

2021 SPRING NEWSLETTER



UPDATES FROM THE WELLSPRING COMMUNITY

...A community enjoyed by all its multicultural residents."



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Spring Review

- **New Co-op Opportunities in the Works!** This past year we've had many new initiatives and investigations into potential co-ops, including a child-care co-op, an arts and makers co-op, a landscaping co-op and more!
- **Education & Training!** This spring- with the help of our new *Education and Training Committee*, we held various trainings, workshops, events, and a successful Co-op Bootcamp to support those who want to learn more about solidarity economy and cooperative business.
- **Strategic Planning!** We are well underway in our strategic planning sessions. *As we are currently exploring what it might look like to expand our mission and re-imagining the ways we can connect and engage in the Springfield community to better build a local solidarity economy and continue to build up our network of co-ops and collaborators.*
- **Recent Hire!** Wellspring is expanding with the recent hire of a program associate. We're excited to have Donovan Arthen join the team. *Be sure to check out our Job's Page to see job opportunities within our network and beyond.*

Updates from the Coop's

Wellspring Harvest Cooperative

Wellspring Harvest is celebrating the installation of new technology that will level up their growing game. New controllers, chillers, humidifiers will be keeping the plants (and customers) happy this summer. As the refinancing process continues, *Wellspring Harvest* is optimistic that new partners will bring in more capital and help them expand their operating capacity.

Springfield Go Fresh Mobile Market

Wellspring Harvest has teamed up with the *Springfield Go Fresh Mobile Market*, which is now back and ready for the season. With the recent hire of Timothy Williams, who will be the new program coordinator, they are kicking off the season to make fresh local produce affordable and accessible throughout Springfield! *Go Fresh Mobile Market* provides food boxes and direct sales in several key community locations. Check out their new website at www.gofreshmobilemarket.org and Facebook page to see the full list of locations. Be sure to “like” their page for more updates on their food access work.

Wellspring Values

Wellspring's focus on supporting co-op development in the Springfield region is an expression of our commitment to these values:

- **Solidarity and Cooperation:** These are guiding principles of cooperatives.
- **Equity:** Wellspring helps to build co-ops in Springfield's underserved communities. Within the co-ops, workers share profits equitably and build wealth as the businesses thrive.
- **Democracy:** Co-ops are democratically owned and controlled by their members.
- **Sustainability:** Local ownership strengthens the local economy and resilience. Shorter supply chains reduce the carbon footprint and keep money circulating in the community. Worker-owners care about the local community that they live in.
- **Pluralism:** We strive always to be humble and open to new ideas, learning, and action.



Updates from the Coop's

Wellspring Upholstery Cooperative

Wellspring Upholstery has been meeting virtually to stay safe during the pandemic and doing all they can to care for themselves and each other during a really difficult time. Despite many challenges, they recently succeeded in moving their shop – furniture, textiles, machines and all – to a new location in Ludlow. With hospitals and colleges becoming busier, jobs are again picking up. Tina Pepper, lead stitcher, who (miraculously) handles every step of the upholstery process from cutting to stitching, has made it her mission to begin training another team member, Karla Demmon, for the cutting and upholstering positions.

If you are willing and able, please support our Wellspring Upholstery member Jose Serrano and his family in his recovery from Covid. You can donate here. Please make sure to write a note in the 'special instructions' section as "Jose" so we can designate it correctly.

***“We were grateful for the help we received & could not have done it without the help of our family, friends & co-workers from Harvest.”
said Karla.***

[Donate Here!](#)

Old Window Workshop Cooperative

We are sad to announce that *Old Window Workshop* has temporarily closed up their shop after over a decade of business of restoring old windows and preventing tons of reusable glass and wood from being dumped in landfills. As a women-run worker-owned cooperative based in Springfield's south end, *Old Window Workshop* helped seed the cooperative economy in Springfield and supported their community with workforce development and employment opportunities.



Updates from the Coop's

GreenLove Eco Cleaning

Although Covid has provided a challenging and interesting year, the women-owned and operated *Greenlove* team is feeling stronger than ever with the success of their coupon campaigns and additional support from PPP loans. *GreenLove* is currently expanding its efforts to provide greener, healthier **lifestyle options**. With a commitment to safety and pandemic survival, they were still able to provide living wages to their team members and attract 10 new team members that are committed to *GreenLove's* goals and values— while being a part of a supportive team-oriented environment. They are extremely grateful for the support and commitment of their client base and community that showed up in this time. While the past year's trials temporarily delayed *GreenLove's* process to become a worker-owned business, they are back to the discussion table to finalize this transition.



Farm Bug Cooperative

Farm Bug Co-op is still supporting Craft Cannabis Producers to enter the market in a way that is both sustainable and cooperatively grounded. They are very excited to have recently launched phase one of their website— farmbug.coop. You can still find updates on their legislative efforts on **Facebook** as they work to 'better our local communities & provide our members with a cooperative model where workers own the business & decide how it will grow.'

Chronic Trips Cooperative

Chronic Trips continues to grow and build out their cooperative efforts to support local wellness. Sadly, at this time they will no longer be pursuing the opening of a local juice bar in Holyoke. But with the success of a recent membership drive they now have upwards of 40 members that can engage in community building opportunities to connect, learn outdoor skills, and share adventures. "There is much ahead for *Chronic Trips* and we look forward to adventuring together." - Julia Agron

"There is much ahead for Chronic Trips and we look forward to adventuring together."

- Julia Agron

New Initiatives & Co-ops

Wellspring is very excited about new co-ops in the works! This past year we've had many new initiatives and groups investigating the development of a **child-care co-op**, an **arts and makers co-op** and marketplace, a **landscaping co-op**, a **construction co-op**, and more! Over the next few months, Wellspring's support of these community-led initiatives will include exploration of real estate acquisition, web development, and administrative support.



Events & Education

Wellspring is involved in local and national initiatives that educate the public about solidarity economy and cooperatives! This spring we hosted two successful virtual Co-op Bootcamp courses for students interested in building their own cooperative business including a 4-week introduction course or a more in depth 10-week course. Due to holding the courses virtually this year, participants from around the country joined us! In addition, we are proud to have held various workshops and events as well as revived our *Education and Training Committee*. Be sure to check out the event links below to learn more.

RECENT EVENTS:

[Business Continuity and Ownership-Transition Options Panel](#)

Options Panel: On Monday, May 17th, 2021 Our Co-director Fred Rose joined the *Massachusetts Small Business Development Center* in a virtual panel to discuss transition options for businesses to become cooperatively owned.

Solidarity Economy & Pathways to a More Just and Sustainable World: Wellspring partnered with the *Sexual Domestic Violence Taskforce* to provide a three-part training series around the tenets of solidarity economy. *To view, click on the following links below:*

[Workshop 1](#) | [Workshop 2](#) | [Workshop 3](#)

[Remaking the Economy: Envisioning a Restorative Future of Work](#): Our Co-director Emily Kawano joined in a Non-profit Quarterly Webinar “Remaking the Economy” series to look at how today's workplace might be transformed to provide not just ‘jobs’ but livelihoods.”

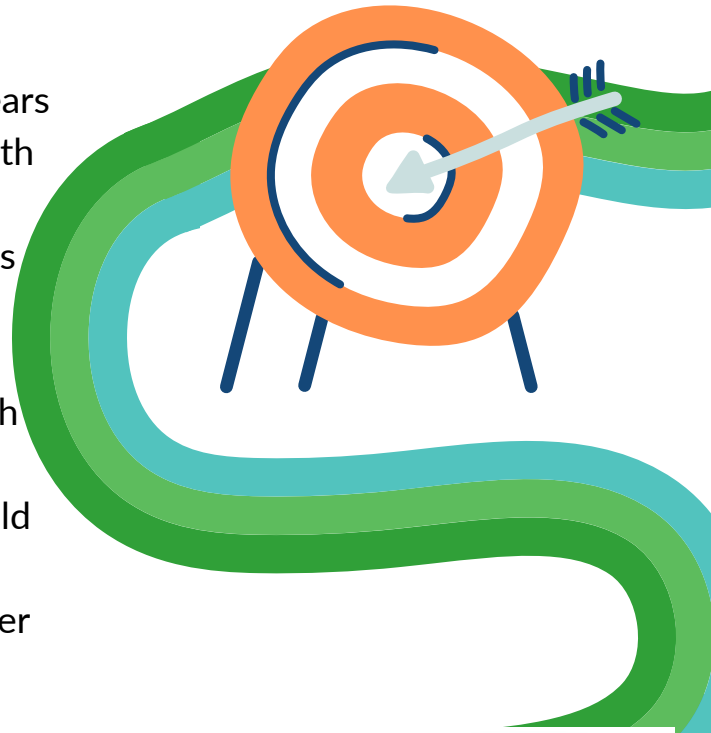
[Beyond the Great Reset: The Systems Change Summit](#): Listen to Emily Kawano share about the solidarity economy and system change work as a part of the *Systems Change Summit*.

[The Industrial Commons: Scaling Up a Co-op Ecosystem Through Value Chain Development](#)

Learn about the transformation of the textile industry in western North Carolina through *The Industrial Commons* work to create an economic ecosystem of employee-owned enterprises and cooperatives. We hope to use this conversation to imagine using this model to create a cooperative ecosystem in Springfield.

Strategic Planning

Our strategic planning process for the next three years is well underway. In our first three conversations with various stakeholders, we've been collectively and critically thinking about our objectives and strategies to build a solidarity economy in Springfield through cooperative development and job creation. We are especially excited about community building through outreach and educational work to uplift our local economy and support the resiliency of the Springfield community. Please check out this image of some visions for Springfield which we dreamed up together in our first Strategic Planning Session.



2046 Today

Springfield, MA: A City Transformed!

Springfield reborn with thriving Solidarity Economy!

"BROAD RIPPLE EFFECT ON QUALITY OF LIFE!"



CREATIVE SUSTAINABLE BUSINESSES IN A COOPERATIVE ECONOMY.

"THRIVING, WELCOMING & SAFE!"



JOB SECURITY + ECONOMY REBORN

JUST, SUSTAINABLE GREEN + EQUITABLE

"A FLOURISHING + RESILIENT WAY OF LIFE!"

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT TAX CREDIT (CITC) PROGRAM:

DOUBLE THE IMPACT OF YOUR DONATION

As a Massachusetts CDC, **Wellspring** is recognized as a mission-driven community-based organization dedicated to creating places of opportunity where ALL people can live with dignity while participating in and benefiting from our Commonwealth's economy. The **CITC Program** uses tax credits to leverage donors to give more to their local CDC. Gifts of \$1,000 or more to Wellspring are eligible for a 50% tax credit on their Massachusetts State taxes. That means if you donate \$4,000 for example, you are eligible for a \$2,000 tax credit so your out-of-pocket donation after the credit is \$2,000.

This program has enabled Wellspring to expand our staff to include three part-time positions -- in development, communications, and program coordination -- allowing more time for our co-directors Fred and Emily and new program coordinator Donovan to work with our community partners and co-op businesses. For our first two years in the **CITC Program**, **Wellspring** has utilized all the tax credits allocated to us by the *Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corporations (MACDC)*. In 2019 we raised \$100,000 utilizing \$50,000 of credits, and in 2020 we raised \$200,000 utilizing \$100,000 of credits. **Partner with us to create a flourishing cooperative economy in Springfield by making an eligible donation today!**

Follow us on Social Media:



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[@wellspring_cooperative](https://www.instagram.com/wellspring_cooperative)



[@WellspringCoop1](https://twitter.com/WellspringCoop1)

**2021 tax credits are now
available for eligible
contributions to Wellspring!**

Massachusetts AND out-of-state donors of \$1,000 or more are eligible for this Massachusetts tax credit. Donors can be:

- Individuals
- Foundations
- Corporations
- Donor Advised Funds

**[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)
[TO DONATE!](#)**

For more information on the **CITC Program**, watch this [MACDC video](#). Tax credits are limited and must be reserved by contacting Development Committee co-chair [Kristan Bakker](#).

