

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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**G&F Financial Group Participates in the CCA's Women's Mentorship Program**

Burnaby, BC – G&F Financial Group, one of the 10 largest Credit Unions in BC, is honoured to participate for the first time in the Canadian Co-operative Association's (CCA) Women's Mentorship Program. The credit union hosted Eunice Wakonyu Kaboi, Chief Executive Officer at the Mombasa Teachers Savings and Credit Co-operative Organization (MTSCCO) in Kenya, during the latter part of May.

The CCA's Women's Mentorship Program was created in 2002 with the goal of advocating and providing professional development for female leaders in developing countries in Africa and Asia. As part of the program, women credit union leaders are partnered with host credit unions in Canada and receive training in a variety of subjects including loan applications and delinquency, savings mobilization, marketing and financial reporting.

In her current position as Chief Executive Officer, Eunice Wakonyu Kaboi is responsible for supervising 14 staff and overseeing the daily management of MTSCCO. MTSCCO is a rapidly growing savings and credit co-operative, with a more than 70 percent female membership, and assets of \$5 million US. Eunice joined the CCA's Women's Mentorship Program to gain skills to help ensure that procedures are protected as the savings and credit co-operative grows.

Since her arrival at G&F Financial Group, Eunice has already participated in knowledge exchanges in the areas of marketing, retail credit, and branch operations, and also participated in fundraising initiatives for BC Children's Hospital. Speaking of her experience thus far, Eunice Wakonyu Kaboi says "The CCA's Women's Mentorship Program is a great learning opportunity for all participants. It gives us all the chance to learn many new things and helps create confidence in leadership for women. I look forward to sharing everything I have learned from my time in Canada when I return home. I am proud to be associated with G&F Financial Group and the CCA, and hope this program continues well into the future."

"One of the best things about credit unions is their spirit of co-operation and sharing, and it's truly evidenced by the CCA's Women's Mentorship Program," say Co-CEOs Bill Kiss and Jeff Shewfelt. "It's been a two-way learning experience as we have learned much from each other. G&F Financial Group is very proud to participate in this wonderful learning program, and wishes success to all participants."

Eunice Wakonyu Kaboi joins 15 other women credit union managers from eight countries around the world in a month long mentorship program. In addition to spending time at their host credit union, participants gather in Ottawa with staff from the CCA to address their particular need and how to implement lessons learned upon returning to their home credit union.

For more information on the CCA's Women's Mentorship program, visit [www.coopscanada.coop](http://www.coopscanada.coop) or contact Laurie Tennian at [laurie.tennian@coopscanada.coop](mailto:laurie.tennian@coopscanada.coop).

### **About G&F Financial Group**

With over 26,000 members and \$1.3 billion in assets under administration, G&F Financial Group is one of the top 10 Credit Unions in British Columbia. The credit union's commitment to investing in its employees, members and the community is recognized by awards such as BC's Top Employer in 2012 and 2013, induction into Burnaby Board of Trade's Business Hall of Fame, and the 2012 Community Spirit Business of the Year Platinum Award from New Westminster Chamber of Commerce. For more information, please visit [www.gffg.com](http://www.gffg.com)

### **About The Women's Mentoring Program**

Run by the Canadian Co-operative Association since 2002, the Women's Mentorship Program is an annual training program that provides women credit union managers of overseas financial co-operatives with a unique opportunity for professional development; it is also a mutual learning opportunity for Canadians and international co-operators. Funding for the program is provided by Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD) and the Co-operative Development Foundation (CDF). At the completion of this year's program, 192 women from 19 countries will have participated.

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