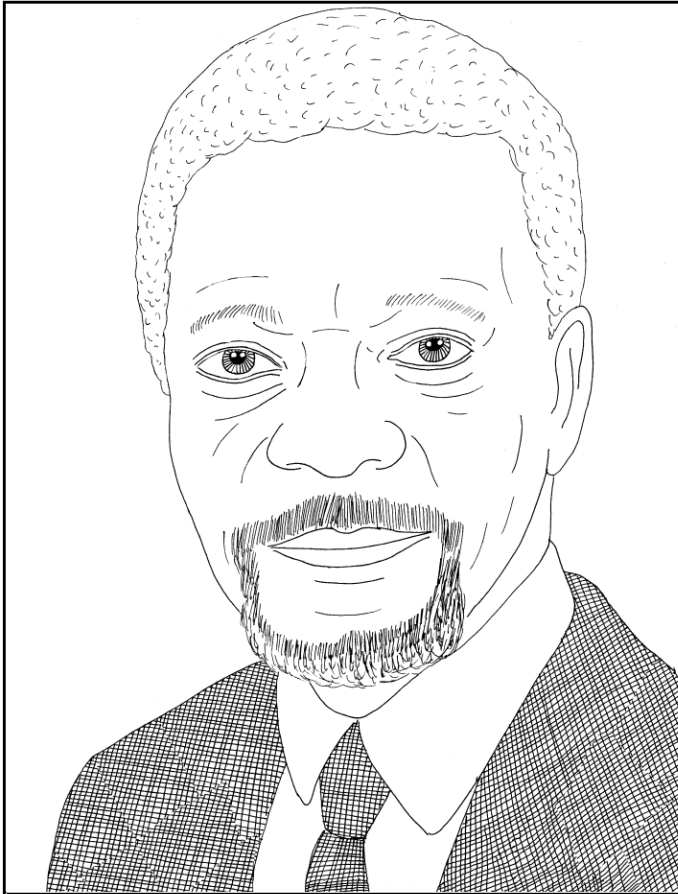# CO-OP DAY
FIRST SATURDAY IN JULY

"Founded on the principles of private initiative, entrepreneurship and self-employment, underpinned by the values of democracy, equality and solidarity, the co-operative movement can help pave the way to a more just and inclusive economic order."   ~ Kofi Annan

For most people, "CoOp" brings to mind a local health food store which is owned and run by its members. This is only one example of a cooperative. Cooperatives - community or employee owned businesses or groups - can be formed for businesses of any kind, including cooperative banks (called credit unions), insurance and health care companies, day care, agricultural distribution and housing co-ops. Cooperatives are much more popular than most people realize -- almost a third of American farmers' products are marketed through cooperatives, half of the electricity in rural areas comes from rural electric cooperatives and more than 70 million Americans use credit unions! More than 1/2 million American workers have taken control of their lives and economic choices by being part of employee-owned businesses.

The cooperative movement is growing through-out the world. The International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) was formed in 1895 - today it has more than 200 participating organizations with over 800 million members in 100 countries!

CoOp Day has been celebrated on the first Saturday in July since 1927 to promote cooperatives as an important community-building economic model. Since 1930, October has been observed as National Co-Op Month.

Do One Thing for a Better World

1. Learn more about co-ops.
2. Join or start a co-op in your community
3. Support organizations that promote the cooperative movement

Organizations Promoting CoOps

- Center for Cooperatives (uwcc.wisc.edu)
- Committee for the Promotion & Advancement of Cooperatives (copacgva.org)
- Co-Op Month (co-opmonth.coop)
- International Cooperative Alliance (coop.org)