

P. O. Box 83572, Fairbanks, Alaska 99708

November 18, 2014

Co-op Market Grocery & Deli
526 Gaffney Road
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Co-op Member Owners,

As a folk school we are part of a 200 year old tradition. Nikolaj Grundtvig started the folk school movement during the European Industrial Revolution. It provided alternative learning opportunities through popular education (as opposed to formal education) and enlightenment for the lower classes. His core belief was that learning should occur across social position and differences: the teacher learns from the student and the student learns from the teacher in a dynamic and mutual exchange.

The unifying focus of the classes we teach is inspiring and empowering students through the process of learning new life skills that serve to build resilience in a changing world. A small group of us have been dreaming and scheming about a folk school in Fairbanks for over 20 years. We have been offering programs and classes for much of that time, mostly out of our own homes. Over the years the public response has been enthusiastic and participants have returned again and again looking for new opportunities. The ever-growing group of people wanting to share their knowledge was in need of an organizational structure and a facility out of which to teach. To this end we formed The Folk School.

Our current programs include two field emersions: A "Week in the Woods" and a "Week on the River". We offer classes year round, in a wide variety of hands-on disciplines from tool making to fiber arts, furniture building to blacksmithing, music to toy making, creative writing to bee-keeping. Until November 19th, these classes were taking place at our physical location on 2365 Pruitt Lane. However, due to unforeseen circumstances, we had to vacate this facility. The retention of our new facility on 2861 Beverly Lane was a time consuming and costly process. Thus, the funds from the donation would help us in delivering a more seamless transition to our new venue, thereby ensuring greater continuity of our educational classes and programs.

We thank you for your time and consideration.

John Manthei
Board President, The Folk School