-being and dignity and prolong independent living in the least restrictive environment. All services are provided to the community on a sliding fee scale, based on need.

**The Friends of Barton Springs Pool** creates a community of people dedicated to restoring, improving and maintaining the pool and surrounding grounds through organizing, advocacy, volunteer work, education, and fun.

**The Green Corn Project** helps area residents to grow nutritious, affordable food in a low-cost, chemical-free way that "grows" topsoil, that conserve natural resources, promote self-reliance, and strengthen communities. Since 1998, GCP has helped build home and community food gardens. The whole community benefits when gardeners share their new skills and excess harvest.

**Hospice Austin** serves terminally ill and bereaved persons with integrity, compassion and respect. Services are designed to improve comfort, manage symptoms and provides important emotional and spiritual support to families and friends as they cope with caring for a loved one with an advanced illness, and grief after the loved one dies.

**Literacy Austin** is the primary provider for basic literacy instruction for adults in Austin. They provide basic literacy and English as a Second Language instruction with volunteer tutors. Education is no cost, barrier-free, and has no minimum entry requirements. Literacy Austin raises community awareness of the extent and consequences of adult illiteracy.

**Meals on Wheels and More** Volunteers deliver hot, nutritious lunchtime meals to the homes of homebound elderly or disabled people who can no longer prepare balanced meals for themselves. Other services offered include medical transportation, grocery shopping assistance, daily telephone reassurance phone calls, safety-related home improvements, and additional groceries free of charge.

**People's Community Clinic** is Austin's largest comprehensive primary health care center serving the uninsured working poor. All services are offered on a sliding scale basis.

A dedicated, professional staff of doctors, nurses, and other health care workers provide a full range of primary care treatment and prevention services. By forming partnerships and strategic alliances within the community, health care is dignified, affordable, and accessible.

**SafePlace** works to end domestic and sexual violence through crisis intervention, prevention, education, long-term support and advocacy. The Center for Battered Women and the Austin Rape Crisis Center merged in 1998 to create a unified source of assistance and hope for survivors of sexual and domestic violence.

**SOS Alliance** advocates protection of Barton Springs, the Edwards Aquifer, and their Hill Country watersheds. Permanent land protection also preserves wildlife habitats, rural characteristics, scenic landscapes and helps prevent downstream flooding and erosion.

**The Sustainable Food Center** is dedicated to improving access to local, healthy and affordable food for children and adults in Central Texas. Their community and youth gardens, Austin Farmers' Market, neighborhood farm stands and cooking and nutrition education classes benefit an estimated 10,000 Central Texans annually. Cultivating Communities from the Ground Up!

**TreeFolks** grows the urban forest through tree planting, education and community partnerships. TreeFolks works to educate and involve businesses, schools, government, citizen groups and individuals in tree planting and care. TreeFolks has planted thousands of trees in the Austin and Central Texas area creating a healthier environment and enhancing the quality of urban life.

The Austin **Yellow Bike Project** is dedicated to providing human-powered transportation for the people of Austin, running a community bike shop, and educating kids and adults. Our project promotes cleaner air, land, and water, while encouraging people to meet their transportation needs through an active lifestyle and community participation.