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September 22, 2014

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Central Co-op presents *Food for Change* a New Film about the Social and Economic Power of Food Co-ops

When: Thursday, October 16 at 7pm
Where: Broadway Performance Hall (1625 Broadway, Seattle, WA 98122)
Tickets: \$5 (available at the door, or in advance at Central Co-op)

Seattle, WA: Central Co-op, Capitol Hill's community-owned grocery store, will present a screening of the new film, *Food for Change* which examines the growth of independent, community-owned food co-operatives in America, and their unique historic place in our economic and political landscape. This documentary, by filmmaker Steve Alves, tells the story of the co-op movement through a combination of interviews, rare archival footage, and commentary by co-op leaders and historians. The screening will be followed by a panel discussion about the role consumer cooperatives can play in shaping the economy of our region. Panelists will include the filmmaker, and Art Sherwood the David Cole Professor of Entrepreneurship, College of Business and Economics at Western Washington University. The panel will be moderated by Central Co-op's General Manager Dan Arnett.

In the 20th century, cooperatives were seen as the middle path between Wall Street and Socialism. "Food Co-ops were a byproduct of the Great Depression," says co-op historian David Thompson, who is featured in *Food for Change*. "The disparity in wealth between the haves and the don't-haves was the spark that ignited co-ops. As co-ops grew, they restored hope to millions of Americans who began to gain some economic control over their lives and their communities just as co-ops are doing today."

As Central Co-op celebrates its 36th year, the community organization is looking to its future and the future of the cooperative movement in the Pacific Northwest. In 2013, the International Cooperative Alliance laid down the "Blueprint for a Cooperative Decade" with the aims that by 2020, the cooperative model will be: the acknowledged leader in economic, social and environmental sustainability; the economic model preferred by communities; and the fastest growing form of enterprise in the world. *Food for Change* explores how food cooperatives are working toward those goals in the United States. "Today we're experiencing a renaissance of American food co-ops," says Sean Doyle, General Manager of the Seward Co-op. "These are not marginal enterprises—they are successful and dynamic businesses that are revitalizing communities across the United States. People are once again taking more control over the economic forces in their lives."

The screening and panel discussion will take place on Central Co-op's 36th anniversary (October 16) and is open to everyone. There is a \$5 suggested donation at the door, or in advance at Central Co-op. Proceeds will be donated to the Twin Pines Cooperative Foundation which offers funding to support the development of new co-ops.

About Central Co-op: Central Co-op is a member-owned, full-service, cooperative grocery store located at the top of Seattle's Capitol Hill. Dedicated to sustainable practices and the Washington food economy. Open to everyone, seven days a week. www.centralcoop.coop

About the Filmmaker: Steve Alves is an award-winning documentary filmmaker based in western Massachusetts. Among his documentaries is Talking to the Wall: The Story of an American Bargain, about one New England town's battle against the world's largest retailer. www.stevesfilms.com

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