



YPSI MIX

January 2018

January Events:

312 N. River Street, Ypsilanti, MI 48198

734.483.1520

ypsifoodcoop.org

Thursday January 11th @ 6pm
YFC Talk and Tour

Join us to find out all the ins and outs about co-ops and YFC; and receive a 10% coupon.

Saturday January 20th @ noon
YFC Education Series Kick Off

Join us as Leaha shares her research on food co-ops and their ability to strengthen communities.

Tuesday January 23rd
@6:30pm

YFC Board Meeting

Board meetings are open to the public unless an executive session has been called.

Thursday January 25th @ 6pm
YFC Talk and Tour

Join us to find out all the ins and outs about co-ops and YFC; and receive a 10% coupon.

Look out for our Facebook events for additional information!

YFC Social Media:



Happy New Year and Happy Renewal

Happy New Year to you and yours from all of us at YFC! We are excited for a new year full of new possibilities!

It's that time of year again to renew your YFC membership (unless you are a paid-in-full Gold Card Member with a 4% discount). Now is the perfect time to become a YFC member because our membership runs for the calendar year. Membership for 2018 began in December and we finished the year with 945 active YFC members! Our October Co-op Month Membership Drive resulted in 32 new members joining and 11 member renewals. Since membership is annual be sure you renew your membership. If you have not renewed for 2018 you will not receive your 2% discount and will not be eligible to vote in the General Election come May. **YFC is closing in on 1,000 members; let's make it happen in 2018!**

Since membership at YFC is optional and anyone can shop at YFC **why should you become a YFC member?**

YFC membership is a mutually beneficial relationship for the entire community, each individual, and the health of YFC itself. This model of membership and

ownership is derived from the first three international cooperative principles: 1. "Voluntary and Open Membership", 2. "Democratic Member Control", and 3. "Members' Economic Participation".

What are the other benefits of membership at YFC? You are supporting your local grocery store, local vendors, and putting your money back into the local economy. YFC increases food access to local, organic, and healthier food, while providing a more personal and justice oriented shopping experience. YFC also invests in the community: participating in local food summits, educational events, local farmers markets, and more. We do not exist just to make a profit, but instead we are here to connect with our community, support our local food system and local economy, and provide great food and service.

We hope that you will consider joining or renewing your membership in 2018 and we look forward to meeting new faces and new families throughout this year. Happy New Year to everyone and thank you for continuing to support YFC!

Congratulations to our Winners

YFC participated in two different giveaways—**Co-Op Month Drawing and the Goodness Giveaway**—during the fall of 2017 and we are excited to announce those winners! During October, which is

international co-op month, YFC held two drawings for a YFC Gift Basket and a YFC Bakery Pie. This is an added bonus for our members and shoppers to celebrate Co-Op Month! This year our winner of the Gift Basket

was **Grace Komasara** and our winner of the YFC Bakery Pie was **Karthik Prabhu!** Congratulations to both of you! During December the National Cooperative Grocers (continued on pg 2)

Congratulations Continued

that YFC belongs to, held a 'Goodness Giveaway Sweepstakes' highlighting Co+Op Basics products.

What is the Co+Op Basics Program?

This is a nationwide program and movement among food co-ops aimed at increasing their buying power to lower product prices to consumers.

These Co+Op Basic products are healthy, organic, and natural foods that typically are pricey, but through this program they now have every day low prices available at your local co-

ops! These are a selection of staple foods and necessary household goods—including natural and organic products.

It is important to note that this program is offered not because we are paying our employees or vendors less but we have joined together with this national co-op network to increase our buying power to bring you high quality products more affordably.

The theme of this Co+Op Basics sweepstakes was to **'Win Groceries**

and Give Groceries'; connecting with the season of giving!

The grand prize was \$75 worth of Co+Op Basics Groceries and a matched \$75 donation to a charity fighting hunger in our community. YFC chose to donate the \$75 to the Ypsilanti Hunger Coalition, composed of six local churches.

Our grand prize winner was **long time co-op member Lisa Bashert!** We are sure she and her family are enjoying their Co+Op Basics groceries!

Ypsilanti Hunger Coalition

YFC chose to donate the \$75 from the 'Goodness Giveaway' sweepstake to the Ypsilanti Hunger Coalition due to their dedication to eradicate hunger and increase food access in the Ypsilanti Community.

This coalition is made up of six local churches including: Emmanuel Lutheran Church of Ypsilanti, First United Methodist, Holy Trinity Student Center, First Presbyterian, St. Luke's Episcopal Church of Ypsilanti, and St. Matthew's United Methodist of Ypsilanti Township.

These churches together have served

both the city of Ypsilanti and the township of Ypsilanti for several decades. They prepare and serve free meals during the week for those in need. These meals typically feed 60-80 or more people on a weekly bases.

YFC chose this coalition in part to our close relationship with Emmanuel Lutheran Church located on River St. just a few blocks from YFC. YFC has worked with Emmanuel Lutheran by supporting their food give away and education programs.

If you are interested in getting involved with the hunger coalition

there are two main ways to serve. 1. Assistance in preparing meals, serving, and set up and tare down. 2. Providing Financial Support. If you are interested in either of these please contact the host church Emmanuel Lutheran Church at info@emmanuelypsi.org and/or visit their [Hunger Coalitions Dinners Webpage](#).

YFC is thankful to have been able to aid this amazing local coalition and would like to think them for all the hard work they do in helping the people of Ypsilanti.

2018 Education Series Kick Off

With 2018 comes the Educational Series Kick off on January 20th at noon! YFC staff member Leaha has done extensive research over cooperative models focusing mainly on how **food cooperatives can facilitate community growth and increase community productivity levels.**

In November of 2017 Leaha traveled to Seoul, South Korea to present her research at the 12th Annual International Cooperative Alliance Asia-

Pacific Research Conference. Now she is excited to share her research and passion with everyone at YFC by kicking off the 2018 YFC Education Series! Her presentation will focus on how food cooperatives which utilize Open Dialogues, Skill Based Training, Educational Opportunities, and Increasing Food Access create strong, healthy, and productive communities. We are starting this series at the base of what a healthy food cooperative and

community looks like.

Each month there will be a different Education Series Event held ranging from holistic healing to basic nutrition. **In February we will have Ylona Hartford from Holistic Whole Health presenting on 'Fat is Healthy'.**

We are excited to begin this series to meet our 5th principle, "Education, Training & Information" and to utilize our new classrooms upstairs at YFC. We look forward to you attending.

General Manager

Corinne Sikorski

Corinne@ypsifoodcoop.org

Editor:

Leaha Dotson

leaha@ypsifoodcoop.org

Special Thanks to:

Our Board and all the staff, volunteers and members