



Cooperative Fund of New England

CFNE News
Summer 2019

Financing Cooperatives since 1975 www.coopfund.coop

Our Mission

We work for economic, social, and racial justice by advancing community-based, cooperative, and democratically owned or managed enterprises with a preference for assisting cooperatives in low-income communities by:

- providing financial products at reasonable rates
- developing business skills
- offering an investment opportunity that promotes socially conscious enterprise

What Is a Cooperative?

A cooperative is an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly owned and democratically controlled enterprise.

Values

Cooperatives are based on the values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity, and solidarity.

Principles

Cooperatives embrace the principles of voluntary open ownership, democratic owner control, owner economic participation, autonomy and independence, education, training and information, cooperation among cooperatives, and concern for community.

Visit us on line at

www.coopfund.coop

to find links to our borrowers, access our loan application, download our prospectus, and to learn more about cooperatives.

**Our mailing address is
PO.Box 3413, Amherst, MA 01004**

A New Executive Director: What's in the Future for CFNE?



"I am honored by the Board's appointment to this role. CFNE is a critical part of the rapidly growing co-op ecosystem. I am excited to work with all our partners to increase the relevance of cooperative enterprise for all in our region."

Micha Josephy

The Board of Trustees is pleased to announce that as of June 1, 2019 Micha Josephy is leading CFNE as our new Executive Director.

CFNE has a strong staff team of 6 people. The organization was led by Micha Josephy and Dorian Gregory as Interim Co-Directors after Rebecca Dunn's retirement in February. Dorian has stepped into the new role of Deputy Director, supporting CFNE's loan program and other work.

"After an extensive process and national search, we found the perfect candidate right in our own organization," said Board President Marilyn Scholl.

In making a unanimous recommendation to the board, the search committee emphasized these qualities that Micha will bring to the ED role: a clear vision for the future of CFNE, concrete plans for the next stage of the transition, awareness of professional development opportunities throughout the organization, and a long, successful relationship with CFNE as Program Manager and Interim Co-Director.

Loans Approved and Funded

By June 1, 2019, CFNE had made 35 loans totaling over \$2.7 million this year, ranging in size from \$5,000 to \$700,000. We also passed a milestone: CFNE has now made over 1,000 loans!

The need for financing continues to grow across the region as co-op businesses expand to meet the diverse economic needs of New England. The cooperative principle of co-ops cooperating also guides our work, as we forge partnerships with other CDFI lenders to provide capital where it is needed.

This spring we partnered with other co-op lenders, including Shared Capital, LEAF, and The Working World, along with Reinvestment Fund, to provide a bridge loan to Cooperative Home Care Associates of New York. CHCANY is the largest worker-owned cooperative in the country, employing 2,000 staff that provide quality home care to clients by providing quality jobs for direct-care workers.

In Maine, we've partnered with CEI and LISC to finance the construction of Blue Hill Food Co-op's new store, and in Ver-

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The Blue Hill Food Co-op in Blue Hill, ME, received a loan for expansion.



TimberHomes in Montpelier, VT, used loan funds to construct a new workshop.

Never in my nine years of working for CFNE have our growth opportunities been so clear. Co-op advocates are winning supportive public policy at the federal and state level. New partnerships and deeper alignment with existing partners are growing from Maine to Connecticut and beyond. With expanded technical assistance capacity, a highly skilled board supporting our work, and a strong foundation laid by our past Executive Director, Rebecca Dunn, we have many pieces in place to capitalize on these opportunities. As I step into CFNE's Executive Director role, I am honored and excited to strengthen our internal infrastructure and external collaborations to foster CFNE and co-op ecosystem growth.

I want to thank everyone who encouraged me on this path, from my past co-op mates at the Oberlin Student Cooperative Association, NASCO, and Boston Community Cooperatives, to my CFNE co-workers and board members, investors, borrowers, and co-op development partners over the last nine years. We wouldn't be in this position without all of you. I'm looking forward to this next stage, in partnership together!

Micha Josephy

FROM THE BOARD

With great enthusiasm, we welcome Micha Josephy to be the next CFNE Executive Director! The Search committee's thorough work led to a unanimous decision to select Micha as the very best candidate to lead CFNE into our next era. We are extremely grateful to Dorian Gregory, who along with Micha served very capably as Interim Co-Director.

The board has been developing a list of questions to guide future board conversations. We look forward to working with Micha and the rest of our wonderful staff to strategize how we can more fully achieve our mission and expand CFNE's impact.

In other news, the Board appointed Lucas Turner-Owens, Fund Manager with the Boston Ujima Project, to fill a board vacancy.

Please contact me at marilynscholl@gmail.com with your questions, feedback and suggestions.

Marilyn Scholl, Board President

Staff News

On March 1, 2019, Carolyn Edsell-Vetter joined us as CFNE's Business Support and Outreach Officer. Based in the Boston area, she works with other staff across New England, providing assistance to our borrowers and connecting them to other business support services. With Carolyn focusing on building deeper relationships across the industry, CFNE will continue to be a vibrant part of developing the cooperative ecosystem.

Please visit <https://www.cooperativefund.org/content/careers> to learn about current job openings.



Board News

Lucas Turner-Owens joins the Board

At its March meeting, the Board of Directors appointed Lucas Turner-Owens to fill a vacancy on the board. Lucas is Fund Manager for the Boston Ujima Project, leading the development of the Ujima Capital Fund. He has been a senior analyst with Next Street Financial, a Loan Officer and Fund Manager with Cooperation DC, and a public policy analyst with Operation HOPE in Washington, DC. Lucas is "passionate about the arts and the food industry." He is also passionate about cooperatives. Welcome, Lucas!



Baby on board!

Board member Duke Bouchard has welcomed a new member into his household: Cameron Ryan, born at 5:38 a.m. on Tuesday, May 28th. Welcome, Cameron!



Investor Testimony: Sarah Meredith

I first learned of CFNE in 2003 from Coop America's [now Green America] directory of co-op friendly organizations. I was looking for ways to invest in accordance with our principles and found your organization. We also started investments for each of our sons, and we add to our Promissory Note when we can. In fact, after our 4-family housing co-op in Brooklyn refinanced our mortgage, our co-op invested our collective funds also!

Each time I speak with a financial advisor, it is recommended that we put money into some financial instrument like annuities or life insurance. Each time, my husband and I have the same conversation in which we totally agree that finding a good purpose and use for our savings is as important as stashing money for the future.

If our kids inherit anything from us it will be two-fold: the principles that brought us to invest in CFNE and, in all likelihood, the funds that we invested in CFNE. These have been used over and over again for the good of people just like us, only without the privilege and power that comes with inherited money. I'm grateful for the clear and essential structure, the nurturing technical support, the wide net, and the very diverse range of people in the CFNE community.

Sarah Meredith

Regional Conferences

Vermont Employee Ownership Center

The first week of June, Vermont Employee Ownership Center held its 17th Annual Conference. Lane Fury co-facilitated a session on current challenges in worker cooperatives with Esteban Kelly of the US Federation of Worker Cooperatives and AORTA (Anti-Oppression and Resource Training Alliance).

Principle 6

On April 6, Deborah Hawkins presented at the annual P6 conference in Maine on “Basic Business Finance and Financial Reports,” and moderated a panel, “In the Trenches: Raising Capital for your Co-op.” The panelists included representatives from Fare Share Co-op, Crown O’ Maine Organic Cooperative, Portland Food Co-op, and Good Tern Co-op.

Solidarity Economy Conference

On March 14-15 groups from across Massachusetts met at the Solidarity Economy conference in Worcester, MA. Dorian Gregory and Maggie Cohn represented CFNE.

CFNE helped organize a Co-op Convening on Saturday, attended by over 100 people, focused on building a state-wide worker cooperative movement.



Massachusetts Center for Employee Ownership Re-Opens

In April, the MA Statehouse held an event to announce the re-opening of the Center for Employee Ownership. CFNE’s Maggie Cohn served on a panel at the event, along with representatives from Ownership Associates and ESOPs Harpoon Brewery and Cape Air.

The office lost funding in 2008 and regained it last year. Lawmakers included \$150,000 in the budget for funding the office. ICA Group and Working Wealth have been hired to revive the office. They will be providing support to worker ownership efforts, both worker cooperatives and ESOPs.



Photo by Ryan Stranz, stranzdesign.com



Photo credit: VEOC



Sohnie Black (right), of Fund for Democratic Communities, with Maggie Cohn

**National Conferences
Consumer Cooperative
Management Association**

At this year’s CCMA conference in Durham, NC, Maggie Cohn moderated a well-attended panel describing the situations leading to the closing of two cooperatives: Harvest Co-op Market in Boston last September and Renaissance Food Co-op in Greensboro, NC, last January. Panelists and others plan to continue to work together to deepen their understanding and find ways to help co-ops avoid pitfalls in the future.

Workshops

In recent months, CFNE facilitated many workshops on financial literacy and financing co-ops. These included events hosted by the Greater Boston Chamber of Cooperatives; Belfast Co-op; Maine; the Cooperative Maine Business Alliance; Roots and Dreams (a co-op incubator in Pittsfield, MA); and the Adirondack North Country Association. This last gathering included workshops on “Transitioning to Worker Ownership” (Indian Lake, NY) and “Financing North Country Cooperatives” (Lake Placid, NY).

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To be added to our mailing list, invest in, or borrow from CFNE, email: cfne@coopfund.coop.

And don’t forget to check us out on Facebook.

The Cooperative Fund of New England (CFNE) was founded in 1975 by co-op activists and social investors to provide financial assistance to food cooperatives. Since then, the organization has expanded its focus, offering development loans and technical assistance to a wide range of co-ops and nonprofit groups that share CFNE's vision of equality, justice, and social responsibility.

CFNE serves borrowers and partners from its offices in various locations in New England.

Cooperative Fund of New England is a nonprofit community loan fund, serving cooperatives and community-based nonprofits. CFNE is a U.S. Treasury certified Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI).



Cooperative Fund

of New England

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Loans Approved and Funded CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

mont, we've joined with the Vermont Community Loan Fund to finance a resident-owned community in Milton, VT. Collaborations like these create a network of financing and technical assistance support that strengthens the interconnected cooperative economy. Building partnerships is fundamental to our shared success.

Other worker co-ops receiving funding included Collective Copies, Amherst, MA; Earth Designs, Rosendale, NY; Ewing Controls, Greenfield, MA; Maine Solar, Pittsfield, ME; Midcoast Fishermen's Co-op, Port Clyde, ME; TESA, Holyoke, MA; TimberHomes, Montpelier, VT; WarrenStreet Architects, Concord, NH; and Woo Rides, Worcester, MA.

CFNE made its second Launch Loan to Tanám, a Filipino restaurant affiliated with Olio Culinary Collective. Tanám has opened in Bow Market in Somerville, MA, a former storage building redeveloped to provide small-scale storefronts to local businesses.

Food co-ops receiving funding included Blue Hill Co-op, Blue Hill, ME; Fare Share, Norway, ME; Gardiner Food Co-op, Gardiner, ME; Morrisville Food Co-op, Morrisville, VT; Plainfield Food Co-op, Plainfield, VT; and Putney Food Co-op, Putney, VT.

We made loans to two housing cooperatives, Raise Op in Lewiston, ME and Milton Mobile Home Cooperative, in Milton, VT. The latter came to CFNE with a need for significant infrastructure im-



Woo Rides, in Worcester, MA, received a loan to purchase a passenger van.

provement. The co-op provides land tenure and access to housing to 100 predominantly low and moderate income homeowners in Milton. The co-op will be receiving state funding totaling over \$2,500,000 from multiple sources including the Vermont Housing Conservation Board (VHCB) for the repairs, and needed additional lenders to work alongside VHCB. The Vermont Community Loan Fund (VCLF) is a partner in this loan.

CFNE also financed Buffalo Street Books, Ithaca, NY; Intervale Community Farm, Burlington, VT; Stone Soup, Worcester, MA; and Associates for Training & Development, St. Albans, VT.