

# Sponsorship Proposal

**DASCHWorks x Red River Co-op**



Gabriella Nanassy  
Development Consultant

Dear Red River Co-op Team,

Through your ongoing commitment to leadership and partnership with the DASCH Foundation, individuals with intellectual disabilities in Winnipeg are experiencing greater independence and opportunity. Now, we believe there is a next step to deepen this impact and build on it together.

Through DASCHWorks, individuals with intellectual disabilities are gaining the skills, confidence, and support they need to enter the workforce. For many participants, employment is the next building block toward earning their own income, building a routine, and contributing meaningfully to their community. We would love to explore a deeper partnership with Red River Co-op to launch and sustain a **DASCHWorks Culinary Training Program**. A workforce initiative that aligns directly with Red River Co-op's values.

Red River Co-op's strong commitment to people-first values and local impact makes it a natural fit for DASCHWorks. In particular, Co-op's connection to food, retail, and community-based services aligns very closely with an emerging opportunity within our programming.

As outlined in the attached proposal below, DASCHWorks is seeking support to reintroduce and sustain a formal culinary training program that would open new career pathways for participants interested in food service and hospitality. Sponsorship funding would support an instructor, access to a kitchen, and food supplies. This will allow participants to gain hands-on, job-ready experience in a professional setting. This program was previously offered on a limited basis but could not be sustained without long-term funding.

Through this partnership, Red River Co-op would support meaningful opportunities for community recognition, employee engagement, and authentic storytelling rooted in local impact.

I look forward to discussing this proposal further and explore how we can continue working together to advance inclusive employment in Manitoba.

Thank you for your continued support and time.

Best,

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## Opportunity Overview

We are seeking support to reintroduce and sustain a formal Culinary Training Program that would create new employment pathways for participants interested in food service, grocery retail, and hospitality.

While this program was previously offered on a limited basis and showed strong promise, it could not be sustained without long-term funding. With the partnership from Red River Co-op, we are ready to relaunch it in a structured and sustainable way.

The Culinary Training Program would provide hands-on food preparation experience in a professional kitchen environment. Participants would develop practical culinary skills, workplace readiness, and confidence while preparing meals in a real-world setting.

This initiative establishes a very clear and practical pathway from training to experience to employment, helping participants be confident in entry-level roles within food service and retail environments.

## Why This Aligns with Red River Co-op

This partnership aligns closely with Red River Co-op's key audiences and stakeholders.

### Customers and Co-op Members

Your customers value ethical business practices, local investment, and community leadership. Supporting inclusive employment reinforces Co-op's reputation as a people-first organization that acts on its values.

### Employees and Job Seekers

Inclusive hiring strengthens employee pride and retention. A partnership with DASCHWorks positions Red River Co-op as an employer of choice for individuals who value inclusive and supportive workplaces.

### Community and Media Stakeholders

Inclusive employment initiatives resonate strongly with local media, community organizations, and advocacy groups. This partnership creates opportunities for extremely positive storytelling that's rooted in real, local impact.

### Your funding would support:

- Hiring a dedicated culinary instructor with industry experience
- Renting access to a commercial kitchen
- Purchasing food, equipment, and supplies for training sessions

During previous offerings, meals prepared by participants were available for purchase by staff at a low cost, creating a real-world work experience while also building pride and motivation among participants.



## Activation & Recognition Opportunities

As part of this partnership, Red River Co-op would be recognized as the Presenting Sponsor of the DASCHWorks Culinary Training Program. Recognition would focus on authentic community impact and shared values rather than promotional branding. Opportunities would include acknowledgment in program materials and communications, storytelling that shows participant progress and outcomes, and potential involvement through employee engagement opportunities such as guest speaking or mentorship. Depending on who shares.

Red River Co-op would also be recognized as an Inclusive Employment Partner of DASCHWorks through visible acknowledgment at relevant community initiatives and events. This recognition would demonstrate leadership in inclusive workforce development while reinforcing Co-op's longstanding commitment to community impact.

## Impact of Support & Value Exchange

With enough funding and support, DASCHWorks can offer a culinary training program each year that sets up participants with the skills and experience needed for entry-level food service and retail food roles.

In return, Red River Co-op's sponsorship investment enables the sustainability and growth of a culinary workforce pathway that directly supports employment outcomes within the food sector. Together, we can create lasting employment opportunities while strengthening the local workforce and community.

DASCHWorks Provides	Red River Co-op Provides
Program delivery and participant support	Financial sponsorship to sustain the culinary program
Skills training aligned with food industry needs	Leadership support for inclusive workforce development
Ongoing relationship management	A pathway to future employment opportunities



Together, DASCHWorks and Red River Co-op can create new pathways to employment while strengthening the local workforce. We hope to get the opportunity to meet and discuss how this partnership could move forward. Thank you.