



## Questions & Answers

**Q: What does membership cost?**

A: A membership stock investment is \$250. There is no annual fee.

**Q: Do I have to join to shop?**

A: No! Whether you are a member-owner or not, you can expect the same exceptional customer service, quality products and enjoyable shopping experience. But membership provides benefits for you and strengthens GRFCI.

**Q: Do I have to work in the store?**

A: No, GRFCI does not have a working member program.

**Q: What will my investment be used for?**

A: Member-owner equity investments fulfill the capital needs of the business.

**Q: Do I lose my membership if I move?**

A: Your membership is fully refundable, within guidelines set by the Board.

## Your Membership Supports:

- Healthy food access
- Community connections
- Cooperative economy
- Local, sustainable farms
- Organic food
- Local employment
- Food security
- Health education
- Fair trade
- Environmental stewardship



Like us on Facebook!

**OWN**  
*Your Grocery,*  
**GROW**  
*Your Community!*



*Become a  
Member-Owner  
Today!*

[www.facebook.com/GRFCI](http://www.facebook.com/GRFCI)

## Co-ops Are Special

The Grand Rapids Food Co-op Initiative is a consumer-owned cooperative—that means if **you join, you own it!** And so do your neighbors and friends.

When you make an investment in GRFCI, you receive financial benefits. You also become part of something bigger: a group of consumers joining together to grow a business that meets their needs.

In return, the co-op makes this promise: We pledge to serve our community with quality products and honest information. Unlike most businesses that make decisions primarily to maximize profits, cooperatives make decisions to maximize service and value for their owners and the community.



## Joining Is Easy

Becoming a member of GRFCI is quick and easy. It's rewarding to know you are helping to build a food co-op in your community!

Your co-op ownership begins immediately and the benefits are great!

## Member/Owner Benefits

### Current Benefits

- \* Supporting a local business dedicated to improving access to good food and enhancing our community's quality of life.
- \* GRFCI newsletter
- \* Education/co-op sponsored events
- \* The right to vote for our Board of Directors as well as run for a seat on the board

### Future Benefits

- \* Special offers from local businesses
- \* Monthly member-only specials
- \* Discounts on special order purchases
- \* Profits reinvested in the community

## Cooperative Principles

- \* Concern for the community
- \* Cooperation among cooperatives
- \* Education, training, and information
- \* Member economic participation
- \* Autonomy and independence
- \* Sociocratic member control
- \* Voluntary and open membership

## Member-Owner Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Select a member-owner share option:

- Equity payment in full, \$250.00
- Monthly Installments, \$25 for 10 months
- Donate to low income member grant fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Low income option available. For details, please contact or finance committee at GRFCI.info@gmail.com.

### Payment:

- Cash
- Check
- Credit Card

It is the member-owner's responsibility to provide GRFCI with a current mailing address if the above information should change.

As with any investment, your ownership share is subject to risk. If the Co-op is unsuccessful, the Board of Directors will determine distribution of remaining assets. Every effort will be made to refund the paid portion of your member-owner equity share.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

- I am interested in volunteer opportunities
- Please do not include my name on the GRFCI website or any promotional materials.

Please send this application along with payment to :

GRFCI CO/CNA  
205 Carrier St. NE  
Grand Rapids MI, 49505