Wellspring Cooperative



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

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From the staff: Reflections on 2025

Dear Wellspring community,

2025 was a year of change and foundational work, setting the stage for tangible developments taking shape in 2026.

In 2025, we laid the foundation for growth that's taking tangible form this year.

We forged our strategic plan for the next three years. Our Spanish-language and community programs capacity were greatly increased with additions to our staff. We also helped launch a new co-op and began the process of forming another.

Gran Cocina community kitchen experienced a year of growth, with plans underway to build out an adjoining café. And with local partners, we shaped the future governance of a community land trust (CLT), which we envision including housing, agricultural, commercial, and community spaces.

We began the exciting work of seeking properties to incorporate into the CLT - even making an offer on a multipurpose commercial space. Although we did not buy it, we learned a lot and are now looking at other commercial buildings. We went through a similar process searching for worker housing.

That this positive growth took place against a backdrop of repression, white supremacy, and an eroding social safety net is not coincidental: It's strategic. We believe that building the world we want to see - one based on collective caring and empowerment - is a vital pathway forward, one that strengthens our communities in the present and for the future. Thank you for joining us in this work.

In solidarity,

Emily, Fred, Clara, Hector, and Helen

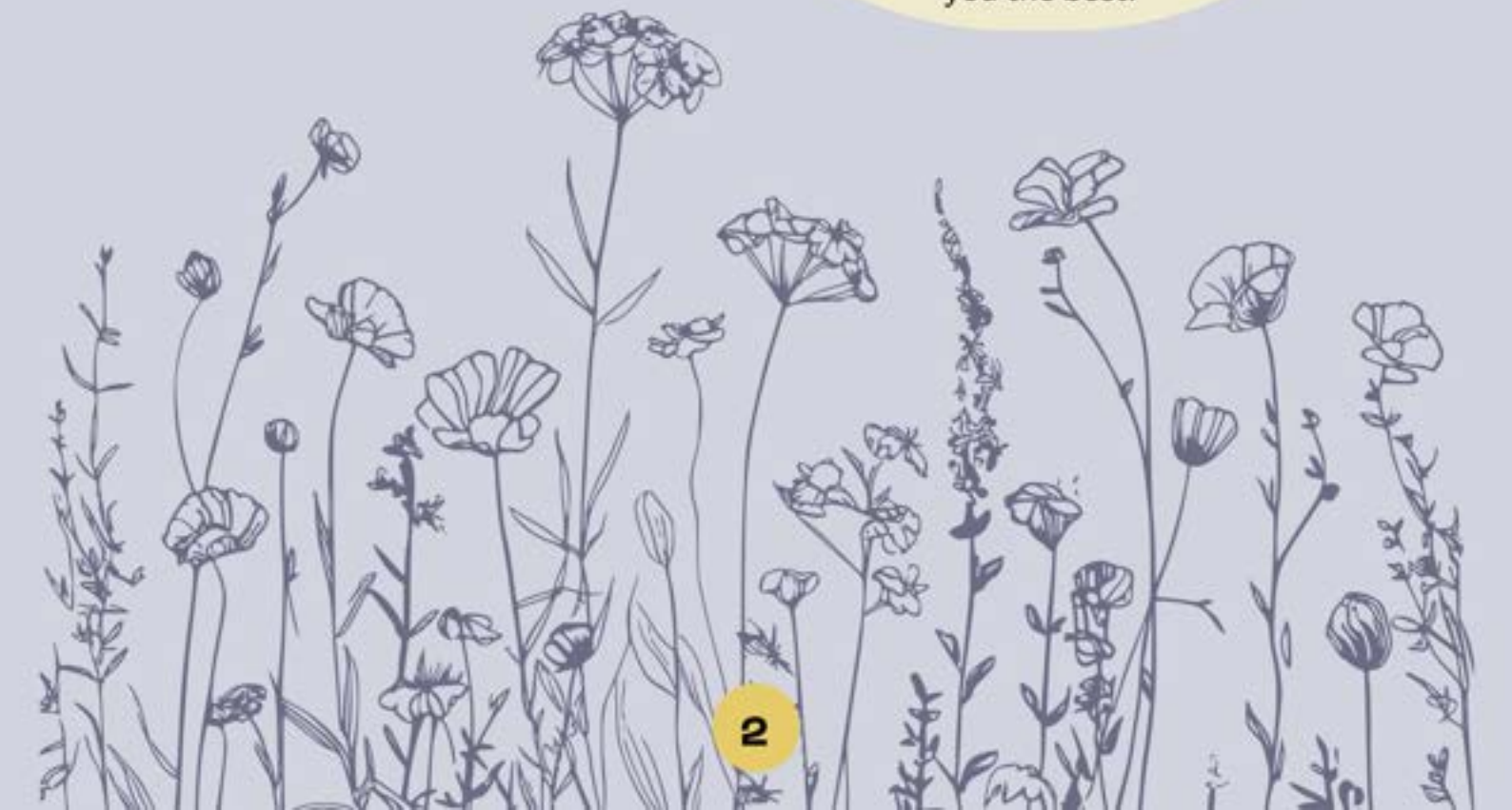
Our Mission

Wellspring's mission is to create an economy that is cooperative, equitable, democratic, and sustainable. We work with historically underserved communities in Springfield and Holyoke to develop a network of worker cooperatives and support community-led initiatives to foster resilience and collective well-being.

Staff

Emily Kawano, Co-Director
Fred Rose, Co-Director
Clara Alcántara, Programs & Communications
Hector Figarella, Program Team Member
Helen Harrison, Development Coordinator

Many thanks to Kristan Bakker, who built our individual donor program from scratch and grew it over more than eight years, and Anna Morel-Palleta, who joined us in 2024 in communications. We appreciate all you brought to Wellspring and wish you the best!



Wellspring's 2026 Board of Directors

Co-Chairs
Ernesto Cruz, Community Member
Lesenia Field, Go Fresh Mobile Market

Cooperative Representatives
Margot Blair, Chronic Trips
Ivelice Lefebvre, Energía
Betsaida Vargas-Garcia, Gran Cocina

Development Representatives
Terry Gibson, Equity Trust
Aimee Kohn, Monson Bank
Jodi Smith, Way Finders

Community and Labor Representatives
Braxton Campbell, Neighbor-to-Neighbor
Jason Comcowich, Nuestras Raíces
Jeff Jones, Western Mass Area Labor Federation

Anchor Institution Representative
Charlie Schweik, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Thank you to our departing board members!

We are grateful for the contributions of members whose board service ended in 2025: Julia Agron from Chronic Trips co-op, Clive Ndlovu of Wellspring Harvest co-op, Hilda Roque from Nuestras Raices (replaced mid-year by Jason Comcowich), Springfield City Councilor Trayce Whitfield, and Moya Smith from M&T Bank.

Meet our New Board Members!



Betsaida Vargas-Garcia, *Gran Cocina*



Jodi Smith
Way Finders



Margot Blair
Chronic Trips



Aimee Kohn
Monson Bank

Wellspring Cooperative Network

a learning community and ecosystem

Wellspring's Cooperative Network aims to build an ecosystem of **cooperatives and community initiatives that are mutually supporting.** Members include Wellspring Harvest hydroponic greenhouse, Chronic Trips, which offers outdoor education, Natural Living Landscapes, Catalyst Cooperative Healing, Energía, which provides weatherization services, Recovery Through Innovation, and, in 2026, our emerging Wellspring Construction co-op. Gran Cocina community kitchen and Go Fresh Mobile Market are our community initiative members.

Members meet monthly to share experiences and address common challenges like marketing, social media and websites, financial management, and borrowing, among other topics. Through discussions of needs and offerings, the network also provides opportunities for peer learning.

Mutual support includes purchasing and service provision among members. For example, Gran Cocina provides kitchen space for value-added products produced by Wellspring Harvest and a hands-on teaching facility for youth from Recovery through Innovation. Natural Living Landscapes maintains the lawn at Wellspring Harvest, and both Energía and Wellspring Construction will do work at a house that Wellspring recently purchased to provide affordable housing to co-op members. As the network grows, the opportunities to source from each other will continue to expand.

Natural Living Landscapes

CHRONIC TRIPS

Wellspring Harvest

A Worker-owned Co-op Greenhouse

CATALYST Cooperative Healing

JUMPING JACK HOPS

Energía

RECOVERY THROUGH INNOVATION

GRAN COCINA

GoFresh SPRINGFIELD

Wellspring Cooperative Network

by the numbers

8 co-op businesses

20 worker owners

33 co-op employees

24 small food businesses using Gran Cocina

1 new co-op in 2025

Worker Co-op Spotlight

Natural Living Landscapes

Since 2022, Natural Living Landscapes has been a Wellspring co-op serving the Valley with high-quality ecological residential and commercial landscaping. Their mission is to enhance the quality of life for clients, provide meaningful work for their team, and create sustainable landscapes. Worker-owner Eric Fedus shared some reflections on the past year.



What was an obstacle for Natural Living Landscapes last year?

We lost a staff member which created challenges completing administrative and gardening work and reduced the amount of clients NLL was receiving.

Call 413-579-8200 for info on NLL's services.

How did Wellspring help Natural Living Landscapes grow in 2025?

Wellspring provided marketing and business guidance to increase sales. They also helped us connect with Springfield Technical Community College's landscaping program and we hired student to help with admin as a result.

What was a 2025 acheivement?

We served 50 clients with lawn care and gardening!

Building a Solidarity Economy Ecosystem









Project by project, Wellspring is building a "solidarity economy ecosystem" encompassing our network of worker co-ops and cooperative projects, food security intitiatives, community self-provisioning, spaces for culture and learning, and affordable housing. Read on to learn more about our progress in 2025.

Strengthening the Regional Food System

Wellspring continues to support food security programs and infrastructure in Springfield and Holyoke communities through the Wellspring Harvest co-op, Go Fresh Mobile Market, the Prescription Produce Program, and Gran Cocina.

In 2025, we responded to cuts in state and federal programs by creating a video to advocate for the restoration of state HIP benefits and to cuts in SNAP by working with Neighbor-to-Neighbor to launch Sopa Sábado food distributions.





Wellspring Harvest

Wellspring Harvest sold over $300,000 worth of lettuce and herbs in 2025. Wellspring raised funds to install a new roof, insulation, and an outdoor refrigeration unit to expand storage.

The co-op also created its first value-added product - a basil ginger lemonade that is produced at Gran Cocina. New products are being developed for the 2026 summer season.

Go Fresh Mobile Market

Wellspring is a lead partner for Go Fresh Mobile Market, which is operated by Wellspring Community Harvest. We contribute grant writing and other strategic and operational support. Go Fresh is the largest mobile market in western Massachusetts.





88,000 Pounds of produce

$51,545 Purchased from local farms

13 Springfield sites

588 Households

Every week of the year, Go Fresh makes stops at health centers and low-income and senior housing sites in Springfield. Customers can use their SNAP and HIP benefits to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables, with an emphasis on local produce.



The Springfield Prescription Produce Collaborative

Since 2022, Wellspring has been the lead agency for this USDA-funded "food as medicine" program, in partnership with the UMass Amherst Center for Research on Families and Baystate Health's three Springfield health centers served by Go Fresh. Through 2025, the program provided $40-$80 monthly vouchers for produce for 126 people with diet-related diseases and tracked their health outcomes. The results will be shared when the study is completed.



GRAN COCINA Community Kitchen

A joint project of Wellspring and Neighbor-to-Neighbor, Gran Cocina is a certified commercial kitchen available for rent at affordable rates. In 2025, it served 24 member small food businesses, which employed around 48 people. The businesses included food trucks, caterers, and makers of prepared food, such as jam and meals to go.

Gran Cocina is also a place for the community to gather to meet local needs, such as "Thing Swaps" and cooking classes held last year. In response to the November 2025 suspension of SNAP benefits, the Gran Cocina partnership created Sopa Sábado, organizing dozens of volunteers to cook and give away hundreds of soup and side dishes on two Saturdays. Many ingredients were sourced through mutual aid, including Neighbor-to-Neighbor's food access program and Rachel's Table's gleaning project.





We're in the process of building a café in Gran Cocina's storefront. In addition to drinks and light fare, customers will be able to purchase grab-and-go meals, side dishes, and baked goods made by members of Gran Cocina.

Lower Valley Community Land Trust

LVCLT partners

- Equity Trust
- Nuestras Raíces
- Springfield No One Leaves
- Wellspring
- Community members



Wellspring is working with aligned organizations and local residents to create a community land trust that will acquire properties Springfield and Holyoke and make them permanently available for a Center for Community Production and Fab Lab, co-ops, urban agriculture, community space, and affordable housing - owned and governed by and for the community.

In 2025 we developed our by-laws and formed the basis of a transitional board.

We made strides toward building the community land trust's portfolio

Wellspring intends to move land into the LVCLT as we acquire properties for housing, community, and commercial use. In 2025 we began the process of acquisition on several fronts.

Wellspring Harvest Co-op
Wellspring reached an agreement with lenders who funded development of Wellspring Harvest Co-op that will allow us to put the two acres of land under the greenhouse into the land trust. This was made possible by a generous gift through the People's Network for Land & Liberation (PNLL).

Housing
Wellspring Cooperative and Wellspring Harvest workers from two households began searching for a house in Springfield's Indian Orchard neighborhood with at least two units to provide secure affordable housing. Wellspring Cooperative is working with these households to develop a housing co-op model. PNLL's Butterfly Impact Fund will finance the acquisition at zero interest.

Multi-use movement hub
Wellspring is looking for a commercial building that can serve as a "movement hub" where we hope to house our Fab Lab, maker businesses and initiatives, co-ops, and aligned organizations, along with shared meeting rooms, classrooms, and an auditorium. In the past year, we have toured about a dozen large commercial buildings in Holyoke and got as far as signing a purchase and sale agreement for an old industrial building in Holyoke. We had high hopes, but had to abandon that option due to lack of available parking. While we seek permanent space, we have set up the Fab Lab at the LightHouse school in Holyoke where we have begun introductory trainings.



Solidarity Economy Gatherings



More than 150 people participated in MASEN's 2025 statewide **Solidarity Economy Festival & Gathering** on October 4 and 5. The Festival was held at La Finca, Nuestra Raíces' farm and LightHouse in Holyoke to connect, learn, and strategize about strengthening the solidarity economy movement in Massachusetts. Both days offered Spanish interpretation and free childcare. Gran Cocina members catered delicious food.



Leading up to the statewide gathering, MASEN supported local gatherings in Boston, Worcester, Pittsfield, Lynn and the Valley. Wellspring was a lead organizer for the first-ever **Valley Solidarity Economy Cookout** at Community Field Park in Holyoke on July 27. Around 70 people came and enjoyed delicious food, great music, mixer games, and speakers from Catalonia who are deeply involved in inspiring solidarity economy work in Spain.



Wellspring's 2026-2028 Strategic Plan



Over the course of three sessions, Wellspring's staff, board, committee members, and engaged friends created a strategic plan to guide the next three years of our growth. We're excited about working toward these goals with our communities and organizational partners.

Goal 1

Create living-wage jobs by developing sustainable worker cooperatives

- New co-ops
- Business conversions
- Co-op financing
- Co-op development center

Goal 2

Build a solidarity economy ecosystem to meet community needs

- Engaged community
- Strong local food systems
- Affordable housing
- Center for Community Production & Fab Lab
- Lower Valley Community Land Trust

Goal 3

Increase organizational capacity

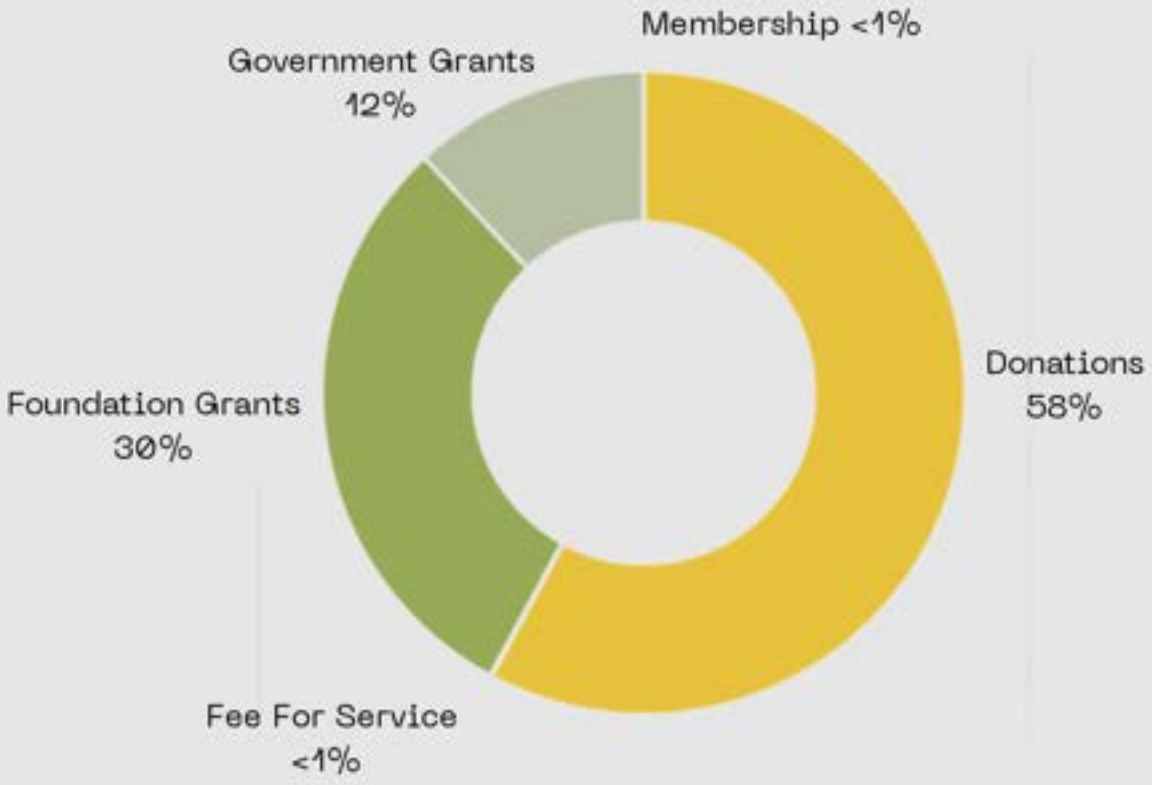
- Quality staff
- Financial and fundraising stragegy
- Engaged board & committees
- Expanded membership

2025 Financial Overview



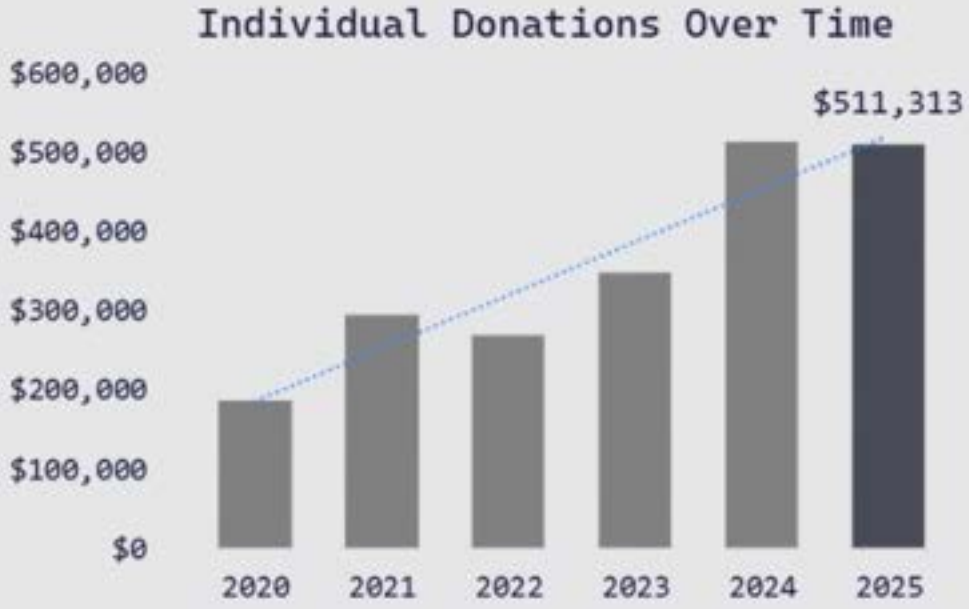
Wellspring Cooperative is funded by unrestricted and restricted individual donations; grants from foundations, government programs, and corporations; and other income, including fees for service. In 2025, we raised a total of $883,742 for Wellspring programs and operations, as well as additional funds for our affiliated co-ops and initiatives. This is the first year we're separating pass-through grants to Go Fresh Mobile Market. Therefore, the numbers may look a little different this year.

Where Our Support Comes From



The Growing Role of Individual Donations

In 2025, individual donations composed 58% of our funding. These donations included $326,000 in restricted funds, primarily for our community land trust capital reserve.



An Increase in Multi-Year Commitments

Several funders have generously pledged ongoing or multi-year commitments of support. We're grateful for these commitments, which give us the stability to focus on growing our programs and expanding our fundraising base.

Funder	Annual amount	Years committed	Purpose
Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts	$30,000	Ongoing	General operating funds
MassMutual Foundation	$100,000	2025-2027	General operating funds
One Project	$100,000 for 3 years, then $90,000	2024-2027	Solidarity economy work
Individual donors	$300,000	2024-2026	Community land trust

The Community Investment Tax Credit program helps Wellspring leverage significant funding

As a member of the Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corporations, Wellspring is eligible to receive Community Investment Tax Credits (CITC). Through this program, we can offer donors a 50% Massachusetts tax credit for contributions of $1,000 or more.

In 2025, Wellspring was honored to receive $290,000 worth of CITCs. Using those credits and some that had rolled over from 2024, we were able to provide major donors and funders with more than $319,000 in matching CITCs, raising more than $628,000 for Wellspring thanks to the program - which contributed 68% of our 2025 fundraising. Since 2019, we have raised over $1.9 million through the CITC program.

If you are interested in making a CITC-eligible donation, contact helen.harrison@wellspringcoop.org.



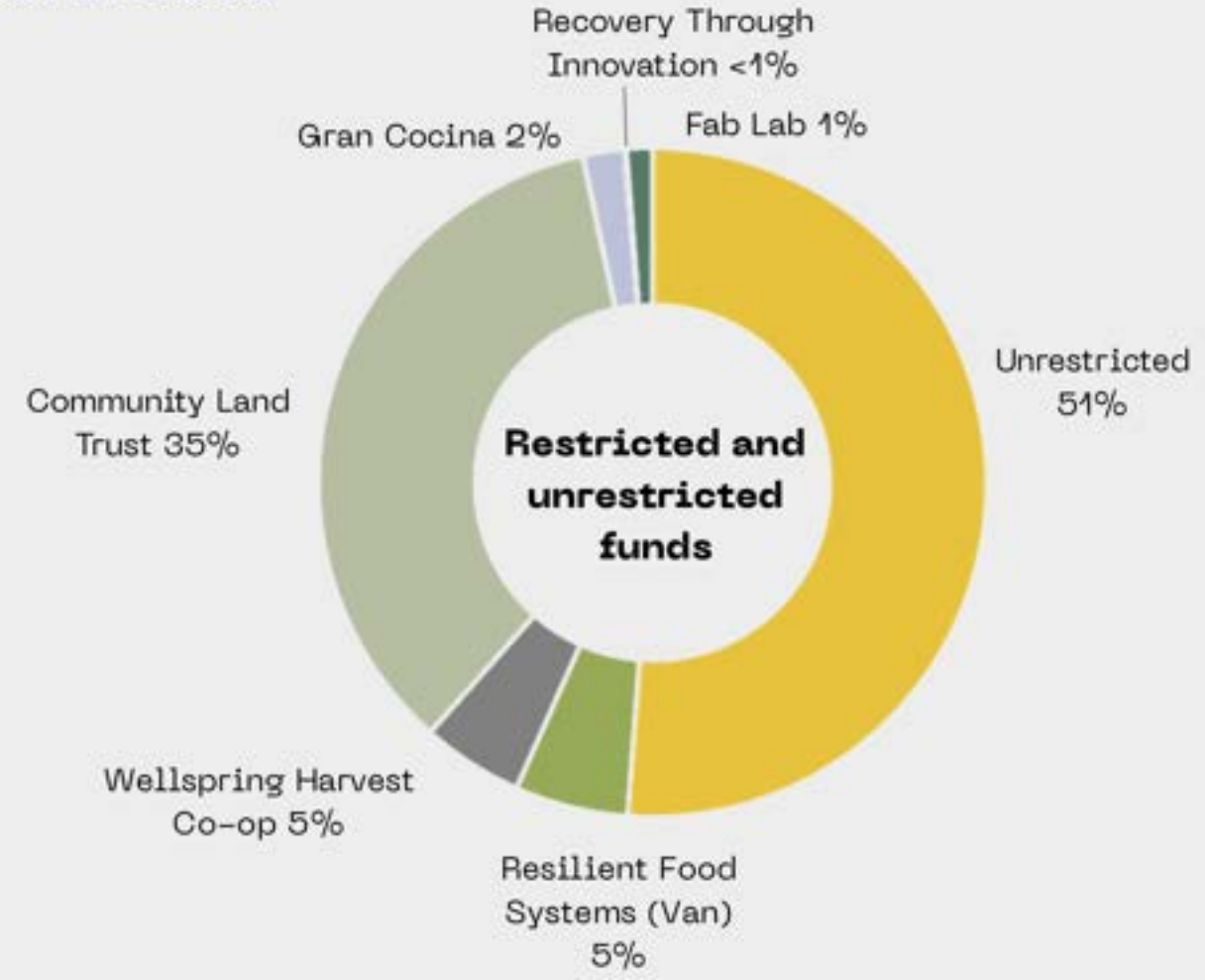


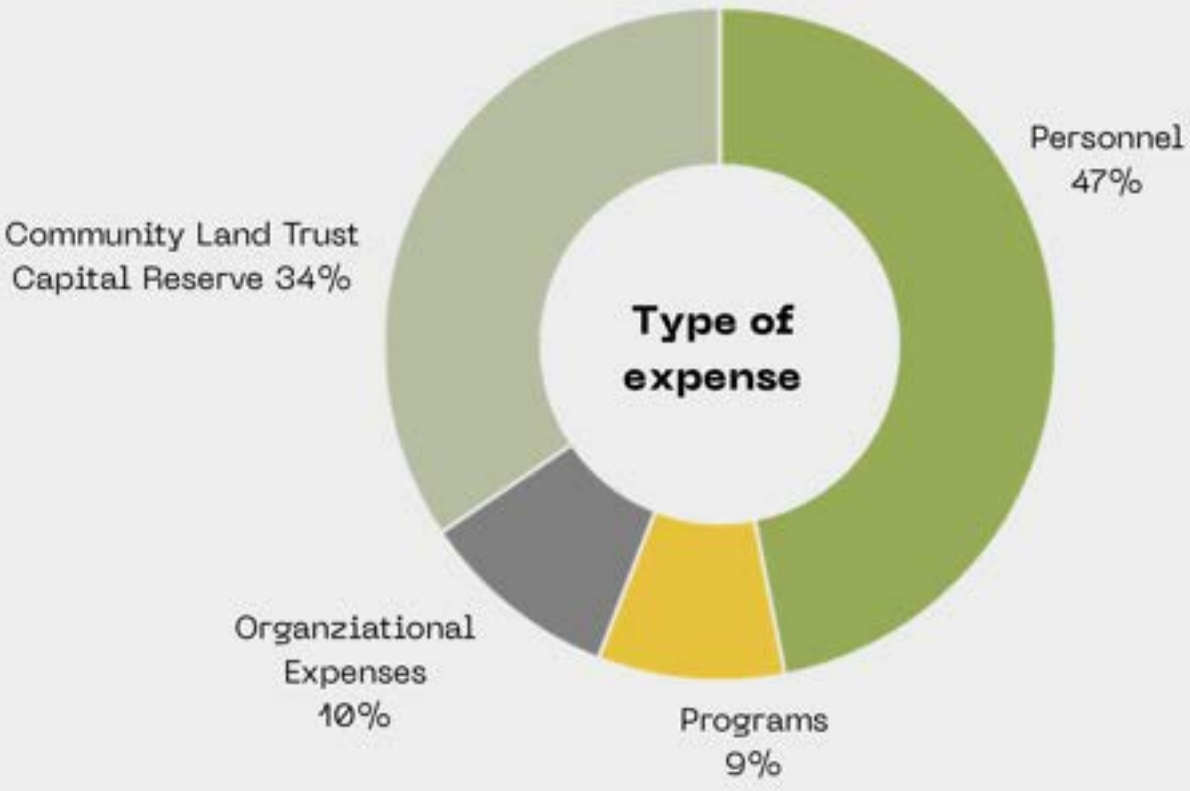


Some of our 15 events in 2025: Wellspring at MASEN gathering in Holyoke, Thing Swap at Gran Cocina, Annual General Assembly

MACDC
Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corporations

Where Our Support Goes





Statement of Activities

Wellspring Cooperative Corporation
Statement of Activities
for year ending December 31, 2025

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	**2025 Total**	2024 Total
Revenue & Support				
Donations	$184,384	$326,750	**$511,134**	$513,075
Membership	$929		**$929**	$1,375
Foundation Grants	$240,000	$26,000	**$266,000**	$338,750
Gov't Grants	$26,700	$78,779	**$105,479**	$184,416
Fee for Service	$200		**$200**	$1,959
Total Revenue & Support	$452,213	$431,529	**$883,742**	$1,039,575
Expenditures				
Personnel			**$408,397**	$251,324
Programs			**$78,387**	$361,326
Organizational Expenses			**$84,135**	$31,980
Total Expenditures			**$870,919**	$644,631
Community Land Trust Capital Reserve			**$300,000**	$300,000
Net Revenue			**$12,822**	$94,944

Community Land Trust Capital Reserve	
Income	$300,000
Expenditures	$11,710
Net Revenue	$288,290

Note: In 2024, we included pass-through grants and donations to Go Fresh Mobile Market in our 2024 income. In 2025, we separated pass-throughs to Go Fresh from Wellspring's income. Pass-throughs to Go Fresh totaled $42,820.

Thank you to the donors who make our work possible!

Anonymous
Joan Anderson
Kale Arnof
Jennifer Atlee
Lee Badgett & Elizabeth Silver
Lundy Bancroft
Daphne & Clint Berry
Tink Bess
Margot Blair
Evan Bollinger
Jane Braaten
Barton Byg
Katherine Campbell
Nathan Chung
Michael Cohen & Chia Collins
Francis Cole
Jason Comcowich
Bradley Compton
Bouzha Cookman & Billy Lehr
Samuel Creighton
Lisa Damtoft
Brita Dempsey
Kathryn & Stephen Derose
Michael DiPasquale
Lynn Duggan & Michael Prentice
Elizabeth Eagleson
Lisa Enzer & Robert Mahler
Inner Fortune
Nathanael Fortune
Joshua & Patty Freedman
Joseph & Reena Gerard
Phillip Giguere
David Greenberg & Elizabeth Erickson
Helen Harrison
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Mary Hoyer
Sarita Hudson
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Robert Johnson
Jeff Jones
Stephen Jones & Adele Franks
Mimi Kaplan
Jennifer Ladd
Joan Lager
Pierre Laliberte
Ivelice Lefebvre
Penn Loh
Paula Loudenslager
Julie Matthaei & Germai Medhanie
Verne McArthur
Kevin McCarron
Gail Milliken
Charlotte & Arthur Millman
Joya Misra
Karen Nakano
Andrea Nash
David O'Leary & Lisa Covi
Richard & Carol Plaut
Scott Reed
Robert Rose
Joshua Roth
Jeff Scavron & Sharon Burke
Pamela Schwartz & Joel Feldman
Charles Schweik
Kathleen Sharkey
Judith Skezak
Mistinguette Smith
Cynthia Sommer & Andrew Balder
William Spears
Beth Spong
Erica Weida
Jon Weissman & Joan Grenier
Frances Welson
Claire Yoo & Tejoon Jung

Thank You to Our Organizational Donors

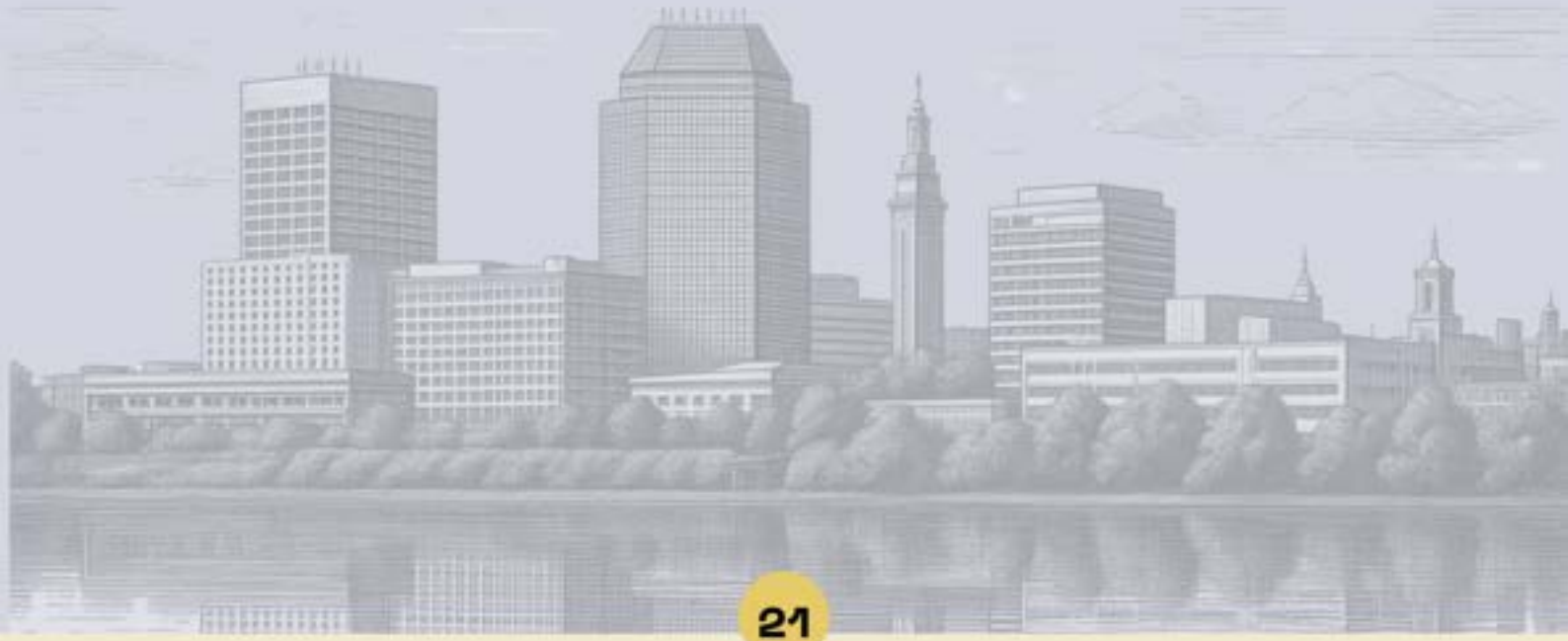
Wellspring appreciates the foundations, businesses, agencies, and organizations whose financial support contributes to our success.

Gifts to Wellspring Cooperative

Baystate Health
Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts
Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR)
MassMutual Foundation
Mass Growth Capital Corp
M&T Bank Foundation
North American Students of Cooperation / NASCO
Old Howe Place Fund
One Project
People's Network for Land and Liberation
Valley Alliance for Land Equity
Willow Permanent Real Estate Cooperative, Inc.
Zonta of Quaboag Valley

Gifts to Go Fresh Mobile Market

Health New England Foundation
Monson Savings Bank
WellSense Health Plan
Wild Geese Foundation





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