November 29th, 2020

Dear Co-op Market Owners,

For over 20 years, Calypso Farm and Ecology Center has responded to a need for outdoor, hands-on educational opportunities for youth and adults, provided safe green spaces for the community to enjoy, and worked to increase local food access throughout Fairbanks. As it was for many, 2020 was a year unlike any other for our organization and forced us to completely shift gears from our usual summer programing. Thanks to Lend a Hand and other funding sources, we were able to focus on providing food for those most vulnerable in our community and drastically increase our efforts in making fresh, local food accessible to those who needed it most.

Although this growing season is over, we know our work is not done. While we hope to resume some outdoor education programs next season, we know that we will be continuing our food relief efforts that were expanded in 2020 in response to COVID-19. If chosen to receive funding, Lend a Hand funds will be used for a variety of community food relief programs, including allowing us to continue offering all of our produce on a pay-what-you-can basis for anyone in need of support. Funds will also help us expand our CSA Program to include Solidarity Shares—weekly vegetable shares available at no cost to individuals in the greatest need through our community partners including ThrivAlaska, Golden Towers, and the Senior Center, as well as families at Hunter Elementary School.

We hope you’ll take the time to consider our application! Thank you so much for continuing to support the work that we do!

Sincerely,

Abby Hatfield
Calypso Farm & Ecology Center
1. Please provide your mission statement and a brief summary of your organization’s work.

Founded in 2000, Calypso Farm & Ecology Center’s mission is to encourage local food production and environmental awareness through hands-on education in farming and natural ecosystems. We pursue this mission by offering an array of educational programs for youth and adults including farm field trips, summer camps, farmer training programs, and workshops in farming, gardening, fiber arts, and blacksmithing skills.

2. How does your work align with Co-op Market’s mission and values?

Calypso's work in the community aligns with the Co-op’s mission to provide healthy food and education to the community, as well as their values of sustainability and social responsibility. Our programs provide high-quality, gardening and ecology focused education to youth and adults, connecting them to their food source and instilling a sense of environmental stewardship, while also increasing the accessibility to and the awareness of locally grown food, particularly for low income and socially disadvantaged members of our community.

3. How will the Lend a Hand funds be used?

While we hope to resume some outdoor youth education programs next season, we know we will be continuing our food relief efforts that were expanded in 2020 in response to COVID-19. Lend a Hand funds will be used for a variety of food relief efforts, including allowing us to continue offering all of our produce on a pay-what-you-can basis for anyone in need of support. Funds will also help us expand our CSA Program to include Solidarity Shares—weekly vegetable shares available at no cost to community members in need through ThrivAlaska, Golden Towers, the Senior Center, and Hunter Elementary School.

4. If your organization has received funding from Co-op Market in the past, please describe how this funding supported your organization and mission.

In 2014 and 2017, funding received from the Lend-a-Hand program supported the School Garden Initiative's summer programs at the Hunter Elementary garden. Funds went towards the cost of seeds, garden supplies and staff time for program development, allowing us to keep program costs affordable for all families. In 2020, our youth gardening programs were cancelled due to COVID-19 and Lend a Hand funds were reallocated to our community food relief efforts at the school gardens—100% of the food grown at the gardens was distributed free of charge to those in need, resulting in 800 bags of food throughout the season and over 2,000 lbs of potatoes!
5. What is your elevator pitch? Cashiers usually have about 10 seconds to describe our monthly recipient to a shopper. Please describe your organization and how the funds will be used in 100 words or less.

Calypso Farm & Ecology Center is an educational farm that grows fresh food for the community, serves thousands of community members annually through hands-on, outdoor education programs, and works to increase local food access throughout Fairbanks. When you round-up for Calypso, you'll be helping those in-need access fresh, locally grown food this summer! Calypso is offering all of their produce up to 50% off to anyone in need, as well as working in partnership with local community organizations to identify families in need of a 100% free food option.
2021 LEND A HAND APPLICATION
Deadline: November 30, 2020

OUR MISSION
Co-op Market Grocery & Deli works for health and sustainability by providing healthful foods and products, promoting local suppliers, and offering consumer education in an open, community-centered environment, through a viable business.

OUR VALUES
• Service – We are committed to the joy of true service, putting the needs of others first in a way that touches lives and hearts. Our service is an honor and a privilege.
• Sustainability – We seek to sustain our co-op’s financial health and growth while working toward solutions to economic development that consider the health our community and planet.
• Social Responsibility – We believe that our actions must benefit the global community at large. This means that we promote justice and equity in all of our relationships and are committed to the people who use and work for our business.

Name of Organization: Calypso Farm and Ecology Center
Mailing Address: PO Box 106
City, State, Zip: Ester, AK 99725
Contact Name: Abby Hatfield
Phone: 410-474-6515
Contact Email: abby@calypsofarm.org
Website: calypsofarm.org
Instagram: instagram.com/calypso_farm
Facebook: facebook.com/CalypsoFarmandEcologyCenter

Name and address for check remittance (if it differs from above):
Name: Calypso Farm
Mailing Address: same as above

City, State, Zip: 

Is this a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization? yes If yes, please include certification with application.

Has your organization been a Lend a Hand recipient in the past? yes If so, when? 2014, 2017, 2020

Which month would you prefer us to fundraise for your organization? June, July or August
Note: December is not available. We cannot guarantee your month of choice.
INSTRUCTIONS
Please include a cover letter on your organization's official letterhead with this form.
Attach a separate sheet with answers to the following questions.

1. Please provide your mission statement and a brief summary of your organization's work.
2. How does your work align with Co-op Market’s mission and values?
3. How will the Lend a Hand funds be used?
4. If your organization has received funding from Co-op Market in the past, please describe how this funding supported your organization and mission.
5. What is your elevator pitch? Cashiers usually have about 10 seconds to describe our monthly recipient to a shopper. Please describe your organization and how the funds will be used in 100 words or less.

Applications will be published on our website. For this reason, please include no more than one piece of supplemental information (brochure, flyer, annual report, etc.) with your application.

In December, our Owners will vote to select our 2021 Lend a Hand recipients. If your organization is selected, we will require the following:

• 2 or 3 high resolution photos representing your work. Please include a photo release for any people appearing in your photos.
• A high resolution, printable jpg of your organization’s logo.
• Promotion of the Lend a Hand program via your website, newsletter and/or social media pages.
• Brochures or flyers about your organization if available.

Important Note
We do not donate to individuals, national charities, political candidates or organizations, organizations that advance a particular religious belief, or organizations that discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, disability or status in any other protected group.

Submit applications to the attention of Kristin Summerlin, Marketing & Owner Services Manager:

• via email to marketing@coopmarket.org (preferred). Be sure to include scans of supporting materials.
• by hand delivery to the Customer Service Desk.
• by mail to the following address: Co-op Market Grocery & Deli, 526 Gaffney Road, Fairbanks, AK 99701.

Date: MAR 04 2004

Employer Identification Number:
92-0169368

DLN:
17053045757064

Contact Person:
EDWARD J POMERantz

Contact Telephone Number:
(877) 829-5500

Public Charity Status:
170(b)(1)(A)(vi)

CALYPSEO FARM AND ECOLOGY CENTER
PO BOX 106
ESTER, AK 99725

Dear Applicant:

Our letter dated February 2000, stated you would be exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and you would be treated as a public charity during an advance ruling period.

Based on our records and on the information you submitted, we are pleased to confirm that you are exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Code, and you are classified as a public charity under the Code section listed in the heading of this letter.

Publication 557, Tax-Exempt Status for Your Organization, provides detailed information about your rights and responsibilities as an exempt organization. You may request a copy by calling the toll-free number for forms, (800) 829-3676. Information is also available on our Internet Web Site at www.irs.gov.

If you have general questions about exempt organizations, please call our toll-free number shown in the heading between 8:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. Eastern time.

Please keep this letter in your permanent records.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Lois G. Lerner
Director, Exempt Organizations
Rulings and Agreements