



## Membership Agreement

Member # \_\_\_\_\_

Community Co-op Market (CCM) exists to improve the health and wellness of the communities it serves through its retail food stores. CCM operates as a cooperative owned by its members and is dedicated to improving the quality of life for its staff, customers, suppliers and neighbors. CCM's ability to fulfill this mission comes directly from the support of its members. Accordingly, it is in the best interest of all for members to maximize their purchases of products and services offered by CCM. CCM's success is a function of the interdependence between the co-op and its members.

### Membership Includes:

- Extra discounts and sales.
- Access to the co-op's Healthy Food Access program for qualifying members.
- Discounts through community volunteer opportunities.
- Vote in the co-op's annual board of director elections.

CCM and its members will honor the international values and principles of cooperation<sup>1</sup>, as developed and promoted by the International Cooperative Alliance<sup>2</sup> and abide by the requirements of the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, and member agreement.

### CCM Will:

- Avoid disclosure of members' confidential information.
- Provide members appropriate financial, operational and other organizational data.
- Solicit member input regarding products and store operations.
- Respond within ten days to any written member grievance.
- Maintain our commitment to the co-op's diversity, equity and inclusivity while respecting the backgrounds, perspectives and experiences of all community members.
- Commit to the health, wellness and prosperity of CCM and its members while considering the best interests of all stakeholders.

### Members Will:

- Pay required membership interest to CCM on a timely basis. New members have up to 18 months to fully fund their \$100 membership interest. A \$25 payment activates the membership and three additional payments of \$25 every six months maintain the membership.
- Keep CCM informed of changes to the member's contact information.

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<sup>1</sup> The cooperative principles are guidelines by which cooperatives put their values into practice.

<sup>2</sup> The International Cooperative Alliance is the global steward of the Statement on the Cooperative Identity – the Values and Principles of the cooperative movement.

## International Values and Principles of Cooperation

### 1. Voluntary and Open Membership

Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

### 2. Democratic Member Control

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions. Men and women serving as elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and cooperatives at other levels are also organized in a democratic manner.

### 3. Member Economic Participation

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the cooperative. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing their cooperative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

### 4. Autonomy and Independence

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.

### 5. Education, Training, and Information

Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their co-operatives. They inform the general public - particularly young people and opinion leaders - about the nature and benefits of co-operation.

### 6. Cooperation among Cooperatives

Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional, and international structures.

### 7. Concern for Community

Cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies approved by their members.