



Margo O'Brien  
Retiring General Manager

# ANNUAL REPORT

FY 18 | 19



Erik Larson  
New General Manager



# President's Welcome

Dear Owners,

One of the Board's primary jobs is to hire, compensate, delegate responsibility to, and hold accountable a General Manager. We do all of those tasks every year, except for one...the Board has never hired a General Manager—until this year. In May, Margo O'Brien informed the Board that she would be retiring this year after leading the Co-op for 40 years. The Board extends our sincere gratitude to Margo for her initial vision of a Co-op in small town St. Peter and her years of leadership as GM. She has calmly shepherded us from a Co-op with 60 members to over 3000 and through two building expansions. Her work has established the Co-op as an indispensable member of the St. Peter community and a hub for the Southern Minnesota economy with an emphasis on supporting local farmers, producers, and businesses. Under her guidance the Co-op has lived our slogan "Everyone is Welcome".

Shortly after Margo's announcement, the Board launched a national search for our new General Manager and from a strong pool of candidates selected Erik Larson. Erik has been an employee of the St. Peter Food Co-op for 24 years. Erik brings an extensive background of Co-op leadership experiences, a deep understanding of our organization, and vast knowledge of the community. His ability to build relationships within and outside the organization is without parallel. He has an impressive record of recognizing and developing talent within the store and exemplifies servant leadership. His expertise in the industry is respected and consulted by Co-ops throughout the nation. The Board is confident that Erik is the leader our owners need to successfully guide us into our next 40 years.

Please take tonight to share your thanks with Margo and to welcome Erik to his new role.

Stronger Together,

**Kyle E. Chambers**

President, St. Peter Food Co-op Board of Directors

# Greetings from Margo

I've been pondering what to say in this my last posting as General Manager. For the past few weeks, the memories, the cast of thousands, the highs and lows as well as all that I hold dear has been sweeping over me in waves and whiffles. Forty years seems a long time, but it all happened so fast.

I have been most fortunate. I have spent my entire working life in a job where I was allowed to bring my passion, my values, my hopes and dreams for a better future to work every day. I have been surrounded by so many incredible people. I have been part of a dynamic community both locally and nationally. During these years, we did make a difference, we did instigate change. We built a better world.

When I volunteered to take the job as Manager, I had no understanding of business. All I wanted was good healthy food to feed my family. Now I look at all I've learned and see the layers upon layers of experience and opportunity that were provided by so many. I am so grateful for all those that assisted me along the way. There are too many to count.

The St. Peter Food Co-op is something that is special. This community has made it so. This is such a strong demonstration of the power of We. This enterprise could not be thriving without the support of so many. This circle of We is a living organism that evolves, transforms itself over time and represents the Dance of Life.

And now there is a future to ponder. There are uncertainties and challenges. There is a new sheriff in town. But our foundation is strong. Our values are strong. We are strong. Let the new age dawn.

**Margo**

General Manager, St. Peter Food Co-op



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Marcie Stoyke  
Joe Strong  
Jo Syverson  
Will Thomas

Edi Thorstenson  
Ruth Tillquist  
Cole Turritin  
Doug Ulfers  
Norm Walbeck  
Dave Wickland  
Mel Williams  
WC Woyke  
Mark Yost  
David Zauher  
Dan Zimmerli

Thank you for  
your time and  
commitment  
to the Co-op!





FYE 18 | 19

**Sales**

**\$6,037,546**

[ we hit the **6 million** dollar mark! ]



"I LOVE the ST. PETER CO-OP! The selections are the best in the area, prices are reasonable and staff is extremely helpful. Proud owner!"

**Google review**



FYE 18 | 19

**Sales of Local Products**

**\$2,667,494**

[ we purchased from **98** local vendors! ]







FYE 18/19 DONATIONS  
**March Campaign**  
**14,000**

pounds  
 & dollars

.....  
**Children's Weekend**  
**Food Program**  
**\$6,100**



“Great place for lunch,  
 excellent sense of community  
 and friendly staff.  
 This place is a hub of the  
 St Peter community.”

Google  
 review



228 Mulberry Street  
 St. Peter, Minnesota

[stpeterfood.coop](http://stpeterfood.coop)