

# Troy Community Food Cooperative, Inc.

... The Capital Region's Newest Food Cooperative

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## Board of Directors - Candidate Statements

January 30, 2007

### Mary Brand

I am interested in being considered for a position on the Co-op board. I am a Troy supporter, having lived here for 37 years. I have also owned 2 businesses in Troy. I believe in the need for better access in downtown to local, healthy affordable foods. I am a strong supporter of the Troy Farmer's Market and the Co-op is a natural progression in the expansion of our community resources. The residents have the interest and the need to make this happen. I look forward to being part of this effort.

### Peter Grimm

A lifelong resident of Troy and a resident of the downtown neighborhood for over 30 years. I was a pioneer of the gentrification movement of the downtown brownstones. I have been a founding board member of several organizations and currently serve on the steering committees of various organizations, successfully fund raising for their causes.

Professionally I have a food service background of over 25 years, managing a full service restaurant with over 100 employees and starting a successful catering business. Currently I am a special projects manager for the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Elected to the Rensselaer County Legislature in 2005, I am one of six at large legislators representing the City of Troy.

I am thrilled to be part of the new cooperative. I hope to be able to offer my skills in the creation of this exciting endeavor

### Barbara Higbee

I am a lifelong Troy resident and have helped establish or strengthen a number of non-profits in Troy. I am interested in helping the Troy Food Co-op find the sources of finance and the expertise required to create a strong downtown food co-op. I think this market is of strategic importance to the downtown and that it will make a difference in the quality of life for us all.

### Antoinette Hueber

My family and I moved to Troy, NY in 1985 from Vienna, Austria. A sense of urban living is in my blood and I have always been hopeful to see this wonderful small city turn into a great place to live and shop.

Personally, I have always had a great passion for food and baking and decided to go to Schenectady County Community College in 1987 to pursue a degree in Hotel and Restaurant Management, which I graduated from with High Honors.

From 1989-1990 I worked at Cowen and Lobel Gourmet Shop and BFS Deli & Catering, before being offered a position to establish and operate an import and distribution office for two well renown Germany toy companies. For the past 16 years, I have been involved in every aspect of the day-to-day operation and company growth, starting with annual sales of \$ 50,000 and effectively growing them to over \$ 1,000,000.

I believe that my knowledge and passion for food, as well my organizational skills and business sense would be beneficial to the Troy Food Cooperative.

**Michael Koshgarian Jr.**

I have an extensive resume dealing with whole/raw foods, food wholesale, food retail, and years in the restaurant industry.

I attended the Natural Gourmet School in Manhattan. I have been creating food and menus that are: vegan, vegetarian, dietary, macrobiotic, and overall healthy - specialized foods – fresh and seasonal - that are “allergy safe” {wheat/fat/sugar/dairy free}. I would love to pass on my knowledge and creativity.

I am very sure that I would be perfect to help, form, organize and oversee food, beverage and grocery items in the first and ongoing phases of the Troy Co-Op.

**Wayne B. Metsch**

I am a recent Troy resident, formally of Averill Park, who has worked in Troy for 25 years. I have had a psychotherapy practice with an office in Troy for most of that time. In addition I'm the director of Social Work at the Capital District Psychiatric Center. I have a life long interest in food, I'm committed to sustaining a sense of community and to being responsible to those communities.

I'd bring 12 years of Board experience to the co-op (Joseph's House including president). I have administrative and HR experience from my work at CDPC. With an office in Troy I have a sense of some of the frustrations facing a new business in the urban environment. I'm committed to the vision of a community supported, cooperative, good, energetic market in Troy.

**Mary Muller**

I'm a member of the Co-op's organizing group, the Core Committee, and I've been working as the Membership administrator since the start of operations. I've been maintaining membership records in a database on my computer, sending out communications to the membership and responding to questions. I've also been handling the deposits of membership payments. I am strongly committed to seeing the Troy Food Co-op succeed and I'm willing to put in a lot of effort on its behalf. I have the time, the skills, and the energy to devote to the Co-op. I hope that you will vote to allow me to serve on the Board of Directors during these first, critical years.

**Stephannie Stoye**

I came to Troy in 2000 as an RPI undergrad. I was drawn to the City of Troy's historic architecture and potential to be a great place to live. After graduating with a degree in Math, I decided to stay and make Troy my permanent home.

In 2005, my boyfriend and I purchased a home in the Little Italy neighborhood of South Central Troy. We are currently working on rehabilitating the structure to highlight its historical features and modernize its out-dated systems. The experience has been a great introduction to managing a large-scale project.

I am an active member in the Troy Little Italy Neighborhood Group. I have participated in several events to bring attention to our neighborhood and to encourage people to visit/live in our section of the city. Our group has sponsored a float in the Flag Day parade, decorated a downtown window for the Victorian Stroll, coordinated semi-annual neighborhood clean-ups, and promoted the neighborhood during *What Do You Tear Down Next?* at the Sanctuary for Independent Media.

After completing my Masters degree at Union College, I began teaching math in the South Colonie School District at Colonie High School. My work as an educator prepares me well for a leadership role in the Coop. I am an enthusiastic and dedicated teacher, and I would be an enthusiastic and dedicated board member.

I feel that as a young person, not far removed from college, I would be a liaison between college students in Troy and the Coop. As a teacher, I have gained experience communicating with families from diverse backgrounds; a skill necessary for promoting the Coop to the greater community. My expertise in mathematics lends itself to effectively managing the budget finances. I look forward to aiding in this addition to our City.