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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Weaver Street Market's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Curds & Crafts Festival Raises \$10,000 for the Rural Advancement Foundation International**

Hillsborough, NC – Weaver Street Market's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Curds & Crafts Festival raised \$10,000 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 provided technical assistance and awarded grants to many local farmers, including several who participated in the festival and whose goods are sold by Weaver Street Market.

The Curds & Crafts Festival, a fun celebration of local and artisan cheeses and North Carolina craft beers, attracted over 600 attendees, who sampled cheese and beer from 16 cheesemakers and 13 breweries, as well as food from 10 food artisans, which included crackers, pickles, jams, and more. The event was held at The Cloth Mill at Eno River, a new event space in a renovated textile mill west of downtown Hillsborough.

"We are very grateful to Weaver Street Market and everyone who attended the Curds and Crafts Festival. The funds raised for our organization will go directly to helping farmers in the area build strong farm businesses and bring healthy, local food to our communities," said Sally Lee, Associate Director, RAFI.

In the past year, Weaver Street Market has raised \$243,211 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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