

## Center for Family Life/SCO Family of Services Cooperative Development Program (CDP)



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The Center for Family Life, a program of SCO Family of Services started the *Worker Cooperative Development Program* in 2006 to meet the unique employment needs of Sunset Park, a densely populated, multi-ethnic, low-income neighborhood in South Brooklyn. Acting as an incubator of worker cooperatives – businesses maximize the potential of members’ skills – the program assists members in the creation of cooperatives that will lead to long-term, stable jobs and a fair wage within a work environment that upholds the values of equity, dignity, and mutual respect for all workers. The Center helps coordinate the formation and organization of each cooperative, including business consultation and comprehensive support services offered by our bilingual program staff. Each cooperative develops an internal leadership structure, the members increasingly assume responsibility for business management, and each cooperative gradually aims to evolve into a fully independent enterprise.



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**Si Se Puede! Women’s Cooperative, We Can Do It! Inc.** was launched in Sunset Park, Brooklyn during the summer of 2006. With the support of the Center for Family Life (CFL), 15 founding members came together to conceptualize, plan and launch a women-owned, women-run business. After reviewing research on housecleaning, women-run businesses and evaluating the groups’ strengths and skills, participants decided to begin as a cooperative housecleaning business. Today the coop has 80+ members and continues to grow each year due to demand from their clientele. Members have opportunities to assume leadership roles, and all decisions about the structure of the business are made democratically. The cooperative is designed to **create living wage jobs** that will be carried out in a **safe and healthy environment**, and to promote **social supports and educational opportunities** for the members. Since 2016, the cooperative has been fully independent from CFL.



p: 917-463-0399  
w: [beyondcare.coop](http://beyondcare.coop)  
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**Beyond Care Child Care Cooperative, Inc.** is a socially responsible cooperative business owned and run by women. It was launched in Sunset Park, Brooklyn in June 2008 by 19 immigrant women and with the support of the Center for Family Life. Today, Beyond Care has 40 members who offer Full Time, Part Time and Rapid Care services to New York City families and organizations. The members are committed to providing child care that goes beyond basic: while any child care provider should keep children safe, Beyond Care members strive to educate and engage children in ways that nurture and stimulate their development. Since early 2017, Beyond Care has operated independently from CFL.

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**Émigré Gourmet Cooking Collective** is based in Sunset Park, Brooklyn. The members have been preparing the cuisines of their homelands since childhood. They specialize in the cuisines of Latin America, the Caribbean, South Asia and the Middle East. The services offered by the collective include catering, cooking lessons and market tours. The members are paid the full amount charged to the customer; there is no fee for their participation in the collective. Furthermore, the members in the collective have been supported to develop literacy skills and to learn about the technology used to promote their business, providing them with tools that they can use to start businesses and earn a fair wage now and in the future.



**p: 718- 687-1978**  
**w: [goldensteps.coop](http://goldensteps.coop)**  
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**Golden Steps Cooperative** provides non-medical companionship care to seniors. They are a cooperative of well-trained home companions that care for seniors as they were family, handling their daily non-medical tasks and helping them to get around so that they can continue to live safely at home and enjoy their lives to the fullest. The cooperative business is run by women in the Sunset Park, Brooklyn community. The cooperative was launched by the worker-owners in June 2011 with the support of the Center for Family Life's Worker Cooperative Development Program. All of the 7 members make decisions about the business collectively and are dedicated to receiving training on an on-going basis to continue developing their skills as professional companions for their clients.

**TRUSTY AMIGOS**  
Dog Walking & Pet Care Co-op



**p: 718- 618-5474**  
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**Trusty Amigos** is a distinguished dog walking and pet care business. The name represents members' commitment to being reliable, loyal amigos to clients, pets and fellow workers. Trusty Amigos is a cooperative business where the walkers are the owners of the company. Members strive to bring enthusiasm, professionalism and dignity as dog walking and pet-care professionals. Trusty Amigos' democratic cooperative structure enhances our work with animals, as we are dedicated to excellent communication, teamwork and professional development.

## Center for Family Life/SCO Family of Services Cooperative Development Program (CDP)



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**e: info@sunsetscholars.coop**



**p: 718-475-2039**  
**w: unitedhandymen.coop**  
**e: info@unitedhandymen.coop**



**p: 646-661-5650**  
**w: maharlikacleaning.coop**  
**e: info@maharlikacleaning.coop**

**Sunset Scholars** is a diverse group of talented tutors—committed high school and college students, experienced tutors and teachers and bilingual speakers—who are passionate about teaching different academic subjects. As a cooperative we are personally invested in the academic success of the students in our community as well as in providing meaningful work for our members. Sunset Scholars goal is to provide quality affordable tutoring. We are committed to community development through educating youth. We promise to reach out to parents and students to help create a better today and a brighter tomorrow.

**United Handymen** is a worker-owned home improvement business performing a wide range of repair, renovation and installation services for neighbors in Brooklyn and across the five boroughs. Tired of abusive treatment and poor pay, the members came together with a dream of owning their own business. They launched United Handymen in October 2015. Now they are fully licensed and insured, performing repair services directly for their customers. “We are proud to be a part of this cooperative because we recognize the sacrifices we have made to be here. We aim to better ourselves as we grow, strengthen and share the knowledge and skills of each one of our members. We are all owners, and we are here to support one another”

**Maharlika Cleaning** is committed to providing high quality, eco-friendly office cleaning services while creating stable and decent jobs through promotion of democratic decision-making, education and living wages. We are the first Filipino migrant and labor trafficking survivor-owned business in the United States: *Maharlika* means “power” and “precious” in Tagalog, our language in the Philippines. Our name embodies our commitment to building power collectively to help each other, our community and our clients, and our belief that all people are precious and important.

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**Alianza CUSP** is a network of worker cooperatives - four socially responsible and worker-owned businesses based in Sunset Park, Brooklyn. Sunset Scholars, Trusty Amigos, Beyond Care and Golden Steps are members of CUSP.

**w: [cusp.coop](http://cusp.coop)**  
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**Brightly Cleaning** is a group of worker-owned businesses that provide certified cleaning professionals. We pride ourselves in creating a bright and fresh environment for our clients. As both workers and owners of our business we have a special interest in providing the best service possible. The first Brightly Cooperative was launched in Staten Island in June 2017. In fall 2017 a sister cooperative will starting under the same. Brightly is the first social franchise of worker-owned cleaning cooperatives in the country.

**p: 347-286-4134**  
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**NannyBee** of Upper Manhattan is the first cooperative in a new network of worker-owned childcare businesses united by a common brand. NannyBee's mission is to care for and educate children, understanding that they are important and valuable. The members of NannyBee strive to prepare children to become healthy, educated and just adults, advancing the collective well-being of families and the community. After 9 months of start-up preparations, the nannies of NannyBee are aiming to formally launch their business in October 2017.

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