



Meet One Of The Members Of  
Your Co-op's Board Of Directors

## Corinna Batora

By Charly Markwart

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If you've ever spoken to HomeWorks District 5 Director Corinna Batora, you probably walked away feeling like you'd known her for years. It could be her past experience running a bed and breakfast, and her easy way of turning strangers into friends. Or perhaps it's the time she has spent teaching others as a training developer for the State of Michigan. More than likely, though, it's just her genuine heart for people shining through.

"I love interacting with people," said Batora. "There's always so much to learn from everyone you come in contact with, and so many opportunities to get to know the people around you. I like to take advantage of all of those. I just enjoy being with people."

That passion for people flows seamlessly into her service on the HomeWorks board of directors, to which she was elected in 2016.

"I'm very honored to be a member of the board," she said. "It means my members trust me to represent them and their interests. I'd like to have them think of me as someone who can represent them well, someone who hears them and someone who can be relied upon to do the right thing."

Batora's involvement with the cooperative originated in 1997, when she and her husband of 25 years, Tom, built their home on HomeWorks lines in rural Elsie, where they still live with their 15-year-old son, Anthony. Soon, they began attending their district meetings, and when the position of district secretary opened up, Corinna ran and was elected. Four years later, she was elected District 5 Director.

"The more I learned about the co-op, the more pleased I was to be a part of it," she said.

Reflective and insightful, Batora often speaks of her gratitude for the opportunity to be associated with an organization built by and for its members.

"A cooperative is so different from any other kind of business," she said. "A co-op is owned by its members, and they have a voice in what we do. As a board, we try to make the best decisions we can to benefit all of our members. That's how we run our business."

Helping to run that business, she says, has presented her with the challenge of a steep learning curve, but she loves every second of it.

"I'm reading and learning every night so I can be the best director I can be and represent my members well," she said.

Outside of her work on the board and her job with the State of Michigan, where she currently works as the employee development manager for the department of procurement, Batora enjoys cooking, decorating, music, boating and, most importantly, spending time with her family and friends.

"I try to spend as much time as I can with them," she says, "because they're not going to be around forever, and you need to cherish every moment you can." ■

On your board of directors, Corinna represents District 5, which is Gratiot and Saginaw counties, and Bloomer, Crystal, and Evergreen townships in Montcalm County. She was elected to the board in 2016. For more on Corinna, including video of our interview with her, go to <http://bit.ly/2eUHXwx>