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**For Immediate Release**

GC Buying Group Hosts In Person 2021 Member Conference in Dallas

**Dallas, July 20** – For the first time in 18 months, GC Buying Group members assembled on June 23 and 24 at the Dallas Market Center for a live, in-person Store Meeting & Vendor Showcase. After postponing the January, 2021 long established Start the Year Conference, the GC team coordinated with the Dallas Market Center to consolidate its Member Conference and 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

Store and vendor members from 25 states converged on the Dallas market for a chance to reconnect in person. Product previews, trainings and presentations, and in general becoming reacquainted with peers were all part of the two day conference. The lively sessions were filled with the bustle of business, bringing back the tactile market experience the industry has been craving.

"What a great show, it was so nice to reconnect with our valued retailers and new customers. We can see that retailers are excited to meet in person and learn more about exciting new products, meeting via Zoom is just not the same," declared Pamela Stafford, Hestan Culinary.

"This has been the best show ever, and joining GC Buying Group has been the best thing we have ever done. They take wonderful care of us," gushed Kathy Willett, Coastal Kitchens.

Store Member Heather Fear, Now You're Cooking, Bath, ME, commented "... We were especially impressed with the GC June Member Conference in Dallas. It was well organized, informative, and such a fun introduction to the group. After attending, it's no surprise why Gourmet Catalog is celebrating 40 years in the business!"

"It was a fantastic turnout at the Dallas show with most retailers sharing very positive news on their business. The Gourmet Catalog showcase event was extremely productive allowing us to not only rekindle relationships but answer questions and discuss all of our product and program updates," commented Scott Marcille, Le Creuset.

According to David Shull from JURA, "This was also a great opportunity to get feedback from independent retailers so we can work with them to help support JURA sales in their stores."

“Because independent retailers are on the front lines of their businesses and well known in their local communities, they are ideally positioned to influence decisions made by vendors,” pointed out Janis Johnson, president and founder of GC Buying Group, who continued on to say, “their passion for retail and serving consumers was on display at the GC Member Conference in Dallas.”

Mary Carol Herbert, Ace Longmont, summed up her experience by saying, “I always enjoy the meeting with other owners/buyers. Good to see what others are having success with!”

Ron Ekins from Gourmet Kitchen Works recapped his market experience by saying, “All the GC staff went above and beyond to help make it one of the best conferences we have attended. We very much appreciated the chance we had to showcase our new products and to interact with the GC Member Stores. We were thrilled with the results and felt that we opened many new doors for our products.”

“Celebrating such a milestone as 40 years in the industry is exciting for the GC team”, Johnson concluded, “and we’re ready to tackle the next normal that’s already in our focus.”

Plans are now underway by the GC Team for the 2022 GC Member Conference, back to its original timing in January of next year.

**About GC Buying Group:**

GC Buying Group Members form the original and leading buying group in the kitchenwares industry. Celebrating 40 years in 2021, GC works to ensure the success of independent retailers with a variety of programs and services, including discounts provided by 150 plus vendor members. For more information on Gourmet Catalog, call: +1-214-855-0005, email: [info@gourmetcatalog.com](mailto:info@gourmetcatalog.com) or visit: [gcbuyinggroup.com](http://gcbuyinggroup.com).

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# GC June 2021 Member Conference Dallas Market Center

