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Notes from editor (not for publication):

HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

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Brattleboro Food Co-op donates \$19,500 to Foodworks

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TEXT BODY:

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The Brattleboro Food Co-op recently donated \$19,500 to Foodworks, the food shelf program of Groundworks Collaborative, using unredeemed and proactively donated shareholder patronage dividends from this year's distribution.

The co-op returns a share of its profits to its shareholders in the form of patronage dividends in years when it is financially feasible. Shareholders who did not redeem their dividend by June 30 had it automatically directed to this donation; others chose to

12 give their dividend to Foodworks proactively. Together, these
13 contributions total \$19,500 for Foodworks.

14 Foodworks, designed as a welcoming neighborhood
15 grocery store at 141 Canal St., serves nearly 5,000 individuals
16 annually, including more than 1,200 children, through more than
17 12,000 yearly shopping transactions.

18 The program, which is the most heavily utilized food
19 shelf in the region, rescues and redistributes over \$540,000 worth
20 of food from area grocery stores each year and purchases food at
21 wholesale prices through a partnership with the Vermont
22 Foodbank, offering customers a free choice model of shopping.

23 Foodworks is open to anyone who could use assistance
24 putting food on the table, with no pre-registration or income
25 verification required, according to [groundworksvt.org/foodworks-](https://groundworksvt.org/foodworks-narrative)
26 [narrative](https://groundworksvt.org/foodworks-narrative).

27 “At the Brattleboro Food Co-op, we believe that
28 nourishing our community extends beyond the walls of our
29 store,” said General Manager Emilee Hobbs in a news release.
30 “Thanks to the generosity of our shareholders who chose to
31 donate their patronage dividends, we are proud to support
32 Foodworks and help ensure our neighbors continue to have
33 access to healthy food and the resources they need. Together,
34 we’re strengthening our community through the power of
35 cooperation and shared generosity.”

36 In addition to supporting hundreds of local vendors as a
37 part of regular business, through its Round Up program Co-op
38 shoppers can round up their purchases to the nearest dollar at
39 checkout, with proceeds directed to Groundworks Collaborative
40 each month along with another nonprofit.

41 The Co-op says it contributes more than \$8,000 annually
42 in community donations and contributions to area nonprofits,
43 and its Community Partner Program offers a 5% shopping
44 discount to volunteers at partner organizations like Groundworks,
45 recognizing the time and care they give back to the region.

46 “The Brattleboro Food Co-op has long been an
47 extraordinary partner in our work to ensure that everyone in our
48 community has access to nutritious food with dignity,”
49 saidGroundworks CollaborativeExecutive DirectorLibby Bennett.
50 “This generous gift reflects the power of community coming
51 together to care for one another. Every patronage dividend
52 donated will help stock our shelves, provide healthy food
53 choices, and ensure that thousands of our neighbors have access
54 to the nourishment they need.”

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