



Mary Murken

Biography

I have been a part of this community for most of my life. I reside in Oshkosh with my husband, Dan Kussmann. My calling for 30 years has been as an Insurance Advisor - I assist clients with Personal Insurance, Commercial, Life, Medicare, and Health Insurance. My BA in Psychology is from Hamline University, where I was a founding member of Delta Tau Sorority, and still in existence 43 years later. Earlier in my professional career, I was a District Manager for a national retailer. I am active with the Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce as an Ambassador, served on the City of Oshkosh Parking Utility, Board of Directors for the Red Cross, Lutheran Homes of Oshkosh Foundation Board, Mirivida Living Board of Directors, First English Lutheran Church Council, Oshkosh Holiday Parade committee, TEMPO, Women Who Care, GEMS Giving Circle and volunteer for a variety of causes. I am a passionate gardener and avid downhill skier.

What would you bring/offer to the Oshkosh Food Co-op Board?

My past board experiences bring knowledge of how boards function and their responsibility to the greater organization. Having owned my own business, and running profitable retail locations, give me insights into merchandising, and customer service as well as the ability to create positive teams. Oddly enough, I have an analytical side and a creative side in problem-solving skills plus, a witty nature.

What is your dream for the Oshkosh Food Co-op?

My dream is to see the inner city co-op flourish and be a destination stop for downtown. Having unique offerings is important as well as affordable food for residents with limited means. Eating nourishing whole food is important for the healthy development of area children and young adults.

Why do you think the Oshkosh Food Co-op is important to the greater Oshkosh Community?

It is important to the community for the organic and locally grown options supports local area food producers - small mom & pop operations which have a bigger impact on the community rather than supporting big box manufacturers who have questionable ingredients that you can't even pronounce. The educational offerings to the community are so important.

Why cooperatives?

Cooperatives as a whole are good for the community - participation is voluntary, member owned and open to all regardless of their membership, or not. Cooperatives provide needed information, training and education to the surrounding community. I think very highly of the community concern that the Co-Op has and appreciate the Food for All program. It is amazing to learn how much food insecurity there is in our little community of Oshkosh and how much impact we can make through the Co-op.

Please offer any additional thoughts you would like Oshkosh Food Co-op member-owners to know about you.

My husband and I joined the Co-op early in the planning stages of the Co-op and have supported the Co-op in many ways over the years.

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a member-owned community grocery store

