



**2019
CO-OP
VOTERS'
GUIDE**



OFFICIAL NOTICE OF MEETING:

2019 BLOOMINGFOODS ANNUAL MEETING

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10
6-9 PM**

The Clubhouse at the Fields
1333 S Fenbrook Ln
Bloomington, IN 47401

**Bloomingfoods owner-members: Join us to hear
about the year in review as well as what lies
ahead for your co-op!**

**FREE FOOD
CASH BAR
LAST CHANCE TO VOTE**

RSVP by Thursday, October 3 at
www.bloomingfoods.coop/2019rsvp

HOW TO USE THIS VOTERS' GUIDE

Voting is one of the most important rights members have and it's a vitally important role to govern their business.

Unlike other stores that sell local, organic, clean foods - trends started decades ago by community co-ops all over the country - it's important to remember that co-ops are owned and governed by the members who shop at the stores. No distant shareholders pull the strings of power. We elect our fellow members to hire management and steer the future of our co-ops.

Voting in your co-op election is a serious act of democracy. Whomever you elect, and whichever Positive Change recipients you choose, the most important thing is that you do it.

Elect, decide, choose. This is real, tangible power you hold as a member of this co-op.

There are two matters you will be voting on in this election period:



1. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bloomingfoods is governed by an elected board of directors. The board ensures sound management of the co-op, acts as trustees on behalf of the ownership, and sets long-range goals and plans for the future. See page X.



2. POSITIVE CHANGE

Positive Change is a charitable-giving register round-up program that fulfills Cooperative Principle #7, Concern for Community. Our program has raised nearly \$300,000 dollars for community non-profits serving Bloomington and Monroe County. See page X.

ABOUT VOTING

The voting period begins Thursday, September 19 and concludes at midnight on Thursday, October 10. Voting will take place electronically and by paper ballot. Anyone may vote who is an active owner-member of Bloomingfoods as of the date approved by its board, consistent with its bylaws and policies.

Ballots are only valid if they include the owner-member's name and member number. Our electronic ballots are verified by ProFusion, a third-party audited website. If a member submits both a paper and electronic ballot, then only the ballot entered first will be counted.

WHO CAN VOTE

Any active owner-member in good standing who joined at least 30 days prior to the start of the election has the right (and responsibility) to vote. Active members are entitled to notice and vote on any matter submitted for a vote within the election period and timeline authorized by the Board of Directors and specified in the voting packet.

VOTING TIMELINE

The Bloomington Cooperative Services election begins Thursday, September 19 and ends Thursday, October 10 at midnight.

HOW TO VOTE

Go to www.votebloomingfoods.com starting September 19 to enter the secure voting site. You will be asked to submit your owner-member number and your zip code. Each number can only be used once.

If in-store voting with a paper ballot is preferred, ballots are provided at all three Bloomingfoods locations

MEET YOUR 2019 BOARD CANDIDATES

Why should you vote?

One of your most important rights as an owner-member is voting. Cooperative Principle #2 - Democratic Member Control - ensures that you have a real voice in the governance and direction of your co-op. Participating in the election process is a tangible reminder that Bloomingfoods is more than just a great place to shop, and we hope that you will take the time to make your voice heard.

There are five board seats open, so you may vote for up to five candidates.

Three seats are for three-year terms. Two seats are fulfilling the remaining two years of a three-year term. The candidates who receive the fourth and fifth highest number of votes will serve the two-year terms.

Candidates are listed in alphabetical order.

Our Ends statement is referenced in candidate statements, so here's a refresher:



Our Ends Statement

Bloomington Cooperative Services will provide Bloomington and South Central Indiana with:

- **A market for local, fair, and healthful products, produced with care for the land, animals, and future generations.**
- **A democratic cooperative-ownership model that provides meaningful employment and strengthens the community.**
- **A robust and sustainable local food economy with fair prices for producers and all owner-members**
- **Access to education on food systems, cooperative values, and the interconnectedness of food, health, and the environment.**



CORBIN BAIRD (INCUMBENT)

Why are you interested in serving on the board of Bloomington Cooperative Services? As an owner-member family for 20 years and a currently serving board member, Bloomingfoods is an important part of caring for my family and community's health and well-being. Serving on the board is one of the best ways I can help ensure Bloomingfoods is successful and thriving.

What experience or involvement have you had with Bloomingfoods or other cooperatives? My first experience with co-ops was when I lived in Missoula, MT. I have been a Bloomingfoods owner-member for 20 years and a board member for the past 2 years.

What has been your experience in working cooperatively with small groups of people? (Such as being a member of a committee, team sports, or volunteer as part of a work group for any organization)? Lifelong athlete, founding member of the Indiana Forest Alliance, staff of Heartwood, and current Bloomingfoods board member, chair of the Owner-Member Communications Committee.

Please share any professional, volunteer, or life experience you have had that will provide insight when serving on the BCS Board of Directors. Trained by GreenCorps in environmental organizing and non-profit management. Staff and volunteer in local and regional environmental groups, professional roles and sales and marketing include: public speaking, planning/visioning, meeting facilitation.

How do your values and lifestyle align with the values and mission of the co-op? As a permaculture practitioner, my values and lifestyle dovetail perfectly with Bloomingfoods' Ends Statement - creating a market for healthy, organic, local food. I am passionate about increasing cooperative ownership that strengthens our community and having a sustainably profitable business.

Given the stated Ends of BCS, what do you see as the primary role of BCS in the community? I see the primary role of Bloomingfoods as to strengthen the local community. By strengthening the sustainable market for local foods/goods, by offering healthy, organic foods that support farmers, and by increasing community participation in our local economy and food choices.

What are the opportunities and challenges you see for BCS in the future expression of these Ends? Bloomingfoods has the opportunity to push our relationship with food and its growers in a way we have not had since our founding 40 years ago. Many challenges remain with increasing competition, rapidly evolving retail development in town and less involved owner-membership. By working together and continuing to take bold action I know Bloomingfoods can support a robust regional food and goods economy.

Please share any other brief statement that you feel is particularly important regarding your potential service as a member of the Board of Directors. Bloomingfoods continues to be a key piece of what makes Bloomington special to me. The aims of local organic food and cooperative ownership are more important now than ever. These past two years on the board have been challenging and very rewarding. Bloomingfoods has come so far but we still face many challenges. I want to continue to help our owner-members and local market succeed and thrive.



BOBBI BOOS (INCUMBENT)

Why are you interested in serving on the board of Bloomington Cooperative Services? In the last three years, amazing efforts from the staff, board, and owner-members has yielded great progress, yet there are still some tough decisions in our near future. I can offer historical knowledge and I listen to viewpoints of many owner-members in hopes that, collectively, we can make appropriate choices.

What experience or involvement have you had with Bloomingfoods or other cooperatives? I have been a working member, employee, owner-member, and since 2016, a board member serving as treasurer. I was also a co-founder of the Local Growers Guild and a board member for 6 years.

What has been your experience in working cooperatively with small groups of people? (Such as being a member of a committee, team sports, or volunteer as part of a work group for any organization)? Aside from non-profit and co-op boards, I really enjoy being part of a farm crew. I've been the new worker, the crew leader, and the owner at different points. In every situation it's great to work, share, and learn together while producing great food.

Please share any professional, volunteer, or life experience you have had that will provide insight when serving on the BCS Board of Directors. My involvement in the local food economy with a variety of organizations and farms over the last 30 years helps me understand the potential needs and contributions of many of the collaborators. Hopefully this helps Bloomingfoods find its best place as we continue to strengthen local foods and businesses.

How do your values and lifestyle align with the values and mission of the co-op? I'm an organic farmer that believes in strengthening local communities as a solution to our current global economic, social, and environmental struggles. To get there, I am a strong advocate of the cooperative model and education to help us mindfully participate in our communities.

Given the stated Ends of BCS, what do you see as the primary role of BCS in the community? First, Bloomingfoods excels as a cooperative business with valuable owner-member participation and a committed, appreciated staff. This will provide a strong platform for Bloomingfoods to achieve its Ends, especially as a collaborator in our local food economy and as model for cooperative businesses throughout our community.

What are the opportunities and challenges you see for BCS in the future expression of these Ends? Bloomingfoods' challenges include the fast changing grocery world, lack of capital reserve, and the unfair pricing of quality products vs commodity products due in large part to inequitable USDA subsidies. However, Bloomingfoods is resilient, flexible, and innovative. With a supportive owner-membership, we can lead in positive change via our Ends.

Please share any other brief statement that you feel is particularly important regarding your potential service as a member of the Board of Directors. As a board member my role is to hear all owners. How do I hear you? Some talk with me directly, others speak with their food dollars and product choices, and others participate in Co-op Day, owner-member forums, or committees. Co-ops thrive with member participation. Please participate in Bloomingfoods however is appropriate for you.



BLUE BUTTERFLY WOMAN

Why are you interested in serving on the board of Bloomington Cooperative Services? I believe in the Cooperative model and would like to play an active role in keeping it alive and well in our community. I enjoy a challenge and would like to work with others to keep it interesting, competitive, and flourishing.

What experience or involvement have you had with Bloomingfoods or other cooperatives? I have been an active member of Bloomingfoods Co-op for ten years, and attended several meetings. Previously I lived in Park Forest, Illinois and was an active member of the South Suburban Food Co-op. Members worked for so many hours a month as part of their membership.

What has been your experience in working cooperatively with small groups of people? (Such as being a member of a committee, team sports, or volunteer as part of a work group for any organization)? Working with small groups is challenging and satisfying. I like listening to others, being heard, and creating solutions and plans together. It is life changing. I like moving out of my comfort zone to gather new information. It is fun when I am a helpful team member.

Please share any professional, volunteer, or life experience you have had that will provide insight when serving on the BCS Board of Directors. Served on the Mayors Commission on the environment. Have a BA in Psychology and MA in Human Communication. Designed classes and programs to assist others to achieve their goals. Taught pre-school through college. Created programs that resolved major problems and established new patterns for success.

How do your values and lifestyle align with the values and mission of the co-op? I believe in the ethical treatment of ALL. As an educator, I thrive on creating innovative ways to offer a friendly environment in which we can continue to learn and grow together as a team. My vision is for our co-op to be a dynamic force in our town.

Given the stated Ends of BCS, what do you see as the primary role of BCS in the community? Education: to be a strong presence in which we teach the truth about the poisoning of our food system vs healthy foods and products. To assist one another in creating healthy personal goals and sustaining them.

What are the opportunities and challenges you see for BCS in the future expression of these Ends? Using the Buskirk Chumley Theatre for talks and movies for the community. Creating new ways to be a stronger respected presence. I see our Public Image, being seen as the Hippie store and the expansion of organics and health food and products in larger stores at lower prices as our biggest challenges.

Please share any other brief statement that you feel is particularly important regarding your potential service as a member of the Board of Directors. I have turned extremely difficult personal challenges into life enhancing opportunities. I LOVE our co-op and would enjoy being a member of the team that gives it a totally NEW life.



**MARY
HARRIS**

Why are you interested in serving on the board of Bloomington Cooperative Services? I believe in the values, principles, and benefits of having a community co-op. I am interested in serving on the Board as a means to be involved in my community, contribute my knowledge and experience and learn what I don't know in order to be a better co-op member and supporter.

What experience or involvement have you had with Bloomingfoods or other cooperatives? I have been shopping at Bloomingfoods for many years and have been an owner-member for at least half that time. I am a huge supporter of co-ops and their mission and I not only want to see Bloomingfoods succeed but thrive within our community.

What has been your experience in working cooperatively with small groups of people? (Such as being a member of a committee, team sports, or volunteer as part of a work group for any organization)? I am involved in several committees in HR at Indiana University. I've been an avid rock climber which relies on trust and communication and I've volunteered for many organizations over the years, such as Big Brothers, Big Sisters; Friends of Muir Valley, and the Boys & Girls Club.

Please share any professional, volunteer, or life experience you have had that will provide insight when serving on the BCS Board of Directors. I have over a decade of experience working in Human Resources with a focus in policy management and oversight, employee orientation and training, and special projects. I hold a SHRM-CP credential with the Society of Human Resources Management and am a degree seeking student in Labor Studies at IU.

How do your values and lifestyle align with the values and mission of the co-op? My values and lifestyle align closely with that of the co-op. I support local businesses and am passionate about environmentalism and the humane treatment of animals (and people). I believe in equality and equal opportunities for all, including access to education, jobs, healthy food, and a safe and inhabitable environment.

Given the stated Ends of BCS, what do you see as the primary role of BCS in the community? Bloomingfoods' primary role in the community is to provide healthy and locally sourced food (when possible) with a focus on affordability and sustainability, that meets the needs of the local community in a transparent and democratic way for both employees and consumers.

What are the opportunities and challenges you see for BCS in the future expression of these Ends? Consumers have many options when it comes to Bloomington's food sales market. The challenge for BCS is to remain sustainable and profitable. Because Bloomingfoods is the only local co-op we have a niche that others cannot fulfill. There is also the challenge of finding a new home for the East-side location.

Please share any other brief statement that you feel is particularly important regarding your potential service as a member of the Board of Directors. To add to my experience, for 10 years my job was to orientate all new Board members, coordinate and attend monthly Board meetings, and maintain Board minutes for a local non-profit. My top 5 Clifton Strengths are futuristic, restorative, ideation, adaptability, and relator.



NANCY MATHEWS

Why are you interested in serving on the board of Bloomington Cooperative Services? I believe in food as the foundation of good health. Cooperative food outlets like Bloomingfoods are the most reliable providers of nourishing foods in American communities. I would like to serve on the board of Bloomingfoods to do my part in assuring the effectiveness and future success of this food outlet for the good of the Bloomington community.

What experience or involvement have you had with Bloomingfoods or other cooperatives? I am primarily a consumer on almost a daily basis at Bloomingfoods East. Although I have only been in Bloomington for a year and a half, I previously had a twenty-plus year association with the food coop, Wild Oats, in Williamstown, MA. In the early days I was a weekly volunteer at Wild Oats.

What has been your experience in working cooperatively with small groups of people? (Such as being a member of a committee, team sports, or volunteer as part of a work group for any organization)? I am a retired senior curator in the Williams College Museum of Art and taught art history at Williams College. In education and non-profit, committees are the air you breathe. In addition, I have served as a board member of the Berkshire Museum and the community television station, Willinet, both in Berkshire County.

Please share any professional, volunteer, or life experience you have had that will provide insight when serving on the BCS Board of Directors. I believe that my long experience as a curator dealing with the educational and political issues of "display" may provide insight in the food world. On a more practical level, I am experienced in non-profit budgets and fundraising.

How do your values and lifestyle align with the values and mission of the co-op? I think the statement is on target and one of the best mission statements I have ever seen. One example of alignment is that we are in the process of converting half of our property to native habitat.

Given the stated Ends of BCS, what do you see as the primary role of BCS in the community? Of the four statements, I think the first is primary. But I think the last (education) is one that could use more emphasis.

What are the opportunities and challenges you see for BCS in the future expression of these Ends? All non-profits are challenged by changes in the economic and tax situation today. Differences of opinion in the community also create challenges. But the issues of food and environmental health are now well publicized priorities that BCS can take advantage of.

Please share any other brief statement that you feel is particularly important regarding your potential service as a member of the Board of Directors. As I am new to the Bloomington community, I have a lot to learn. But at the same time, I can bring a fresh eye and an open mind to the enduring issues.



MICHELLE ROBISON

Why are you interested in serving on the board of Bloomington Cooperative Services? I love what Bloomingfoods brings to the community and do not want to see Bloomingfoods run out by chain retailers. I want to help keep Bloomingfoods around for many more years.

What experience or involvement have you had with Bloomingfoods or other cooperatives? I have been a member of Bloomingfoods since 2012. Prior to living in Bloomington, I frequently shopped at co-ops while living in Minnesota and in Michigan. I have had the opportunity, from a shopper's perspective, to see how different co-ops are managed and how they engage members of the community.

What has been your experience in working cooperatively with small groups of people? (Such as being a member of a committee, team sports, or volunteer as part of a work group for any organization)? I am currently a volunteer with Big Brother Big Sister of South Central Indiana. In law school, I co-led a team of people responsible for publishing a bi-yearly journal, and in undergrad, I was a member of the cross country and track and field teams.

Please share any professional, volunteer, or life experience you have had that will provide insight when serving on the BCS Board of Directors. I have a Michigan State biology degree and a University of Minnesota law degree. In law school I worked for Legal Aid. I currently work at Cook and volunteer with Big Brother, Big Sister. My experiences have introduced me to diverse groups of people from all different backgrounds.

How do your values and lifestyle align with the values and mission of the co-op? As much as possible, my family tries to support and promote local businesses and local farmers. We try to live sustainably (though not perfect) and be aware of how our actions impact the environment and communities around us.

Given the stated Ends of BCS, what do you see as the primary role of BCS in the community? The primary role of BCS is its accessibility to all members of Bloomington - whether consumers, farmers, or local sellers. BCS connects shoppers to local and sustainable products, promotes Bloomington charities and groups, and organizes events to bring the community together.

What are the opportunities and challenges you see for BCS in the future expression of these Ends? Bloomingfoods is facing growing competition in Bloomington. I think this gives Bloomingfoods an opportunity to set itself apart from a normal grocery store by connecting with local farmers, hosting community events, and maintaining the local focus that many of us depend on.

Please share any other brief statement that you feel is particularly important regarding your potential service as a member of the Board of Directors. I am really excited about an opportunity to take a more active role in the Bloomingfoods family.



GUTHRIE TAYLOR (STAFF)

Why are you interested in serving on the board of Bloomington Cooperative Services? I'm an owner-member, near-daily shopper, and employee of Bloomingfoods, and want to see the co-op continue and thrive. I'm specifically interested in the future of the East store, and believe we should maintain a presence on the East side.

What experience or involvement have you had with Bloomingfoods or other cooperatives? I've been a Bloomington resident and employee of the co-op for two years. I was hired as a part-time cashier, was promoted to Front-End Lead, and have been the Front-End Manager at our East store for the past year and a half.

What has been your experience in working cooperatively with small groups of people? (Such as being a member of a committee, team sports, or volunteer as part of a work group for any organization)? As a used book buyer at Powell's Books in Portland, OR, it was crucial that our small team worked together to achieve our goals. I also have training in Conflict Resolution and Mediation in the Workplace.

Please share any professional, volunteer, or life experience you have had that will provide insight when serving on the BCS Board of Directors. I'm at our East location 5 days and 40+ hours a week, actively engaged in helping our customers. I'm intimately familiar with how the co-op functions on a daily basis, at the store level, and will bring this perspective to the Board.

How do your values and lifestyle align with the values and mission of the co-op? I believe in supporting our local producers, and I'm honored to be able to help create a space for them to sell their goods. Small is Beautiful. Shop Local. Power to the People.

Given the stated Ends of BCS, what do you see as the primary role of BCS in the community? Our primary purpose is to serve our community, which deserves an alternative to corporate superstores. As economic power continues to rush toward the top, it's important for us to maintain our autonomy. Bloomingfoods offers a different experience than Kroger, Lucky's, or Fresh Thyme.

What are the opportunities and challenges you see for BCS in the future expression of these Ends? One of our biggest upcoming challenges is the future of the East store. As stated above, I am actively interested in the co-op maintaining a presence on the Eastside. There are many unknown factors right now. I'm willing to put in the energy to help develop a plan for our future.

Please share any other brief statement that you feel is particularly important regarding your potential service as a member of the Board of Directors. I'm a relatively recent arrival in the community, and I feel extremely fortunate to have found a place at the co-op. I enjoy being of service to you all, and will continue to do so if I am elected to the Board.

POSITIVE CHANGE CANDIDATES

In 2016, Bloomingfoods introduced our Positive Change register roundup program as a community-driven fundraising campaign that offers shoppers the opportunity to round their purchase to the nearest dollar, or donate more if they wish. Since its inception, our program has raised an incredible \$295,000.

BLOOMINGFOODS POSITIVE CHANGE RECIPIENTS ARE CHOSEN BY OUR 12,500 OWNER-MEMBERS DURING OUR ANNUAL ELECTION.

NOW'S YOUR CHANCE TO DECIDE OUR 2020 RECIPIENTS!

This year, we opened up the ballot to include a more diverse array of local non-profits. In order to qualify for a spot on the ballot, organizations were required to:

- have 501(c)(3) non-profit status
- Be non-sectarian
- Be non-partisan
- Be local and provide services locally
- Submit an application for 2020 by August 1, 2019.

We give favor to organizations that are Bloomington- or Monroe County-based and support the Bloomington community. Broad areas of support include local, organic and sustainable food efforts, farmland preservation, the environment, and programs that support the education, health, and well-being of the people in our community.

In 2020, along with providing monetary support through our register roundup program, Bloomingfoods will endeavor to provide further support to chosen organizations through our staff and owner-members. Our support will include:

- Collecting cash donations at the registers for a period of one month
- Collecting donations of needed items that we may sell here at Bloomingfoods such as pantry items or pet food
- Awareness/outreach: we will have signs, announcements, tabling opportunities, social media mentions, articles in our newsletter, and weekly emails about your non-profit
- Encouraging our owner-members to volunteer with the featured organization and/or providing information about volunteer opportunities

OWNER-MEMBERS WILL CHOOSE 11 MONTHLY RECIPIENTS FROM THIS LIST.

ORGANIZATIONS ARE LISTED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER. ORGANIZATIONS WHO HAVE RECEIVED POSITIVE CHANGE FUNDS IN PAST YEARS ARE DENOTED WITH AN ASTERISK

**VOTE ONLINE OR IN-STORE SEPT 19 - OCT 10
WWW.VOTEBLOOMINGFOODS.COM**

AREA 10 AGENCY ON AGING*

FOOD ACCESS, PUBLIC HEALTH

Area 10 provides critical services to support older adults in Monroe and Owen counties to continue living in their home. One focus is nutrition - through our daily home delivered meals and monthly Mobile Food Pantry, taking needed groceries to home-bound individuals. We pair fresh produce from our new raised garden bed with needed, balanced food items and supply pet food to those important companion animals!

BLOOMINGTON CENTER FOR GLOBAL CHILDREN

EDUCATION

BCGC is an early childhood education center, nurturing minds and bodies of children ages 6 weeks to 6 years. We strive to provide a multilingual and nurturing early education environment for young children that supports their physical and social emotional development, while encouraging them to care for themselves, their community, and their planet. The funds will provide materials to support our mission and allow us to increase staff wages towards a living wage.

BLOOMINGTON COMMUNITY ORCHARD*

FOOD ACCESS, AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT, EDUCATION, PUBLIC HEALTH

We encourage food sovereignty by providing free, accessible, organic food options at our site as well as assistance in and education on how to create similar spaces throughout one's community. We will use the funds towards tools and supplies that will help maintain our current site and ensure it's deliverability to community members, along with bringing in professionals that can provide education workshops to help build the skills and knowledge needed to continue our mission of sharing an orchard community.

BLOOMINGTON FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

FOOD ACCESS, AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT, EDUCATION, PUBLIC HEALTH

The Bloomington Food Policy Council seeks to create an equitable, local, regenerative and nourishing food system for our community. Funds will be used to influence public policy, producer sustainability, consumer buying patterns and institutional purchasing to foster a vibrant local food economy. Policy at all levels will be influenced to promote food sovereignty and a thriving food and farming sector in Bloomington and Monroe County.

BLOOMINGTON MEALS ON WHEELS*

FOOD ACCESS, PUBLIC HEALTH

Bloomington Meals on Wheels helps to feed those who cannot cook for themselves due to illness, injury or disability. We deliver 2 nutritious, medically-tailored meals Monday through Friday to help clients maintain their health and remain in their homes. Funds raised will be used to help pay for meals for our low income clients, who cannot afford the daily fee (\$7) and/or do not qualify for home delivered meal waivers from Medicaid. (this represents about 20% of our current clients)

BLOOMINGTON PRIDE LTD

EDUCATION, PUBLIC HEALTH, LGBTQ PUBLIC AWARENESS

Bloomington PRIDE serves the LGBTQ+ communities of Bloomington and South Central Indiana through advocacy, outreach, education, safe-space programs, and cultural events. Funds will be used to strengthen PRIDE's outreach particularly to rural communities surrounding Bloomington who do not have immediate access to in-town resources and to improve the depth and breadth of programming to not only further educate LGBTQ+ people about issues such as HIV/AIDS awareness, transgender health, fair housing, homelessness and HIV/AIDS awareness, but also allies eager to be more supportive of the LGBTQ+ community at large.

BLOOMINGTON URBAN WOODLANDS PROJECT

ENVIRONMENT, EDUCATION

BUWP works to restore healthy urban forests and reconnect people with nature. Funds will be used to propagate butterfly- and bird-friendly native plants that volunteers of all ages will help to plant in local woodlands, and for development and production of engaging brochures and posters that help people to appreciate and promote native biodiversity in their own yards.

BUSKIRK-CHUMLEY THEATER

EDUCATION, COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT

The Buskirk-Chumley Theater acts a community resource, inviting everyone to gather their friends, family, and followers together for all kinds of art, education, and entertainment. Over seventy (70) organizations present film, theatre, dance, lecture, and music, welcoming 60,000 visitors every year in this iconic, historic landmark in the heart of downtown Bloomington.

CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVING

FOOD ACCESS, AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT, EDUCATION, PUBLIC HEALTH

Inspired and passionate Bloomingtonians collaborate at the Center for Sustainable Living (CSL) to share how we can care for our Earth and live well, together. For over 20 years, the CSL has facilitated and stewarded the development of over 15 ongoing community-based, self-organized, and sustainability-oriented Projects including SIREN, the Bloomington Winter Farmers Market, and the Community Bicycle Project. We promote access to healthy food and healthy living for all people; we facilitate skills and knowledge sharing through public workshops; we maintain community centers that welcome everyone; we participate in the development of a local solidarity economy; and we strongly believe in building inclusive, sustainable, and resilient networks of mutual support that can help us fight climate change and build resilience, as a community.

COMMUNITY JUSTICE AND MEDIATION CENTER

EDUCATION, PUBLIC HEALTH

CJAM strives to create an inclusive community that is engaged, civil, and just. We do this by mobilizing an energetic and dedicated corps of highly trained volunteer mediators who deliver conflict intervention and prevention services to over 400 individuals each year. Funds will be used to expand our peacekeeping services to underserved communities, expand educational opportunities, support training/program scholarships, and fund program activities and materials

COMMUNITY KITCHEN OF MONROE COUNTY, INC*

FOOD ACCESS

Community Kitchen provides free meals to anyone in need, no questions asked. In addition, we have outreach programs to reach the most vulnerable populations (children, seniors, the chronically ill) where they are. Funds will be used to support Community Kitchen hunger relief programs. We provide over 300,000 meals and snacks in the community each year. 66% of those we serve are children, 13% are seniors and 10% have experienced homelessness in the previous 6 months.

COURAGE TO CHANGE SOBER LIVING

PUBLIC HEALTH

Courage to Change Sober Living provides low barrier, safe and sober housing for those affected by substance use disorders. Funds will be used to expand our Fresh Start Rent Scholarship fund. Our residents come to us from prison or jail and lack resources to pay their rent or utilities. This fund helps them make that fresh start and gives them time to find employment and get stable in their recovery without worrying about becoming homeless because of lack of housing options.

FARM TO FAMILY FUND, INC*

FOOD ACCESS, AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH

Farm to Family Fund is an all-volunteer organization. Over 90% of our funds go to purchasing local, sustainably grown food at half price to donate to local 501(c)3 organizations that serve those who are food insecure in our community.

FOUNDATION OF MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS*

FOOD ACCESS, EDUCATION

The Foundation accepts donations for MCCSC's Food Assistance Program. The program ensures that all students are provided a regular school lunch when there is a negative balance in the student's lunch account. Last school year more than 1,800 students benefited from this program.

FRIENDS OF THE MONROE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

EDUCATION, PUBLIC HEALTH, LITERACY

Friends of the Monroe County Public Library is comprised of members of the community just like you - people who value the Library and its many varied services. As a nonprofit organization, we collect and administer the grants, gifts, bequests, and other monies outside of local tax receipts that sponsor award-winning Library programs for all ages, from early and adult literacy initiatives through Story Walks, homework help, public health education, and more. Your support provides free and equitable access to information and promotes reading and lifelong learning for all!

GIRLS INC OF MONROE COUNTY

FOOD ACCESS, EDUCATION, PUBLIC HEALTH

Girls Inc. girls are shown that they have value and the control over their future. We provide recreational and educational opportunities to inspire girls to be Strong, Smart, and Bold. Funds from the Positive Change grant will be used for after school snacks and nutrition education.

GROWING OPPORTUNITIES

FOOD ACCESS, AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT, EDUCATION

Growing Opportunities is a social business enterprise that provides job training to individuals with barriers to employment. Stone Belt clients receive job training in a class room setting and in the greenhouse. All produce is sold locally to help continue to fund our program; excess produce is donated to local food pantries.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF MONROE COUNTY

EDUCATION, PUBLIC HEALTH, HOUSING ACCESS

Our mission is to eliminate poverty housing by building safe, affordable homes in partnership with qualifying families. Proceeds from Positive Change will be used to continue our mission of alleviating poverty, as it will help ensure that building costs for our new home construction in Monroe County remains low. This translates to lower housing costs for our partner families, which in turn promotes the financial ability of families to participate in the local economy and purchase healthy food options.

HARMONY SCHOOL

EDUCATION

Harmony is dedicated to the development of the whole student: we teach critical thinking and academic skills, nurture each student's unique voice, all while promoting physical, social, emotional, and creative growth. Because Harmony's tuition rate is a sliding scale based on families' incomes and no one is denied access to the school based on financial ability, 40% of Harmony students are economically disadvantaged (based on federal guidelines) and 80% of Harmony families receive a scholarship. Funds from Bloomingfoods will be evenly distributed between students needing a scholarship. *Harmony does not receive any federal or state funding.*

HOOSIER HILLS FOOD BANK*

FOOD ACCESS

HHFB collects, stores and distributes food to 100 member agencies across 6 counties. Funds raised help HHFB collect that food with our refrigerated trucks and staff, will help us purchase food when needed and supplies for repacking.

INDIANA FOREST ALLIANCE

AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT, EDUCATION, PUBLIC HEALTH

Indiana Forest Alliance's mission is to preserve and restore Indiana's native hardwood ecosystem for the enjoyment of all. Funds will be used through IFA's Wild Indiana program to support the creation of 13 Wild Areas that prevents logging in Indiana to allow future generations to enjoy wild nature throughout the state.

INDIANA RECOVERY ALLIANCE

PUBLIC HEALTH

The primary focus of the Indiana Recovery Alliance is to use the philosophy of harm reduction to promote the health and dignity of the individuals and communities impacted by drug use. Our slogan is "Any Positive Change." We will use these funds to purchase supplies, including the life-saving opioid overdose reversal drug, Naloxone.

INTERFAITH WINTER SHELTER

FOOD ACCESS, PUBLIC HEALTH

The Interfaith Winter Shelter's mission is to provide a low-barrier winter shelter for homeless individuals in Monroe County. Their purpose is to offer a warm, safe place to those who have no place to go and do not meet admission requirements for other shelter sites in the community.

MONROE COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

EDUCATION

The Master Gardener Program is "helping others grow" by providing intensive education in horticultural principles on a wide array of gardening subjects. Certified Master Gardeners volunteer around the community providing leadership and service in gardening activities. The organization gives out annual grants to community organizations for projects that provide garden-related education, hands-on experience, and/or supply food to the community.

MONROE COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION FOUNDATION

PUBLIC HEALTH

MCPRF exists to provide support to Monroe County Parks & Recreation in providing quality recreation and education programs, promoting appreciation of environmental and cultural resources, and preserving green space. This support will assist MCPR in funding new, fully accessible playground equipment at Karst Farm Park's Sophia-Travis Playscape.

MONROE COUNTY UNITED MINISTRIES

FOOD ACCESS, EDUCATION, FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

MCUM operates a full service food pantry along with cleaning and hygiene supplies for the residents for Monroe County, we offer vouchers for clothing and household goods through the Opportunity House, supply rent/utility assistance, we run a year round childcare and early education center, and have self-sufficiency coaches that assist our clients in finding resources that meet their needs as well as, work with clients to help them and their families become more self-sufficient. Funds received from the Bloomingfoods Positive Change program will go to support our various programs, such as the Compass Early Learning Center, the Self-Sufficiency Center, and our food pantry.

MONROE COUNTY YMCA

EDUCATION, PUBLIC HEALTH

The Monroe County YMCA runs an in-school program, called Energize, which incorporates sessions on health and wellness to 32 MCCSC 4th grade classrooms in 12 MCCSC elementary schools. The program strives to prevent childhood obesity by providing lessons on healthy eating choices and the importance of 60 minutes of exercise per day.

MOTHER HUBBARD'S CUPBOARD*

FOOD ACCESS, AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT, EDUCATION, PUBLIC HEALTH

The Hub aims to ensure that all people in the Bloomington and surrounding areas have access to healthy, whole foods and to provide opportunities to build community through food. Our programs include a client-choice food pantry and free educational programs on nutrition and gardening. Funds will go towards purchasing food for our pantry, helping us serve the 25,390 food insecure individuals in Monroe County and thousands more in surrounding areas.

NEW HOPE FOR FAMILIES

FOOD ACCESS, EDUCATION, PUBLIC HEALTH

New Hope for Families helps families impacted by homelessness gain and maintain stable housing and provides accredited early childhood development services aimed at breaking the cycle of homelessness and poverty. Funds received from Bloomingfoods' Positive Change program will be used to provide shelter and support services that will help keep families together and get them on a path toward positive change and a brighter future.

PANTRY 279

FOOD ACCESS, EDUCATION, PUBLIC HEALTH

We currently feed around 3000 - 3500 per month, as well as provide food education, help with job applications, and assist with school supplies and toiletries when we can. This is a totally volunteer run organization and all money goes to help pay for food and operating cost (office supplies, rental of truck to get food).

REIMAGINING OPERA FOR KIDS

ENVIRONMENT, EDUCATION

Reimagining Opera for Kids (ROK) is a non-profit community arts and education organization based in Bloomington, IN, serving about 4,000 children, youth, and family members annually. Funds will be used to cover sets, props, costumes, and production manager costs so that we can continue to offer performances and curriculum guides at no cost to area schools and community centers.

SCALY TAILZ REPTILE & AMPHIBIAN EDUCATION & RESCUE

ENVIRONMENT, EDUCATION, ANIMAL WELFARE

Scaly Tailz is a reptile and amphibian education and rescue 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Funds will be used to care for the animals we have taken in, and to further our educational reptile demonstrations.

SHALOM COMMUNITY CENTER*

FOOD ACCESS, PUBLIC HEALTH

Shalom Community Center supports people experiencing hunger and homelessness in our community. The goals of our Hunger Relief program are to ensure that people have access to two hot meals a day -- seven days a week, as well as emergency groceries as needed.

SOUTH CENTRAL INDIANA HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES

HOUSING ACCESS, PUBLIC HEALTH

Our Housing4Hoosiers program provides resources for renters and landlords to support safe and stable rental homes: includes Housing4Hoosiers.org website, tenant/landlord education series, Housing & Eviction Resource Table at the Monroe County Justice Building, and Housing Navigators at social service agencies in Monroe County. SCIHO is also developing Switchyard Apartments, affordable 1- and 2-bedroom apartments for low-income households next to Switchyard Park and opening in 2020. Switchyard Apartments will include a community garden in the courtyard where residents can grow their own food. Funds will support our Housing4Hoosiers programming and help renters in our community to avoid eviction and improve access to safe, affordable, and healthy homes.

STEPPING STONES/CENTERSTONE*

FOOD ACCESS, EDUCATION, PUBLIC HEALTH

Stepping Stones, a program of Centerstone, provides long-term housing (up to two years) and comprehensive behavioral health, academic, employment and life skills services to youth ages 16-20 that are at imminent risk of or currently experiencing homelessness. Bloomington Positive Change funding will support our goals of 1) preventing criminal exploitation and abuse of youth due to their homelessness and hunger; 2) providing nutritious food to homeless youth in crisis in order to maintain physical and mental health while working towards safe and stable housing, education, and employment; and 3) increasing youth's knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors toward nutrition, self-care, and independent living.

STONE BELT ARC, INC

FOOD ACCESS, EDUCATION, PUBLIC HEALTH, COMMUNITY LIVING

Stone Belt provides employment, residential, lifelong learning, mental health, and family supports to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Funds will support Lifelong Learning programs, including our Hand in Hand food collection program for Community Kitchen, our meals delivery program completed by our clients and our participation with Growing Opportunities.

SYCAMORE LAND TRUST*

ENVIRONMENT, EDUCATION

Sycamore Land Trust preserves land, restores habitat, and provides environmental education in southern Indiana. Headquartered in Bloomington, we have 16 public nature preserves with 35 miles of hiking trails. Support from Bloomingfoods will help us restore nature on our nearly 10,000 acres of land by removing invasive plants that disrupt the ecosystem, and planting trees and other native plants to create habitat for protected species. Thank you for considering Sycamore!

TEAM FIRST BOOK OF MONROE COUNTY

ENVIRONMENT, EDUCATION

Team First Book of Monroe County raises funds to provide grants to Monroe County Title I schools and literacy groups to buy books for low-income children to own and take home because we believe that literacy begins at home and have learned that having books in the home predicts school success regardless of parental education or income. The funds from this grant will be used to provide grants to buy books with a STEM emphasis (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) that build on the natural curiosity of children to learn about their environment and its importance to their own personal well-being as well as that of their community and world.

UNITED WAY OF MONROE COUNTY

FOOD ACCESS, EDUCATION, PUBLIC HEALTH, FINANCIAL STABILITY

UWMC will distribute these funds to our 26 local member agencies through our volunteer-driven allocations process. Our 26 agencies work each day to ensure that each of our neighbors in Monroe, Owen, and Greene county have access to services that help them achieve happy, healthy lives. Some of our agencies include Girls Inc., Planned Parenthood, Community Kitchen, Volunteers in Medicine, Middle Way House, Shalom Center, and 20 others who make our community a better place to live.

UPLANDS PEAK SANCTUARY

AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT, EDUCATION, PUBLIC HEALTH, ANIMAL WELFARE

Uplands PEAK's mission is to rescue and rehabilitate abused and neglected farmed animals, educate the public to the benefits of a healthy vegan lifestyle, and promote sustainability. Bloomingfood's Positive Change program would directly help support this mission by helping provide shelter, food and medicine for animals as well as support educational outreach to the broader Bloomington community.