

The co-op housing movement was deeply saddened to learn that Mark Goldblatt, visionary and activist, had died. He was 62.

Mark had been an inspirational leader in the co-op housing movement for the last five decades. In fact he was one of the founders of this movement.

Mark worked with other small community groups to start the Co-operative Housing Federation of Toronto (CHFT) when he was in his early 20's. Much of CHFT's member services work is based on Mark's early efforts. He was an organizer who believed in leaving the office and meeting and helping members. He believed in people and saw their potential. He knew co-ops were not perfect and enjoyed the challenge of helping them to get back on track. He worked on development and member services at CHFT.

He was involved in every lobby to create co-op housing and coined the phrase, "Raise the Roof for Co-op Housing". He also was involved in negotiating every major federal housing program.

He helped start the Co-op Housing Association of Ontario, Rooftops Canada, Colandco, numerous co-ops in Toronto and Ottawa. He provided support and encouragement to help found federations and resource groups. He worked at CHFT, CHF Canada, and the Canadian Co-operative Association. He volunteered in numerous organizations. He also was an honorary member of both CHFT and CHF Canada.

Mark initiated the first public housing conversion to a non profit housing co-operative. He did the initial, ground breaking work on the Atkinson Housing Co-op. There was no funding for his time. He was living in Ottawa and he took the bus from Ottawa to Toronto to attend the board meetings.

Mark was a visionary who was a man of the people. He will be missed by all who knew him. His work will continue to impact people's lives.