

1. Chris Bottoms

2. Owner Number 444515031027

3. Employers, titles, and dates of positions held during the last five years

- Certified Nurse-Midwife with Baby and Company Knoxville, January 2017-current
- Certified Nurse-Midwife with Lisa Ross Birth and Women's Center, 2012-2016

4. Education

- BA in English Literature from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, 2000
- BS in Nursing from Emory University, 2005
- MS in Nursing from Emory University, 2007

5. Describe your involvement in community, cooperatives, or small community-minded business

I became a member of the co-op in 1997 when it was the Knoxville Community Food Cooperative located on North Broadway and was an employee from 1998 until 2003. It was one of the most pivotal experiences of my life, changing me for the better: my first exposure to a cooperative business, natural foods, and wellness. I met my husband there, also an employee, and had my eyes opened to my future career of midwifery. The palpable sense of community that I experienced in that space is still what I feel today walking into our beautiful location on Central. Through my work as a midwife, I have worked for small, out-of-hospital birth centers with strong missions to improve access to excellent healthcare for women and their families in our community.

6. Why do you want to serve on the Board of Directors?

I was appointed to the TRM Board of Directors in 2015, serving initially on the Member Linkage Committee and then beginning in 2016 in the role of Vice Chair. It would be a privilege to continue to give my time and energy to an organization that has meant so much to me personally. I feel tremendous passion about the work of our cooperative and want to support our continued excellence through service as a director; this excellence can be seen in daily shopping interactions, our model employment practices, our commitment to community work with programs like Nourishing Change, and our End Goals to create and nourish a healthier environment, people, and community. I feel that it is a tremendously exciting time to be a board member, as we dream big about where the co-op will go.

7. What experience do you have with TRM, and what role do you think it will play in Tennessee's future?

I have been a shopper, member-owner, volunteer, employee, and director with TRM (not to mention super-fan!), and I plan to continue to be involved with the cooperative, in whatever ways I can that would most benefit the co-op.

As we move forward, I envision the co-op to continue to be an outstanding example of cooperative business in our local community and beyond. I support our vision of expanding our cooperative to increase access to food co-ops in Tennessee and throughout our bioregion.

8. What experience, occupational skills, or perspective will you bring to the board?

I believe that my years and layers of involvement with TRM bring continuity from our past experiences to our present and give me tremendous confidence in our continued growth and success. Although the processes of board work were new to me, I have soaked up the tremendous investment of continuing education provided by TRM to enhance my leadership skills, cooperative group process abilities, as well as my understanding of our system of governance. I believe that my communication skills and ability to connect with others is helpful in my work as a board member, as we seek to understand the values and vision of our owners through member linkage. I look forward to helping create more opportunities to listen to members and also to share the work that the board has been doing.

9. Which of the 10 cooperative values resonates with you most and why?

The cooperative value of "democracy" resonates with me deeply. The heart of our cooperative is its democratic control, setting it apart from corporate entities. We are open and welcoming to everyone, and our business exists to serve our members. With this understanding, I take my responsibility as a director of stewardship of our co-op very seriously and want to be able to represent our members' needs and work to ensure our continued, expanding growth and success.