

News from New Neighborhoods, Inc.

Ross Burkhardt announces his retirement

After many years of dedicated service to New Neighborhoods, Inc., please join us in congratulating Ross Burkhardt on his retirement from New Neighborhoods. While we have been working on a transition plan for many months now, Ross has provided notice to us that he will be retiring from New Neighborhoods effective February 17, 2017.

Under Ross's leadership NNI has become one of the most respected not-for-profits housing developers in Connecticut. When he joined us in 1999, New Neighborhoods owned and managed 158 units of affordable housing in 4 properties in Stamford with 6 staff members. Since then Ross oversaw almost \$115 million of public and private investment in the development of new and rehabilitated housing in Stamford, Norwalk, Danbury, and Bridgeport. NNI now manages a real estate portfolio of 444 units in 11 properties with combined annual operating budgets of over \$8 million managed by a staff of 22. He is leaving us in a strong financial position which will enable NNI to continue as a premium developer and manager of Affordable Housing.

While these statistics are impressive, what we most appreciate Ross for is his passion and commitment to the idea that our Mission is not only about bricks and mortar. Under his leadership NNI has, among other things, played an important role in ending homelessness among veterans in CT and has worked with other agencies to end chronic homelessness in Fairfield County. Most importantly, Ross brought NNI back to its roots as a Community Development Corporation by establishing our Tenant Advocate Program that focuses on empowering our residents, encouraging them to engage with existing community resources, to actively participate in their neighborhoods, and to work towards achieving greater economic independence.

Interim CEO Keith Green has been greeted by the Board of Directors to lead New Neighborhoods to insure a seamless transition as Ross enters retirement.

Please join the Board of Directors, the staff, and me in congratulating Ross on his retirement and thanking him for his endless dedication and service to New Neighborhoods, Inc.

Sincerely,

Rhonda

Rhonda M. Leone, Chair
On behalf of the Board of Directors