



CDPF

Cooperative Development Foundation

Rising to the Challenge

2023 Annual Report

MISSION

Our mission is to promote and develop cooperatives to improve economic opportunities for all.

VISION STATEMENT

The Cooperative Development Foundation promotes self-help and mutual aid in community, economic, and social development through cooperative enterprise. We bring together the funds and partners to incubate, replicate, and elevate innovative programs through new and existing cooperative enterprise.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Richard Larochelle, Chair, NRUCFC, retired

Larry Blanchard, TruStage

Cornelius Blanding, Federation of Southern Cooperatives/LAF

Devin Fuhrman, Nationwide

John Holdsclaw IV, Rochdale Capital

Christina Jennings, Shared Capital Cooperative

Adria Powell, Cooperative Home Care Associates*

Linda Tank, CHS Inc., retired

Deborah Trocha, Indiana Cooperative Development Center

Judy Ziewacz, NCBA CLUSA, retired**

*Beginning January 2024

**Through December 2023

STAFF

Mary Griffin, Executive Director

Kirstie Boyette, Associate Director

Hanan El-Youssef, Program Manager

Electra Skrzydlewski, Program Manager*

*Through June 2023



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Rising to the Challenge

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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Message from the Chair and Executive Director

More and more problem solvers and policymakers are looking to cooperatives as an effective and efficient means to address these challenges.



RICHARD LAROCHELLE

CHAIR

COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT
FOUNDATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

This country, along with the rest of the world, faces daunting challenges – a planet at risk, disasters and conflicts across the world, growing populations of seniors, and an acute shortage of affordable housing.

These challenges can seem insurmountable. Yet, communities and policymakers are coming together as they seek to protect our planet, localize food economies to mitigate the impact of disasters and conflict across the world, care for the growing population of seniors who want to age in place, and create more affordable housing.

More and more problem solvers and policymakers are looking to cooperatives as an effective and efficient means to address these challenges.

In 2023, CDF helped communities employ the cooperative model as a solution to a variety of challenges. CDF secured over \$1 million in private and public support for cooperative development.

Continuing to support the growing home care worker co-op sector, CDF hosted its 7th Annual Home Care Cooperative Conference where 134 caregivers and co-op developers shared knowledge and best practices to help address home care needs through a self-sustaining secondary cooperative, Elevate Cooperative.

Supporting the country’s agriculture and food security needs, CDF and NCBA CLUSA worked together to promote cooperative development and climate smart agriculture



MARY GRIFFIN

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT
FOUNDATION



Participants from the Cooperative Leaders and Scholars, the International Cooperative Alliance Youth Leadership Exchange, and the Young Scholars Initiative programs with the 2023 Cooperative Hall of Fame inductees.

for historically underserved farmers and ranchers across the U.S. and in Puerto Rico with support from Nationwide Foundation and USDA. CDF continued its work with the Native American Agriculture Fund (NAAF) and USDA Rural Development to facilitate a group of consultants and individuals from Native communities to create a Native Communities Cooperative Development training and curriculum based on a community-led abundance approach. CDF also worked with the Neighboring Food Co-op Association (NFCA) to support efforts to grow small rural cooperatives in the Northeast.

Responding to the country's housing crisis, CDF launched its Affordable Housing Initiative to promote cooperatives and other shared equity models as cost-effective options for creating and preserving permanently affordable housing stock, thereby improving housing stability and racial equity.

Helping to inspire cooperators of the future to help lead us through these challenges, CDF and NCBA CLUSA engaged a group of 19 emerging cooperative leaders and scholars through its Cooperative Leaders and Scholars (CLS) program.

We can only rise to these challenges if we do it together, and cooperatively. Thank you for all your support for CDF and cooperative development.

In cooperation,

Richard Larochelle
Mary Griffin

“We can only rise to these challenges if we do it together, and cooperatively.”

Funds

CDF distributed over \$1.4 million in grants through its family of funds that supported education projects, event sponsorships, and scholarships in 2023.



Cooperative Education Fund

A Project of CDF

GRANTEE SPOTLIGHTS:

- ▶ **Colmenar Cooperative Consulting** - Creation of a Multimedia Guide in Spanish that is focused on conflict resolution to support members of worker cooperatives and other democratic workplaces.
- ▶ **Cooperacion Santa Ana** - Creation of marketing curriculum in Spanish for cooperatives at the beginning stages of business development. The Curriculum is based on Transformative Justice and popular education principles.
- ▶ **Cooperation New Orleans** - Development of multimedia educational materials that deliver culturally relevant content about cooperatives rooted in Black New Orleans culture and cooperative history.
- ▶ **Food Co-op Initiative** - "Converting your Grocery Store into a Food Co-op: An Action Guide" serves as the first tool to help small grocers understand what a food co-op is and the path forward to converting their store into a cooperative.
- ▶ **Network for Developing Conscious Communities** - Supporting the annual conference on Black Cooperative Agenda that strives to ensure that Black co-ops and cooperators interested in building their co-ops achieve success.
- ▶ **Start.coop** - Expansion of the Lean Co-op program through updated models, creation of new modules, and production of new template worksheets and case study videos with entrepreneurs and lawyers.



More than 100 home care administrators, caregivers, developers, and supporters attended the 7th Annual National Home Care Cooperative Conference in Dulles, VA hosted by CFC.



**Cooperative
Development
Fund**
A Project of **CDF**

GRANTEE SPOTLIGHTS:

- ▶ **CASA of Oregon** – CASA of Oregon supported the redevelopment of a resident-owned cooperative in the wake of devastating wildfires. The project included sustained, bilingual support through the first year of ownership.
- ▶ **National Home Care Initiative** – Supported scholarships for urban-based caregivers to attend the 7th Annual National Home Care Cooperative Conference. The event welcomed the next generation of caregivers and home care co-ops into the growing sector.
- ▶ **Northcountry Cooperative Foundation** – Developing capacity to create cooperatively owned multifamily apartment housing for Twin Cities families, leveraging secured funds from the Minnesota Housing.



UNIVERSITY GIVING FUND

GRANTEE SPOTLIGHTS:

- ▶ **American Indian College Fund** – Providing a pathway for post-secondary education for underserved native and tribal students studying at Tribal Colleges and Universities by establishing an annual scholarship fund.
- ▶ **Langston University Foundation** – Creation of a program that will provide coaching, mentoring, and support to students delivered by experienced professionals in the field of banking and other disciplines as well as exposure to the cooperative business model.
- ▶ **South Dakota State University Foundation** – Building on successful programs to develop micro-agriculture and local foods programs on the Pine Ridge reservation, the program will expand its services for young, beginning, and small farmers on the reservation as a source of hunger relief and nutrition.

Programs

CDF's programming work brings together the funds and partners to incubate, replicate, and elevate cooperatives to build a more inclusive economy and future.



Homecare
Cooperative
Initiative
A Project of CDF

Together with cooperative developers and home care cooperatives from across the country, the Home Care Cooperative Initiative continued to advance its goals to promote and make the home care cooperative sector more sustainable. Elevate Cooperative, a secondary cooperative, developed more centralized support for the sector through marketing, digital products, and other operational support. The 7th Annual Home Care Cooperative Conference attracted 134 caregivers and advocates in its first hybrid event to empower and strengthen the sector.



To support local food economies in Native communities, CDF continued its work with the Native American Agriculture Fund (NAAF) and USDA Rural Development to facilitate a group of 15-20 consultants and individuals from Native communities to create a Native Communities Cooperative Development training and curriculum based on a community-led abundance approach.





Cooperative Leaders and Scholars program participants and staff in the Twin Cities visiting CHS, Inc. as a part of a three-day spring meeting.



Cooperative Leaders & Scholars

A Project of **CDF** and **NCBA CLUSA**

To support efforts to build a more inclusive economy in North America, CDF and NCBA CLUSA expanded the Cooperative Leaders and Scholars (CLS) program from one-week to an 8-month fellowship experience meant to develop local capacity and peer support for new and emerging leaders engaged in cooperatives and cooperative development.

Proven to be an efficient and effective way to transfer knowledge across sectors, generations, and cultures, the expansion was based on extensive feedback from participants desiring additional content and an extended space that fosters relationships and collaboration. Designed to attract, engage, and retain leadership in the cooperative sector, CLS has trained 105 cooperative leaders since its reprisal in 2017.



Affordable Housing Initiative

A Project of **CDF**

Responding to the country's housing crisis, CDF launched its Affordable Housing Initiative to promote affordable cooperatives and other shared equity models as cost-effective options for creating and preserving affordable housing stock, improving housing stability and racial equity. With primary support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and additional resources from the Cooperative Development Fund and the Do Well to Do Good funds and USDA Rural Development Cooperative Services, CDF and its Advisors – UHAB, NAHC, ROC USA and Grounded Solutions Network – have been raising public awareness, reaching hundreds of public and private stakeholders across the country to help support efforts to scale these models.



Fundraising

Because of the generosity of the cooperative community, CDF continues to successfully fundraise enabling the foundation to carry out its mission.



Cooperative Hall of Fame

Five remarkable cooperative leaders were inducted into the Cooperative Hall of Fame in Washington, DC on October 5, 2023.

Linda Leaks fought for housing justice in Washington, DC for 35 years. An educator and an organizer, she showed apartment renters how to form cooperatives in their buildings. Leaks supported the development of 13 co-ops in 16 years, including the first cooperative in the U.S. formed by public housing tenants.

Recently retired as executive director of the Cooperative Development Foundation (CDF), **Leslie Mead** helped shape the modern co-op movement. A level-headed leader and strategic thinker, she focused on the advancement of cooperatives and the betterment of their members for 40 years. Mead broadened CDF's mission and expanded grant-giving from \$100,000 to \$1.4 million annually in under 10 years.



Sheldon Petersen transformed the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) into a \$27 billion business dedicated to strengthening rural electric cooperatives. A skilled statesman, a fierce co-op champion, and a generous mentor, Petersen retired in 2021 after a 46-year career. He is the recipient of the 2022 Clyde T. Ellis award for exemplary service to rural electrification.

Credit union leader **Maurice Smith** worked to improve the economic wellbeing of his membership and his North Carolina community for 40 years. Innovation and compassion were the hallmarks of a career that began at State Employees' Credit Union, and culminated with the simultaneous leadership of two credit unions – Local Government Federal Credit Union and Civic Federal Credit Union.

A co-op educator and activist, **Unsung Hero Halena Wilson** used her position as president of the Chicago's Ladies' Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters (BSCP) to show Black women the path to economic self-sufficiency through cooperation. Wilson promoted labor-conscious consumerism and developed education resources for sister organizations outside Chicago.

From left: Leslie Mead, retired executive director of the Cooperative Development Foundation; Maurice Smith, retired CEO of Local Government Federal Credit Union and Civic Federal Credit Union; Linda Leaks, Co-Founder of Ella Jo Baker Intentional Community Cooperative; Sheldon Petersen, retired governor & CEO of the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC); and Dr. Jessica Gordon Nembhard, representing Halena Wilson



Team NCB Sole Shakers continuing to honor Chuck Snyder's legacy.

DO WELL TO DO GOOD

THE CO-OP 5k

POUNDING THE PAVEMENT FOR COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Continuing last year's theme of Do Well to Do Good, participants ran, walked, or strolled to honor Chuck Snyder's legacy. With support from the cooperative community, CDF is able to provide resources to cooperatives worldwide. When we do well, we can do more good.



NEARLY
600 COOPERATORS
JOINED THE
HYBRID 2023
CO-OP 5K, RAISING
OVER \$70,000
FOR COOPERATIVE
DEVELOPMENT.



THE 2023 CO-OP
5K WINNERS ARE:
**FANTASTIC
FUNDRAISERS**
NCB SOLE SHAKERS
MOST TEAM SPIRIT
VIRTUAL:
NEIGHBORING
CO-OPERATORS
IN-PERSON:
ACDI/VOCA
GLOBETROTTERS
FASTEST TEAM
VIRTUAL:
COBANK: GROWING
RURAL AMERICA
IN-PERSON:
TEAM CFC



Grant Funding

The grant funding that CDF received demonstrated the vitality of the cooperative model as an important part of the solution to future challenges.



Nationwide Foundation helped CDF with its work to promote inclusive economies, including helping hundreds of women gain a stronger economic foothold through ownership in home care worker cooperatives, strengthening opportunities in Native communities to grow local food economies using the cooperative model, and providing professional development opportunities for new and emerging co-op leaders and scholars. The grant also helped support NCBA CLUSA's 2023 Co-op IMPACT Conference and Cooperative Economics Council, ensuring that cross sector cooperation and sharing about trends and key information continues.



Committed to the future of rural communities.

CDF was awarded two grants to support the work of the National Home Care Cooperative Initiative: \$200,000 from a Rural Cooperative Development Grant and \$175,000 from a Socially Disadvantaged Groups Grant. These grants also helped to support training of rural food cooperatives in the Northeast and creation of curriculum for Native cooperative development.



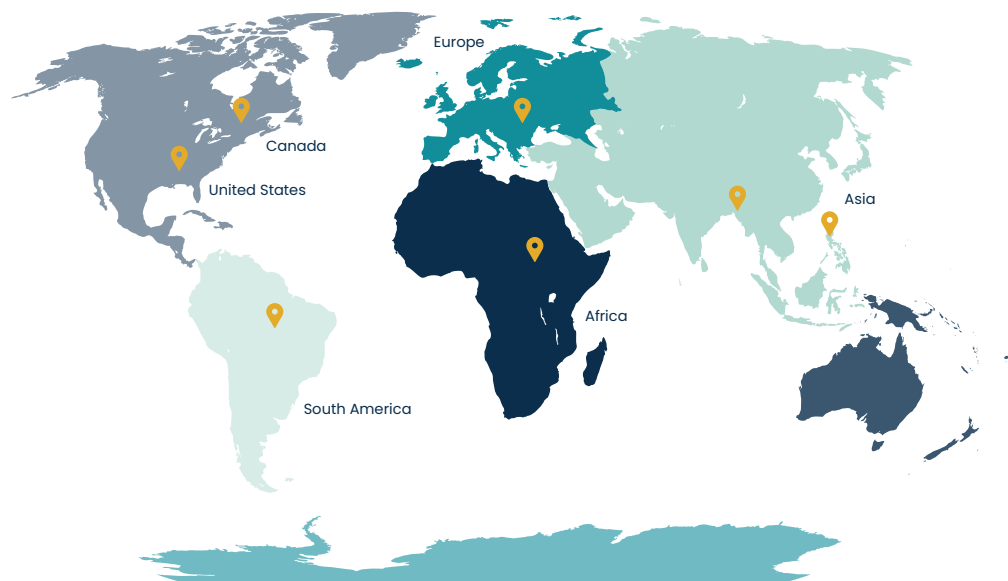
CHS Foundation

CHS Foundation supported the Cooperative Leaders and Scholars program, helping to bring together a group of 19 new and emerging cooperative leaders from around the country for programming, networking, and peer support.

Support for Cooperatives

Through its funds, fiscal sponsorships, and fundraising, CDF makes grants and loans that foster cooperative development domestically and abroad.

- ▶ Alchemical Nursery Project
- ▶ Alliance for Regional Cooperation
- ▶ American Indian College Fund
- ▶ Association of Cooperative Educators
- ▶ Austin Cooperative Business Foundation
- ▶ Boulder Housing Coalition
- ▶ CASA of Oregon
- ▶ Center for Community-Based Enterprise
- ▶ Colmenar Consulting Co-op
- ▶ Co-op Cincy
- ▶ Co-op Dayton
- ▶ Cooperacion Santa Ana
- ▶ Cooperation Buffalo
- ▶ Cooperation New Orleans
- ▶ CooperationWorks!
- ▶ Cooperative Development Fund of CDS
- ▶ Ecological Democracy Institute of North America
- ▶ Federation of Southern Cooperatives/LAF
- ▶ Food Co-op Initiative
- ▶ Indiana Cooperative Development Center
- ▶ Langston University Foundation
- ▶ MadWorC
- ▶ NASCO
- ▶ NCBA CLUSA
- ▶ Neighboring Food Co-op Association
- ▶ Network for Developing Conscious Communities
- ▶ Nexus Community Partners
- ▶ Northcountry Cooperative Foundation
- ▶ Oak Meadows Community Association
- ▶ Ralph K. Morris Foundation
- ▶ South Dakota State University Foundation
- ▶ Start.coop
- ▶ Team Co-op LLC
- ▶ U.S. Federation of Worker Cooperatives
- ▶ UHAB
- ▶ University of Wisconsin Foundation
- ▶ Valley Alliance of Worker Co-ops
- ▶ Weavers Way Cooperative Association



Recipients of CDF's grants and scholarships span the globe.

Thank You Donors

CDF is grateful for the support of more than 350 individuals and organizations. The following donors contributed more than \$1,000 in 2023.

- ▶ ACDI/VOCA
- ▶ ACES
- ▶ African American Credit Union Coalition
- ▶ Ann Hoyt
- ▶ Building Cooperative Communities
- ▶ Capital Impact Partners
- ▶ Carolinas Credit Union League
- ▶ CCA Global Partners, Inc.
- ▶ CHS Foundation
- ▶ CHS, Inc.
- ▶ Civic Federal Credit Union
- ▶ Coastal Federal Credit Union
- ▶ CoBank
- ▶ Columinate
- ▶ CooperationWorks!
- ▶ Credit Union National Association
- ▶ CSI Support & Development Services
- ▶ Douglas O'Brien
- ▶ Ellen Quinn
- ▶ Emmet, Marvin & Martin LLP
- ▶ Farmer Mac
- ▶ Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange
- ▶ Federation of Southern Cooperatives/LAF
- ▶ Hanover Consumer Cooperative Society, Inc.
- ▶ Howard Brodsky
- ▶ Inclusiv
- ▶ Inter-Cooperative Council
- ▶ Judy Ziewacz
- ▶ Linda Tank
- ▶ Local Government Federal Credit Union
- ▶ Loeb & Loeb LLP
- ▶ Margaret Bau
- ▶ Martha Davis
- ▶ Mary Griffin
- ▶ Meridian Cooperative
- ▶ Momentum Capital
- ▶ Monarc Construction
- ▶ NAFCU
- ▶ National Co+op Grocers
- ▶ National Cooperative Bank
- ▶ National Credit Union Foundation
- ▶ National Information Solutions Cooperative
- ▶ National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
- ▶ National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC)
- ▶ Nationwide
- ▶ NCBA CLUSA
- ▶ Neighboring Food Co-op Association
- ▶ NRECA International
- ▶ NRTC
- ▶ NTCA
- ▶ ONE DC
- ▶ Oryana Community Co-op
- ▶ Ralph K. Morris Foundation
- ▶ Randy and Mari Lee
- ▶ Rich and Linda Larochelle
- ▶ Rochdale Capital
- ▶ Rosemary Mahoney
- ▶ Sandy Irving
- ▶ SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union
- ▶ Shared Capital Cooperative
- ▶ Sheldon and Donita Petersen
- ▶ State Employees' Credit Union
- ▶ The Ajani Group
- ▶ The ICA Group
- ▶ TruStage
- ▶ United Housing Foundation

Financial Statement

2023

2022

CDF WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS

Support and Revenue		
Contributions and Grants	655,375	1,808,870
Government Contracts	340,243	415,769
Special Events, Net Expenses	293,410	344,412
Program Service Fees	6,015	-
Investment Income/Less	362,809	(1,530,465)
Interest from Notes Receivable	4,537	4,500
In-kind Contribution	-	18,000
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	279,100	2,064,173
Total Support and Revenue	1,941,489	3,125,259
Expenses		
Program	2,444,697	1,567,796
Fundraising	145,714	119,184
Management and General	257,448	159,517
Total Expenses	2,847,859	1,846,497
Net Income	(906,370)	1,278,762

CDF WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS

Support and Revenue		
Contributions and Grants	10,748	668,535
Investment Income/Loss	843,300	152,131
Loan Interest	6,741	6,682
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	(279,100)	(2,064,173)
Total Support and Revenue	581,689	(1,236,825)
Expenses		
Net Income	581,689	(1,236,825)

ALL CDF

Support and Revenue	2,523,178	1,888,434
Expenses	2,847,859	1,846,497
Net Income	(324,681)	41,937

RESERVES

Without Donor Restrictions (Beginning)	4,553,217	3,265,758
Without Donor Restrictions (Ending)	3,646,847	4,553,217
With Donor Restrictions - Purpose Restrictions (Beginning)	5,502,241	6,747,763
With Donor Restrictions - Purpose Restrictions (Ending)	6,083,930	5,502,241
With Donor Restrictions - Perpetual in Nature (Beginning)	381,151	381,151
With Donor Restrictions - Perpetual in Nature (Ending)	381,151	381,151
Total Net Assets, Beginning of Year	10,436,609	10,394,672
Total Net Assets, End of Year	10,111,928	10,436,609



CDF

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