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.

Our Mission
We work for economic, social, and racial justice by advancing community-based, cooperative, and democratically owned or managed enterprises with a preference to 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

Visit us on line at www.coopfund.coop to learn about our borrowers; print out our loan application; download our prospectus; and find links to our borrowers, other community development organizations, socially responsible investing sites, and cooperative business assistance sites.

Loans Approved and Funded
The Cooperative Fund had excellent performance in 2016. We made 58 loans which totaled almost $3.8 million and at year end we had over $2 million in loans approved and awaiting funding.

Since its inception, CFNE has now disbursed over $45 million in 840 loans. Our early impact reporting for 2016 indicates that as a result of CFNE’s loans, borrowers created or retained 488 jobs and 25 units of affordable housing. Our loan portfolio now exceeds $17 million!

We made loans to worker cooperatives, producer co-ops, food co-ops, housing co-ops, and community based nonprofits.

CFNE is doing everything it can to help co-ops access funds. We are constantly working to improve and demystify our loan application and approval process. In addition, our collateral support fund (a newly funded collateral pool) helps to provide additional flexibility in the loan underwriting process.

Here is the list of just a handful of the many borrowers that received loan funds in late 2016:

- Plainfield Food Cooperative in Plainfield, VT;
- Urban Greens Cooperative, a start-up food co-op in Providence, RI;
- CERO, the urban worker-owned recycling cooperative in Dorchester, MA;
- FEDCO, a seed and tree supplier co-op in Waterville, ME; and
- Lexington Food Co-op, a retail food cooperative in Lexington, NY.

Cooperation in Boston
The Greater Boston Chamber of Cooperatives is working with the City Council of Boston to promote cooperatives in Boston. The Council sponsored a hearing on cooperation with panels on housing and worker cooperatives. CFNE board member Lydia Edwards participated as did Maggie Cohn, CFNE outreach officer, Micha Josephy, CFNE Program Manager and numerous CFNE borrowers and partners including Matt Meyer, Unitarian Universalist Community Cooperatives; Stacey Cordeiro, BCCO; Darnell Adams, Dorchester Food Co-op; Leah Madsen, Equal Exchange; Maya Gaul, CERO; and Eulalio Guera, A Yard & A Half Landscaping Cooperative, Inc. To watch the video visit http://bit.ly/2jr71e6.
People at CFNE

We were sorry to lose our Maine outreach person Gloria LaBrecque who went back to credit union work. Deborah Hawkins has joined the Cooperative Fund team as the new Northeastern Loan and Outreach Officer in Maine. She will provide support by visiting borrowers and providing assistance to potential borrowers. She is very well versed in cooperatives and has helped Gloria in the past to represent us at our display tables at conferences. She says, “Having the privilege of working for the Co-op Fund is a perfect marriage of my decades long passion for cooperatives and my strong background in accounting.”

Board News

At the October, 2016 annual meeting CFNE board officers were elected. JON RESKE continues as President, MARILYN SCHOLL will serve as Vice President, ANDY DANFORTH as Treasurer, and BONNIE HUDSPETH as Clerk. Our annual extra training-planning board meeting in early December was hosted by CFNE borrower A Yard and A Half in Waltham, MA. Duke Bouchard, finance manager at River Valley Co-op, has joined the board. Our board and staff participated in a strategic planning session to identify goals to extend the current plan that ends in 2017. In addition, Penn Loh who serves on the Hyam Foundation’s board spoke to everyone about the racial equity work at the foundation. It was a helpful and informative presentation that fit in well with our mission to address racial, social and economic equity.

Prior to the board meeting Executive Director Rebecca Dunn and our Boston staff met with potential and current borrowers to discuss ways to improve the CFNE application process and help facilitate lending to cooperatives in communities of color and cooperatives with non-English speaking members. The session is part of the Cooperative Fund’s effort to make its loan application process more inclusive, user friendly, and transparent.

Cooperative Capital Fund

The Cooperative Capital Fund (CCF) has been a very successful ten year trial project for the Cooperative Fund of New England. We used all funds received. We placed funds into cooperatives that needed long term, patient, equity-like unsecured funds. We repaid all investors. With CCF as an example of a much needed product, Cooperative Fund has started its own internal collateral support fund similar to CCF. It will serve a similar function by providing flexibility to those borrowers unable to provide collateral. The Cooperative Capital Impact Fund (CCIF) has used the money repaid by CCF to CFNE along with grant dollars and a few investors willing to support CCIF. These include NCB and Frances Fund. Any investors are welcome to invest in the CCIF by sending funds to CFNE and letting us know that those funds are dedicated to our Cooperative Capital Impact Fund.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Happy New Year! Here I sit with two little bundles of love, my grand daughters Arya and Jolene, who are cousins two months apart. They are my perfect antidote to the anxiety and concern we live in these days with a changing scary economic and political future.

The need for our work is great and it is only expected to grow as federal funds dry up and safety nets are eliminated. We can only hope that the positive forces of cooperation will help. Cooperatives have the ability and intent to bring people together to meet social and economic needs.

The Cooperative Fund is here to support and fund cooperatives. We had an excellent year in 2016, making almost $4 million in loans and bringing in close to $2 million in new social investment loan funds and over $2.2 million in grants. We retain the ability to deploy those funds in loans to cooperatives. Cooperatives create and retain jobs and affordable housing and a decent means of livelihood in all communities.

We will still walk the walk regarding our own commitment and goal to address racism. Our Board and staff are moving forward in an intentional process that involves reaching out, identifying and interviewing partners in the community, and working to further demystifying our loan process, making it accessible to all people interested in cooperatives and cooperation.

We move ahead together and we truly thank all of you who support our important work!

— Rebecca Dunn
CFNE Progress Report

INVESTMENTS as of 12/31/16

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total investments outstanding 12/31/16</td>
<td>$15,926,195</td>
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<tr>
<td>New investments received in 2016</td>
<td>$1,974,377</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average individual investment</td>
<td>$32,957</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of individual investors</td>
<td>256</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average institutional investment</td>
<td>$118,585</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of institutional investors</td>
<td>62</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investor dollars lost since inception</td>
<td>0</td>
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LOANS as of 12/31/16

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total loans outstanding 12/31/16</td>
<td>$17,564,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Loans made</td>
<td>58</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dollars disbursed</td>
<td>$3,763,118</td>
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<td>Loan loss</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loans repaid</td>
<td>$2,990,614</td>
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<td>Average loan</td>
<td>$64,881</td>
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<tr>
<td>Smallest loan</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Largest loan</td>
<td>$510,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jobs created/retained</td>
<td>488</td>
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<tr>
<td>Affordable housing units created/retained</td>
<td>25</td>
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INVESTORS

Borrowers

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Loans Balance</td>
<td>$17,564,100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Housing Co-ops</td>
<td>14%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food Co-ops</td>
<td>45%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Worker Co-ops</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Co-ops</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Co-ops</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land Trusts</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MGE Housing Co-ops</td>
<td>6%</td>
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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 and Twitter.
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.

As a “virtual” organization, CFNE serves the New England region through an administrative office in North Carolina and four outreach offices in New England.

Cooperative Fund of New England is a nonprofit community loan fund. CFNE provides loans and technical assistance to cooperatives and nonprofit community-based organizations. CFNE is a U.S. Treasury certified Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI).

Loans Approved and Funded CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Some of the other borrowers that received loan funds in 2016 include:

- **Boston TechCollective**, a worker cooperative computer support company in Somerville, MA;
- **Buffalo Books**, a cooperative bookstore in Buffalo, NY;
- **Catamount Solar**, a worker-owned solar installer in Randolph, VT;
- **Collective Copies**, a worker cooperative in Florence, MA;
- **Crown O’Maine**, a marketing/food distribution co-op in North Vassalboro, ME;
- **Dollars and Sense**, a collective publisher in Boston, MA;
- **Dorchester Community Food Co-op**, a start-up retail food store in Dorchester, MA;
- **Earth Designs**, a landscaping company recently converted to worker ownership in Rosendale, NY;
- **East Aurora Food Co-op**, a participation loan with Shared Capital for a retail food store in East Aurora, NY;
- **Energia**, a provider of energy efficiency services and job creator in Holyoke, MA;
- **Fiddleheads Food Cooperative** in New London, CT;
- **Green Star Cooperative Market** in Ithaca, NY;
- **Hartbeat Ensemble**, a community theater in Hartford, CT;
- **New England Farmers Union**, a nonprofit in Turners Falls, MA;
- **New Frameworks**, a design/build worker cooperative in Burlington, VT;
- **Northcountry Food Co-op**, a retail food store in Plattsburg, VT;
- **Raise-op Housing Co-op**, a limited equity housing co-op in Lewiston, ME;
- **Real Pickles**, an expanding worker cooperative in Greenfield, MA;
- **River Valley Co-op**, a retail food store in Northampton, MA;
- **Rutland Food Cooperative**, a retail store in Rutland, VT;
- **Simple Diaper and Linen**, a worker cooperative in Holyoke, MA;
- **Stone Soup**, a community nonprofit in Worcester, MA;
- **Toolbox for Education and Social Action (TESA)**, a worker cooperative in Holyoke, MA;
- **Triangle Cooperative**, a 12 unit Manufactured Housing community in Brandon, VT;
- **Vermont Computing Company**, a worker cooperative in Randolph, VT;
- **Vermont Association for Training and Development**, a nonprofit in St. Albans, VT;
- **WarrenStreet Architects**, a worker cooperative in Concord, NH; and
- **Wellspring Greenhouse Project**, a participation loan with CEI to build a greenhouse in Holyoke, MA.

For more information about each borrower, visit our website: www.coopfund.coop.