



**LEVITICUS FUND**

*Faith Capital For Building Communities*

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## July 2020 Newsletter

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Dear Friends,

In our last newsletter back in January, I wrote that Leviticus was beginning a new year and decade with good momentum and confidence in the value of our mission.

Since then, of course, our world has been transformed by the COVID-19 pandemic and by the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis. While our hopes are still high, they are tempered by a deep awareness of the massive suffering that the coronavirus and the longstanding racial disparities that plague our nation continue to produce.

In the presence of such pain and turmoil, we cannot help but see the wide gulf between what needs to be done and what we ourselves can do. We acknowledge that in the larger scheme of things our own efforts to advance social justice are modest.

But we see something else as well.

We see that we are not alone. We see that we are part of a nationwide—in fact, a worldwide—network of community development organizations that are dedicated to bringing real, positive change to the local communities where they live and work and to the people they serve, and we are uplifted by their energy and inspired by their example.

As a result, as we face this new world in which we find ourselves, we are more determined than ever to work for social justice and to relieve poverty. Indeed, our hopes are higher than ever.

It is in this spirit that we offer the three project profiles you will find in this edition of our newsletter. We trust they will inspire you and affirm that you too, as part of the Leviticus Fund, are part of a worldwide community development network.

On behalf of everyone at Leviticus, I offer our gratitude for your continued support for our work. In these difficult times, it means everything to us to know that with your help we can bring about positive change within our communities.

May you and your loved ones be safe and be well.

Greg Maher  
Executive Director

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## Believing in the Power of People



People who have been incarcerated struggle with an array of challenges that can derail their efforts to reintegrate into society. Since 1967, the Fortune Society has been dedicated to helping the formerly incarcerated navigate those challenges and thrive as successful, engaged members of the community.

Guided by a commitment to building people rather than prisons, Fortune operates 190 units of transitional and permanent housing at its three main facilities in the New York City area. Now, with support from the Leviticus Fund, Fortune is undertaking a new project that will extend its reach and impact in the area even further. [Read More](#)

## New Steps in Revitalization of a Neighborhood



La Casa de Don Pedro was established in 1972 to serve the marginalized Puerto Rican and Latino community in Newark, New Jersey. Named in honor of the Puerto Rican nationalist Don Pedro Albizu Campos, who advocated the twin virtues of self-sufficiency and empowerment, the nonprofit provides critically needed education, health, employment, and affordable housing services to more than 50,000 people in Greater Newark and Essex County.

La Casa's primary service area is Newark's North End, where the organization has been undertaking a comprehensive community development initiative in the Lower Broadway community. With two construction loans from Leviticus totaling \$236,484, La Casa is continuing to move forward with its plan to revitalize the Lower Broadway. [Read More](#)

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## Offering a New Home and a Hand Up



In March 2020, Leviticus provided \$584,639 in financing to support the development of the Gateway Lofts Supportive Apartments, a new project in Jamestown, New York, that will generate 56 units of supportive housing, 54 units of affordable housing, and more than 41,000 square feet of community facilities.

The project is the product of a collaboration between Southern Tier Environments for Living (STEL), a nonprofit that provides rehabilitative and support services in Western New York and develops affordable housing in New York and Western Pennsylvania, and Community Helping Hands (CHH), a faith-based social services organization in Jamestown that provides emergency assistance to local families in need of clothing, household items, and furniture. [Read More](#)

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## Honoring the Life of Sr. Patricia Mulryan



Sr. Patricia Mulryan, far left, was one of five guest panelists of founders and early board members at Leviticus' 20th anniversary celebration in 2003. She was joined by Br. George Schmitz, CSC, Leviticus' first Executive Director, Sr. Pat Wolf, RSM, Sr. Margaret Flood, OP, and Sr. Joan Correia, OP.

A good builder always sets a solid, tested stone as a cornerstone.

In the case of the founding of the Leviticus Fund some 37 years ago, one of those builders was Sr. Patricia Mulryan, a member of the Sisters of Charity of New York for over 70 years until her death this past February. Sr. Pat was witty, wise and blessed with a generous spirit. She was one of the six original founders of Leviticus, toiling in those early days to give structure and guidance to what was then a novel concept for a community-based loan fund.

A native of the Bronx, NY, Sr. Pat spent the first 26 years of ministry in elementary education, including 11 years as the principal of Elizabeth Seton Academy. When she received her MBA in 1979, Sr. Pat shifted her focus to finances and served 13 years as the Assistant Treasurer and then Treasurer for her congregation, and then later as Treasurer with the Daughters of Divine Charity for 16 years. An insightful and trusted advisor, she provided critical guidance to a number of other religious congregations over the years as they faced financial challenges. Even in retirement, Sr. Pat remained quite active. She was a faithful donor to Leviticus, and volunteered in the food pantry of two churches and participated in a senior group.

"A 'force to behold,' a 'delight to work with,' and a 'visionary woman' are among the attributes I have heard about and associate with Pat Mulryan," said Rosemary Jeffries, RSM, who is Board President for Leviticus. "As a founding member of Leviticus, her wisdom and skill in handling finances was a great gift in putting the Fund on a firm financial foundation. Our current board, staff, investors and borrowers owe her and her fellow founders a debt of gratitude for their courage and conviction to use financial resources to encourage systemic justice in our area."

"As one of the six original founders, Sr. Pat's vision and commitment led to the formation of our organization as a force for good and social justice," said Greg Maher, Leviticus' Executive Director. "When we advance the mission of Leviticus to serve those without power and without voice, we honor her memory and continue her legacy."

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## Special Welcome to New Staff

During these unsettling times, the staff at Leviticus is working hard to make sure our nonprofit borrowers are aware of our ongoing commitment to support their work with maximum openness and flexibility. We are delighted that our effort has been strengthened with the addition of Leviticus' new Director of Lending, Kevin McQueen.

Kevin joined our team in early April, and brings 30 years of community development lending and impact investing experience to Leviticus. For the last 19 years, he provided consulting services to a number of CDFIs and public financing entities on underwriting and structuring a wide range of affordable housing and commercial real estate transactions. He served seven years as Vice President with Capital Impact Partners, and four years with two national banks.

Kevin is a great addition to our growing staff, and to read more about his background, please click [here](#)

