

# **Cooperative Development**

**What Works! Conference**

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# **MAFCA**

**MAFCA = Mid-Atlantic Food Co-op Alliance**

**Who we are...**

- **30 food co-ops, buying clubs, and start-up efforts**
- **In 6 states: NY, NJ, PA, DE, MD, VA**
- **Over \$100 million annual sales**

# MAFCA Context

**Over 300 food co-op start-up efforts across the country**

**Co-ops come in waves!**

- **Post-Civil War: 1860s-1890s**
- **Great Depression: 1930s**
- **Counter Culture: 1970s**
- **Now: 2008-**

**Reasons for Now**

- **Economy**
- **Demand for healthy food**
- **Demand for local food**

# **MAFCA Mission**

**The Mid-Atlantic Food Co-op Alliance exists for the mutual benefit of its members and the greater community in which we live. Our purpose is to grow the cooperative economy, provide education about co-ops, and build a sustainable and equitable system of healthy, local food production, distribution, and consumption.**

# **MAFCA Milestones**

- **Memorial Day 2009: seed planted**
- **April 15, 2010: official formation**
- **April 16, 2011: conference for start-ups**

**For more info on MAFCA:**

**[www.mafca.coop](http://www.mafca.coop)**

**[info@mafca.coop](mailto:info@mafca.coop)**

**Our sister organization:**

**Neighboring Food Co-op Association**

**Shelbourne Falls, MA**

**[www.nfca.coop](http://www.nfca.coop)**

# Weavers Way Co-op

## About...

- **Consumer-owned retail food co-op in Philadelphia**
- **Started in 1973**
- **4900 member-owner households**
- **\$15 million annual sales**
- **140 employees**
- **2 stores and 2 urban farms**
- **Non-profit arm runs community programs**



# **WWCP = Weavers Way Community Programs (501c3 non-profit)**

- **Marketplace student-run mini co-ops in local schools**
- **Farm Education**
- **Stenton Family Manor**
- **Bike co-op**

# For more info about Weavers Way

[www.weaversway.coop](http://www.weaversway.coop)

**Visit us:**

**Original Mt. Airy store: 559 Carpenter Lane**

**New Chestnut Hill store: 8424 Germantown Ave**

# Home Care Associates of Philadelphia

## About

- **Founded in 1993**
- **Philadelphia-based, employee-owned cooperative**
- **skilled assistance given by aides**
- **services range from a one-hour bath or meal preparation to 24-hour, live-in respite services**

## **About Home Care Associates (continued)**

- **modeled after Cooperative Home Care Associates, Bronx NY (the largest worker-owned health care company in the US)**
- **aides receive excellent benefits including health insurance, transportation and higher-than-average wages**
- **has trained and placed more than 1000 people in quality healthcare jobs**
- **employs more than 150 workers**

**For more information about HCA**

**1500 Walnut Street, Philadelphia PA**

**[www.homecareassociatespa.com](http://www.homecareassociatespa.com)**

# Childspace

## About...

- Operates 3 child care centers in Philadelphia:
  - Mt. Airy
  - Germantown
  - West Philly
- Started in the 1980s
- 200 families enrolled
- 50 staff
- 25 worker-owners
- Becoming a worker-owner is optional. It costs \$250.

# **There are actually 3 organizations**

- **Childspace Daycare Centers**
- **Childspace Management Group: the worker co-op**
- **Childspace CDI: a non-profit that gets grant money and does some fee-for-service work**

# **Childspace CDI's Mission**

**to improve the quality of jobs for  
traditionally low-paid child care  
workers, and, thereby, the care  
received by children**



# Childspace Governance

- **All the worker-owners together are the board**
- **They meet once/month**
- **Attendance is required and there is a penalty for absence**

**For more information on Childspace**

**5517 Greene St., Philadelphia PA**

**[www.childspacecdi.org](http://www.childspacecdi.org)**

# Co-op Resources

International Cooperative Alliance, [www.ica.coop](http://www.ica.coop)

National Cooperative Business Association, [www.ncba.coop](http://www.ncba.coop)

University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives,  
[www.uwcc.wisc.edu](http://www.uwcc.wisc.edu)

Keystone Development Center, [www.kdc.coop](http://www.kdc.coop)

## Consumer Food Co-ops

National Cooperative Grocers Association,  
[www.ncga.coop](http://www.ncga.coop)

Food Co-op Initiative, [www.foodcoopinitiative.coop](http://www.foodcoopinitiative.coop)