

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Weaver Street Market's Curds & Crafts Festival Raises \$4500 for the Rural Advancement Foundation International**

Hillsborough, NC – October 6, 2016 – Weaver Street Market's Curds & Crafts Festival raised \$4500 last month to benefit the Rural Advancement Foundation International (RAFI), a nonprofit based in Pittsboro, North Carolina, that works "to cultivate markets, policies, and communities that sustain thriving, socially just, and environmentally sound family farms." RAFI has awarded grants to many local farmers, including several whose goods are sold by Weaver Street.

The Curds & Crafts Festival, a fun celebration of local and artisan cheeses and North Carolina craft beers, attracted almost 600 attendees, who sampled cheese and beer from 11 cheesemakers and 13 breweries, as well as crackers, cured ham, pickles, jams, and more. The event was held at the Cloth Mill at the Eno River, a new event space in a renovated textile mill west of downtown Hillsborough.

"We are very grateful to Weaver Street Market and all of the folks who attended the Curds and Crafts event for their support," said Scott Marlow, Executive Director of RAFI. "These donations go directly to help farmers in North Carolina transition to more sustainable enterprises, and to create an environment that fosters the kind of sustainable entrepreneurship represented by the cheesemakers and brewers featured in the event."

In the past year, Weaver Street Market has raised \$108,143 to support hunger relief groups OCIM, the IFC, PORCH, and TABLE. The co-op also awards annual grants to nonprofits working on food access issues, through its Cooperative Community Fund (CCF), a sustainable endowment fund maintained by the Twin Pines Cooperative Foundation. All proceeds from the semi-annual Weaver Street Market wine shows go to the CCF, helping to make it the fastest growing CCF in the United States.

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