# willy street co-op **Annual Report**

























### GENERAL MANAGER REPORT **Anya Firszt, General Manager**a.firszt@willystreet.coop

#### Dear Owners,

We accomplished some pretty significant achievements in Fiscal Year 2018 — all worth celebrating!

Our sales and ownership have grown steadily since we first opened in 1974; in Fiscal Year 2018 our operation included three retail storefronts, one Production Kitchen, and a Central Office, all with nearly 35,000 Owners and 400 staff and combined annual sales of over \$50 million. Wow!

In the last year, we were able to bring greater parity between the product selection and services offered at all three stores. Willy North installed their outdoor seating area, now complete with our Willy Street Co-op signature umbrellas! Willy North also opened their Juice Bar for made-to-order fresh-squeezed, blended and coffee drinks. And, Willy East introduced beer and wine to their offerings to be more consistent with our two other stores.

In summer 2017, Owners approved the expenditure of funds for the expansion of Willy West. Once receiving Owner approval for the project, we began the planning and redesign of Willy West in earnest, with construction beginning in spring 2018. By the end of the fiscal year (which was in lune) we were half done with project work. And, by the time you read this Annual Report, the construction work will be completed. THANK YOU to all our staff and shoppers for your patience throughout the six months of disarray and organized chaos. If you have not had an opportunity to visit Willy West in the last several weeks or months, you have a treat waiting for you!

On the staff side of our operation, we increased our starting wage to \$12/hr early in the fiscal year. We reviewed all our job descriptions and pay ranges and made pay adjustments to reflect the updates with pay increases awarded to the retail staff in January, and nearly all other staff at the beginning of the current fiscal year. We also awarded pay for performance raises in April in conjunction with our annual evaluation cycle.

Thank you for your part in keeping the cooperative business model dream alive and making our Co-op the success it is! It remains an honor and privilege to serve you.

Yours in Cooperation, Anya



Prakriti and Doug Ryddner (flanking GM Anya Firszt) were the first Owners to buy Owner Bonds to help finance the expansion of Willy West. Owners bought \$674,500 in Bonds in just 24 days.



Willy North managed to squeeze in a juice bar, and then a sandwich station a few months later.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT Jeannine Bindl, Board President board@willystreet.coop

Woven into everything we do at the Co-op is our commitment to invest in and enrich both our community and the environment. From accepting the Force for Local Change award on behalf of the Double Dollars program to giving over \$530,000 dollars in charitable donations, your Board of Directors is proud of the way the Co-op has accomplished our Ends this year. This is all thanks to you, the Co-op's Owners.

Speaking of Owners, we are 3,385 stronger this year, totalling 34,970 Owners at the end of Fiscal Year 2018. If you are a new Owner of the Co-op, welcome! We are so glad you are here.

Together as a cooperative we are able to strengthen our community. Investment in our future is one way we do this. Last year Co-op Owners approved an expansion of our West location. The expansion will provide an additional 3,500 retail square feet, a larger Community Room and commercial-grade kitchen to better serve the needs of our community.



Did you know you can vote for the Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting & Party? Interested in running? See www.willystreet.coop/board.

For good measure, here are a few of the other ways the Co-op was able to invest in the community last year:



We gave a total of \$25,000 in grants to 10 community partners via the Community Reinvestment Fund



We finished our first full year of the Retail Ready Lab in which 20 small, local vendors were able to pilot their products in our stores



We spent \$8,077,261.77 dollars with local vendors



We received \$65,791 in donations and reusable bag refunds towards the Double Dollars program

It is a privilege to serve the Willy Street Co-op Owners as a Board member. As one of our almost 35,000 Owners, are you interested in becoming more involved our cooperative? If so, please send a note to the Board Development Committee at BDC@willystreet.coop.

On behalf of your Board of Directors, thank you. Thank you for your generosity and the ways you make it possible for the Cooperative to invest in our local economy. We are eager to see how the ripples from this year continue and where the new ones will begin.



Your Board of Directors began visiting the stores once per month to answer questions and gather feedback. During the holidays they helped out with bagging at the registers.



Willy East staff members pose with the 2017 Mad Faves award. *Isthmus* readers voted your Co-op their favorite grocery store.



Your Co-op's Communications Director and Co-op Services Director hold the Force for Positive Change award, presented by John and Tashia Morgridge. The Co-op received the plaque and \$12,500 in recognition of its work on expanding the Double Dollars program. (Photo credit: Dan Johnson).



Thony Clark—Mango Man—holds his certificate showing that his product graduated from the Retail Ready Program.



Mama Digdown's Brass Band performing during Fete de Marquette and our Annual Meeting & Party.



We added a patio and picnic tables in front of Willy North



Purchasing Director led a workshop at the 2018 Up & Coming conference for growing food cooperatives. She taught the group how to build a strong and authentic local vendor program.



The Willy West expansion started in spring of 2018. The first few months of construction happened in the former Hallmark store space just next door.

## **GIVING BACK**

Charitable giving amounts by type:

and many more)

\$44,954

Donations of food, gift bags, gift cards and other products and services (234 organizations)



\$57,190

**Local event sponsorships** (including La Fête, the Good Neighbor Festival, River Food Pantry's Harvest Dinner,



\$25,000

**Community Reinvestment Fund** (10 organizations)



\$65,266 From customers

and the Co-op

**Disaster relief** (to Global Giving and Central Texas Food Bank for Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Katia, Maria and earthquakes in the <u>Chiapas region of Mexico</u>)



\$65,971

From customers and the Co-op

**Double Dollars Fund** (scan card donations and reusable bag savings; does not include Healthy Dane's \$10,000 match)



\$10,000

Pantries of Plenty (Bread of Life Food Pantry, Goodman Community Center, Lussier Community Education Center, Middleton Outreach Ministry, The River Food Pantry, and Wil-Mar Neighborhood Center)



\$265,084
From customers

**Community CHIP**<sup>TM</sup> See a list of recipients at www.communityshares.com



\$533,285 TOTAL IN FY18 DONATIONS



Felicia Peña from Central Texas Food Bank visiting Willy East. We fundraised \$25,000 to provide meals for Hurricane Harvey victims. Thanks for your







#### FINANCE REPORT

### **Paige Wickline, Finance Director** p.wickline@willystreet.coop

Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18) was another successful year where we exceeded our budget goals. All year our sales surpassed our expectations with final numbers coming in \$1.2 million over budget. The additional sales translated into revenue of \$316,000. Our expenses were less than expected, coming in \$300,000 under budget. Because of recent tax law changes, we also had a large reduction in our tax liability in the amount of \$456,000. As the result of these items, our net income was \$1 million better than expected and came in at \$219,000 compared to our budgeted loss of -\$853.000.

When we opened Willy North two years ago, we planned to have losses the first three years totaling \$2.4 million. We are now on track to have operating losses of under \$1 million.

Our cash and equity positions remain strong. Cash at year-end was \$3.54 million, up \$200,000 from the previous year. Owner equity increased by \$119,000 bringing Owner equity to \$2.668 million.

In FY18, we sold \$674,500 in Owner Bonds as part of the funding for our recently completed West Expansion Project. This project started in FY18 with a budget of \$2.271 million that included Owner Bonds. a loan from Summit Credit Union and \$100,000 in leasehold improvements from our landlord. The loan from Summit was not drawn on till FY19 to fund payments for the expansion. We will be paying back \$500,000 in three-year Bonds from Willy North at the end of FY18.

Your Co-op continues to be financially strong and we look forward to continued investments in our staff, our retail locations and in how we serve our Owners and our community.

The Balance Sheet, which provides a snapshot of the Co-op's resources (assets) and the financing of the resources (liabilities + equity), reflects the financial stability of the Cooperative. Liabilities are our obligations to creditors (banks, vendors, employees). Equity is comprised of our Owners' contributions via Fair Share payments, retained patronage

refunds and unallocated earnings. We round to the nearest decimal or dollar.					
Balance Sheet	FY 2018	%	FY 2017	%	
Assets					
Cash & Equivalents	3,541,110	25.35%	3,335,813	25.36%	
Inventory	1,899,247	13.60%	1,922,685	14.62%	
Income Tax Receivable	3,127	0.02%	3,127	0.02%	
Other Current Assets	280,849	2.01%	248,951	1.89%	
Property & Equipment - net	7,631,578	54.63%	7,092,024	53.91%	
Other Assets	614,236	4.40%	552,234	4.20%	
Total Assets	13,970,147	100.00%	13,154,834	100.00%	
Liabilities & Equity					
Accounts Payable	2,333,160	16.7%	1,885,049	14.3%	
Patronage Refund Payable	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
Other Current Liabilities	1,971,316	14.1%	1,627,135	12.4%	
Long Term Liabilities	4,491,467	32.2%	4,807,082	36.5%	
Total Liabilities	8,795,943	63.0%	8,319,266	63.2%	
Fair Share	2,668,646	19.1%	2,549,300	19.4%	
Retained Patronage Refunds	1,449,506	10.4%	1,449,506	11.0%	
Retained Unallocated Earnings	1,056,052	7.6%	836,762	6.4%	
Total Equity	5,174,204	37.0%	4,835,568	36.8%	
Total Liabilities and Equity	13,970,147	100.0%	13,154,834	100.0%	

personnel expenses are the key indicate				0/
Income Statement	FY 2018	<u></u>	FY 2017	%
Sales	52,305,923	100.47%	49,250,149	100.49%
Non-Owner Surcharge	0	0.00%	3,619	0.019
Access Discount	-244,348	-0.47%	-242,385	-0.49%
Gross Sales	52,061,575	100.00%	49,011,383	100.00%
Cost of Goods Sold	-33,621,982	-64.58%	-31,578,036	-64.43%
Gross Profit Margin	18,439,593	35.42%	17,433,347	35.57%
Expenses				
Personnel Expense	13,502,262	25.94%	13,028,187	26.589
Occupancy Expense	1,938,090	3.72%	1,804,408	3.689
Operating Expense	1,441,957	2.77%	1,485,540	3.039
Promotional Expense	567,340	1.09%	571,746	1.179
Depreciation & Amortization	733,545	1.41%	712,612	1.459
Administrative Expense	512,588	0.98%	503,693	1.039
Governance Expense	144,630	0.28%	114,942	0.239
Total Operating Expense	18,840,412	36.19%	18,221,128	37.189
Other Income	330,312	0.63%	327,223	0.679
Interest Expense	-166,203	-0.32%	-182,999	-0.379
Other Expense	0	0.00%	-21,520	-0.049
Total Other Income (Expense)	164,109	0.32%	122,704	0.259
Income (Loss) Before Income Taxes	-236,710	-0.45%	-665,077	-1.369
Income Taxes	456,000	0.88%	-29,000	-0.069
Net Income (Loss)	219,290	0.42%	-694,077	-1.429