



## **Kay Bowers set to retire as Executive Director of New Level Community Development Corporation**

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New Level Community Development Corporation today announced that Kay Bowers the organization's long time Executive Director has decided to retire January 31, 2020. The leadership of the Board of Directors and an executive transition committee has launched an executive search and are working with Ms. Bowers to find the organization's next Executive Director to fill her role.

Ms. Bowers was New Level CDC's 1st Executive Director and has led the organization for almost 14 years. She worked to build a strong business foundation for the organization, positioning it for significant growth and serving more people in need of affordable housing. During Bower's tenure, New Level grew to provide 19 properties with affordable rents for Nashville residents, educated and counseled almost two thousand families on housing, home buying, credit building and money management. Leveraging New Level CDC's capacity with local, state and federal grant programs she developed homes for growing families to buy that were affordable for critical workers like our teachers, health care providers and first responders. Establishing a model for partnerships with private developers she provided affordable home ownership possibilities in a mixed income community close to people's jobs. Over the past year a strategic plan was completed that calls for doubling New Level's rental property portfolio, increasing financial sustainability and growing partnerships that will enable the organization to increase its impact in the community.

Prior to coming to Nashville she served as Executive Director of Blount County Habitat for Humanity for 11 years and established Foothills Community Development Corp in East Tennessee which she led for 4 years.

Seeing the impact over her 28 year career of a safe, fit and affordable home on families' health, educational achievement and financial stability Ms. Bowers has been a passionate advocate for affordable housing programs and policies. She worked with colleagues across the state to establish the Tennessee Affordable Housing Coalition and the Housing Counselors and Educators of Tennessee. She is a member of the Board of Commissioners of the Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency and serves on Fifth Third Bank's National Community Advisory Board. She's part of NOAH's affordable housing task force steering committee and active with A Voice for the Reduction of Poverty.

"Kay's experience and knowledge has been a crucial asset in growing New Level from infancy to the influential organization we have become," said Trevor Burbank, New Level's Board Chair. "Kay has been an influential voice in the community for the necessity of safe, fit, and affordable housing in order for Nashville's children, workers, and families to thrive.

“I’m grateful for the opportunity to work in partnership with Mt. Zion Baptist Church and others to serve this community over the past almost 14 years,” said Bowers. I will treasure forever the memories and wonderful friendships I have with so many people. Although this chapter of my life is coming to a close, as my daughter Annie says “my work will continue, just in another way”.

New Level Community Development Corporation, founded in 2003 through the efforts of [Mt. Zion Baptist Church](#) leadership, is a conduit bringing resources, tools, and knowledge together to help provide housing and financial stability to individuals and families.

To learn more about New Level Community Development Corporation, go to <https://newlevelcdc.org/>.

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