



**DEAR GROUP LEADERS AND PARENTS:**

Cooperation is a term that young people are taught early on in any social or service group so that they can accomplish goals together. This ability to work together should stay with them for the rest of their lives. Imagine a business model that is built around those same principles of cooperation rather than profit! It's the co-operative business model and there are almost 40,000 of them in the U.S. economy alone.

Cabot Creamery and the National Cooperative Business Association CLUSA International are proud sponsors of the **Co-ops for Community** patch, a program that will introduce young people to the co-operative model. We have four goals for the program:

- To provide the opportunity to learn about the co-op footprint in the U.S. economy – 40,000 strong and operating in all sectors of the U.S. economy.
- To make participants more business savvy, by learning the differences between co-operatives and other forms of businesses.
- To provide an understanding of the co-operative principles that govern all co-operatives and influence the role they play in their local communities.
- To broaden participants' business and leadership skills by providing an opportunity to organize a co-operative business.

We look forward to awarding many **Co-ops for Community** patches! We are always focused on growing the next generation of cooperators and we're delighted to have this patch program as a powerful tool in our co-operative education and awareness toolbox. We hope this program is just the beginning, stimulating a continuing interest in learning more about co-operatives and the role they play in the community. We look forward to having these young people join us as members, employees and even organizers of co-operatives in the 21st century co-operative community.

Yours in cooperation,

**Ed Townley**  
President and CEO  
Cabot Creamery Co-operative

**Judy Ziewacz**  
President and CEO  
National Cooperative Business Association  
CLUSA International

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