Cooperative Development

What Works! Conference
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Bob’s Contents

Consumer Food Co-ops
  MAFCA
  Weavers Way
Worker Co-ops
  Home Care Associates
  Child Space
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
info@mafca.coop

Our sister organization:
Neighboring Food Co-op Association
Shelbourne Falls, MA
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

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
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)