

Calypso Farm & Ecology Center

2023 Lend a Hand Application

1. ***Please provide your mission statement and a brief summary of your organization's work.***
Founded in 2000, Calypso's mission is to encourage local food production and environmental awareness through hands-on education in farming and natural ecosystems. We pursue our mission by offering an array of educational programs for all ages and growing fresh food for the community.
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 accessibility and awareness of locally grown food, particularly for low income and socially disadvantaged community members.
3. ***How will the Lend a Hand funds be used?***
Funds will support our ability to donate Vegetable Shares each week during the growing season to seniors, families and other individuals in need. Funds will also support Pay What You Can discounts on CSA shares and all fresh food sold at the Southside Community Farmers Market, helping our friends and neighbors access healthy food from local sources.
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 Calypso's youth education programs at the Hunter Elementary Garden. In 2020, Lend a Hand funds were reallocated to community food relief through the school gardens. In 2022, funds supported our Pay What You Can discount system.
5. ***What is your elevator pitch?***
Calypso Farm & Ecology Center is an educational farm that grows fresh food for the community and offers hands-on education programs for all ages. When you round-up for Calypso, you'll be directly supporting their ability to offer need-based discounts on fresh vegetables, increasing access to locally grown food for those who need it most in the Fairbanks community!