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**A FEW COOL HARDWARE STORES CELEBRATES COOPERATIVES**  
*Local hardware store's cooperative model benefits business and customers*

**WASHINGTON, DC December 16, 2013** – This holiday season, A Few Cool Hardware Stores and encompassing nine independently owned Ace Hardware celebrate the positive affect that the cooperative business model has on community businesses.

“As a member of a retail cooperative, our customers benefit from the familiarity of a nationally recognized retail network and brand, while supporting a community-based small business in Washington DC],” said Gina Schaefer, owner of A Few Cool Hardware Stores. “We’re proud to be part of a larger group of retailers, but also appreciate the flexibility to customize our store offerings to best meet the needs of our neighborhood and community.”

Ace store owners benefit from enhanced purchasing power, leading to greater product availability for customers. In addition, store owners receive a wide range of services including retail training and marketing support. Customized advertising initiatives make it possible for Ace stores to compete with big box hardware retailers. Support programs include national advertising, an established and successful customer loyalty program, seasonal promotions and a strong online presence.

For more information about A Few Cool Hardware Stores, please visit [www.acehardwaredc.com](http://www.acehardwaredc.com).

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**About Ace Hardware**

For nearly 90 years, Ace Hardware has been known as the place with the helpful hardware folks in thousands of neighborhoods across America, providing customers with a more personal kind of helpful. In 2013, Ace ranked “Highest in Customer Satisfaction with Home Improvement Retail Stores, Seven Years in a Row” according to J.D. Power. With more than 4,700 hardware stores locally owned and operated across the globe, Ace is the largest hardware cooperative in the industry. Its retailers' stores are located in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and approximately 60 countries. For more information on Ace, visit [www.acehardware.com](http://www.acehardware.com).

**About A Few Cool Hardware Stores**

We are a unique cooperative of urban based Ace Hardware stores in the Washington, DC metro area and Baltimore, MD. The company was founded in 2003 with Logan Hardware, and has since grown to include 5 locations in DC, 1 location in Takoma Park, MD, and 3 locations in Baltimore City, MD. For more information, visit us on the web at [www.acehardwaredc.com](http://www.acehardwaredc.com).