

GRAIN TRAIN BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Candidate Statements 2026

MARGARET MCBRIDE

EDUCATION: BA in Sociology



Why do you want to serve on the Board of Directors of Grain Train Co-op?

I LOVE Grain Train. The staff, the customers, the entire vibe! Since becoming a parent, I have become increasingly interested in/aware of our food supply chains and the environmental impacts of current systems. At Grain Train, I have found a community that prioritizes our region's health and economic success, and would love to contribute to that mission. I am always working to help my community with energy and ideas and I would be honored to serve on this board.

What are you passionate about? How could we see that passion in action in your day-to-day life?

I am passionate about people and food! Luckily I am the Lead Purchasing Agent for American Spoon so I get to talk to incredible farmers and artisans around Michigan about their incredible endeavors and products.

Describe an experience where you worked on a team. What did you offer the team? How did you compromise for the team's benefit?

Before I lived in Petoskey, I directed all the volunteer coordinators for (8) different types of Shelters in Baltimore, MD. Every shelter had very different needs. For example, one was a day shelter that served meals while (3) others were family shelters of varying size that allowed full families to remain together. This led to a vast variety of needs. I depended on the thoughts of my staff and volunteers to make the best choices for the organization as a whole. Prior to that experience, I worked as the Assistant Director to a team of hundreds to produce and manage large-scale events on the national mall, working across cultural and language barriers to build trust and execute complex events along strict timelines and city regulations.

Do you have other experiences that you see as being related to the work of the Board?

I worked on a board in Dalian, China to assist with children who were suffering from displacement. In Baltimore, I served on the board of Women who Care, an active group of women who raised money and supplies for various community organizations. These experiences allowed for me to meet incredible people while making an actual impact on my community. I truly think I can help Petoskey continue to grow through service and the Grain Train is a great place to start!

Is there anything else you'd like to tell us?

I have an extensive background in logistics and nonprofits. This coupled with my excitement for food and the Grain Train would make me an excellent addition to the board.