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CREATING AN ECONOMY THAT WORKS FOR ALL

Creating Jobs. Transforming Communities.

2013

**Cincinnati
Union Cooperative
Initiative**

www.cincinnatiunioncoop.org

It's Possible: An Economy that Works for All

Mondragon Cooperatives are showing us how. During the last 57 years, the Mondragon cooperative network has transformed a war torn, devastated, region of Spain rife with poverty and unemployment into thriving, vibrant, prosperous communities.

Mondragon is the world's largest worker-owned industrial cooperative. They are the leading industrial group in the Basque region and are ranked tenth in Spain. With 80,000 personnel, they have a presence in 70 countries and generated sales of more than \$24 billion in 2012. Mondragon was recently awarded the *2013 Financial Times Boldness in Business* award.

For over five decades, Mondragon's mission has been to generate wealth for society through business development and job creation under the "one worker, one vote" cooperative framework. Where labor is sovereign and capital, while essential, is subordinate to sustainable job creation.

A Historic Partnership: Inspires a New USA Business Model

This transformative model has come to the United States. The United Steelworkers and Mondragon have established a partnership that will create jobs and transform communities right here in the United States. This partnership fosters the creation and support of union cooperatives in this country.

Union Cooperative:

A Union Cooperative is a for-profit business which is owned and directed by workers. This business model utilizes the collective bargaining process and is guided by the core principles of sustainability, solidarity, accountability, and community.



Cincinnati Union Cooperative Initiative

We are non-profit who partners with individuals and organizations to develop union cooperatives. These worker-owned businesses provide family-sustaining jobs and create an economy that works for all.

CUCI



AN ECONOMY THAT WORKS FOR ALL

2013 Highlights



Our Harvest created ten jobs, obtained a substantial loan for expansion, and became the site for Cincinnati State's Sustainable Agricultural Management practicum.

www.ourharvest.coop



CUCI continued to support Renting Partnerships which promotes an innovative way for people renting affordable housing to build community and equity.

www.rentingpartnerships.org



CUCI and the Sarah Center began efforts to complete a feasibility study for a jewelry making cooperative. The Sarah Center is a non-profit that utilizes jewelry making, health & wellness programs, and entrepreneurial education to encourage success and promote the well being of women on the margins.

Looking Forward to . . .

CUCI is excited to be part of the growing movement to develop union cooperatives in the United States. This business structure that combines the benefits of worker ownership, workplace democracy and the strengths of organized labor has the potential to truly create an economy that works for all.

. . . 2014



Sustainergy is prepared to launch with three initial jobs and is active in establishing PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) in Cincinnati. PACE provides financing opportunities to help jump start commercial energy retrofits - reducing utility cost and carbon emissions. www.sustainergy.coop



CUCI continued efforts to attract Danobat Group Railway Division, a Mondragon cooperative, to expand to Cincinnati and create advanced manufacturing jobs.



In 2013 Yucky Cookies and CUCI explored the creation of a union cooperative to bake and distribute cookies from proprietary recipes made with whole fruit and vegetables. Yucky Cookies has demonstrated market appeal in premium NYC gourmet outlets.



CUCI initiated feasibility study for worker owned grocery stores in local food deserts.