



About Us

The BFB Foundation was organized in 2011 by Christine Burns-Fazzi, a Principal of Burns-Fazzi, Brock & Associates, LLC ("BFB"). BFB has been serving Credit Unions nationwide for more than 10 years and during that time has come to fully appreciate this unique industry. Credit Unions are member-owned, not-for-profit organizations centered on community and volunteerism. Not only has BFB been immersed in the values and ideals of this industry, but they have also had the opportunity to witness what can be accomplished when an individual or group is supported by the community. It is the Credit Union philosophy and vision that inspired Chris to create the BFB Foundation.



While it had been an ongoing dream to begin the organization, it was not until 2011 that the wheels were set in motion. The initial idea was to help developing economies move forward by putting financial expertise into the hands of women who were interested in community development.

Women are dedicated to sustaining family and in turn their community. Financial knowledge is paramount in fostering independence and the entrepreneurial spirit. Putting experience and financial knowledge into the hands of community-minded women creates an exponential force of economic possibilities.

By offering an environment that teaches women the basics of finance and business while fostering a community and service attitude, much can be accomplished. What sets the BFB Foundation apart from other scholarship programs is its commitment to providing essential life and leadership skills as well as its focus on giving back through community.

Participants of the program will receive a college level education and be guided and inspired by personal and professional mentors. They will receive hands-on financial experience at a local Credit Union and will gain an understanding of the value of paying forward the opportunities shown to them. These women will have a supportive environment to build confidence and be instigators for change, while realizing their own potential.

This program would not only be an investment into the lives of women, but into the lives of those in her community.



Our Mission

BFB Foundation empowers women in developing communities through financial education in both the classroom and workplace. By providing such opportunities, BFB Foundation will foster the development of individuals, enhance local communities and further the philosophy of the Credit Union movement.

Who will we serve?

Our program participants will be women from developing communities who lack the opportunity and/or resources to obtain a formal financial education in both the classroom and workplace. In the BFB Foundation's inaugural year, two women from Guatemala will be chosen to live, study and train in Charlotte, North Carolina. Each year, the program will accept two additional participants. The first participants will serve as mentors and guides to the next participants and will assist in making the adjustment a seamless process. When the women have completed their school program and have fulfilled all of the requirements set forth by the BFB Foundation, which is currently estimated to be two years, they will return to their home communities where they can serve their communities in a meaningful way.

What are the requirements for participants?

Participants must have completed their secondary education, have a minimum Academic International English Language Testing System score and not have any work or travel restrictions.

How will participants be selected?

Participants will be identified initially through global service organizations and Credit Unions. Participants must meet the requirements of the school they will attend. Additionally, they should demonstrate leadership qualities and a strong commitment to serving their community. The candidates will undergo a formal application and interview process before being accepted into the program.

What will the program provide?

- Tuition, fees and books at a participating college or university in the United States towards the completion of a 2-year degree in a related business field. The first participants will attend Central Piedmont Community College ("CPCC") located in Charlotte, North Carolina. CPCC has been providing educational opportunities since 1963 and has been recognized nationally as a pacesetter in education. From its inception, CPCC was innovative in its teaching methods. CPCC has grown from a small college with a dozen programs serving 1,600 students to one with over 100 degree, diploma and certificate programs serving approximately 70,000 students in an array of credit and noncredit offerings.
- Travel arrangements, visas, room and board and a monthly stipend for expenses during their participation in the program. Participants will live together in secure, furnished apartments close to the school and convenient to public transportation, shopping and restaurants.

- An opportunity to participate in an internship program at a local credit union. Students will be able to apply the skills and knowledge gained at the university, as well as get hands on experience.
- An opportunity to volunteer at a local nonprofit organization during the program. Participants will gain organizational, leadership and management skills during their work. With the help of that organization's advisor, participants will also design and complete a community service project, possibly related to their field of study, by the end of the program.
- Relationships with personal and career mentors.

What is expected from the participant?

- Maintain at least a 2.0 (or equivalent) GPA.
- Successfully participate in and complete an internship.
- Successfully participate in and complete a community service project.
- Serve as a mentor and ambassador to future participants as well as to the Credit Union industry.

What is the cost of the program per participant?

The estimated cost for 1 participant to go through the program is estimated at \$25,000.

How can you help?

- Make a tax deductible donation.
- Sponsor an internship.
- Become a mentor.
- Become involved organizationally on a volunteer basis.

How will this benefit you / Credit Union?

- Become an inaugural sponsor / contributor.
- Give back to an industry that continues to pay it forward.
- Make a significant and measurable impact on the lives of women and communities around the world.



Educating Women
Strengthening Communities



*"As a woman I
have no country.
As a woman my
country is the
whole world."*

—Virginia Woolf



How You Can Help

A partnership with BFB Foundation is an investment in young women training to be leaders, innovators and entrepreneurs in developing communities. These women will 'pay forward' investments made in them to their communities and the next generation of women leaders, working to create economic opportunities, improve human rights and promote change in their communities.

Public and private partners will be a key component to the success of this program. Partners can lend industry expertise or critical financial support to help advance women in their communities.

Please consider volunteering your time, offering financial support or providing an internship for the young women in our program. There's a way everyone can be involved!

Become a Financial Partner

Invest in women. Improve the world one community at a time. Your contribution to the BFB Foundation guarantees that the women in our program will secure a business education that will empower them to make a difference in their home communities. When women succeed, everyone benefits - family, community and business. There is greater economic opportunity, greater attention paid to human rights and greater political participation at all levels.

Recent studies have shown how investments in women increase prosperity, alleviate poverty and reduce corruption in developing countries.

Provide Valuable Work Experience

In addition to paying for education, the BFB Foundation will give participants the opportunity to get on-the-job experience by working in a Credit Union. Please consider sponsoring an internship for a program participant in your business or organization and help them develop critical business skills they will take forward to their home communities. Our intent is that each woman returns home having gained marketable skills to use in her home community to help advance and empower women globally.

Organizational Volunteerism

Your organization can assist by hosting and/or sponsoring a fundraising event and coordinating community involvement which includes identifying mentors, vendors and living arrangement options. Additional assistance can be provided by identifying potential alliances and partnerships with other financial institutions, schools and community service organizations.

Volunteer Your Time

Lend your time to be a mentor to the women in our program. Listen to their needs, ideas, dreams and concerns and celebrate their accomplishments. Sharing your experiences, knowledge, networks and relevant professional expertise is critical to their success and ultimately the success of our work. We are grateful for the ongoing support of volunteers in our efforts to serve the women of our program and promote women's leadership worldwide.