



2020 Year-End Newsletter

Dear Friends,

Our country continues to face heart-wrenching struggles because of the ongoing spread of the coronavirus, and that anguish is only heightened with recent events in our nation's capital. To remain a people of hope sometimes feels beyond our capacity. Yet as we enter the new year of 2021, we must call forth our collective strength and continue the important work to help heal each other, and to fortify the communities where we live and work.

At the Leviticus Fund, we strive to celebrate the spirit of hope that we find in the people and communities living at the margins, and the stories in this newsletter illustrate our recent efforts to do just that. They also illustrate our efforts to expand our outreach and to open new lending relationships with organizations providing critical programs and services. We are especially pleased to note that all three organizations featured in the stories are first-time Leviticus borrowers — and that their work to serve their communities continues to move forward, despite the pandemic.

The stories about the Legion of Good Will and Bailey-Holt House reflect one more important point: that in addition to providing affordable financing to our borrowers, we go the extra mile to provide technical assistance and flexible underwriting that is needed to finance projects that otherwise would have to go unfunded.

Finally, we are pleased to report that in October our board approved a new Values Proposition for Leviticus. This document emphasizes our renewed commitment to serving, as effectively and as beneficially as we can, nonprofit community developers and organizations that create and preserve affordable housing and community-based programs. It affirms that we are a listening and learning organization that also brings humility to its work.

Your support made our work possible in 2020. As the new year begins, our wish is that the hope you have shared with us in the past year returns to you in abundance. May you and your loved ones be happy, healthy, and at peace in 2021 and beyond.

Greg Maher
Executive Director

A Safe Haven for Connecticut's Homeless Youth



The Women and Families Center (WFC) of Meriden, Connecticut, began its history in 1889 as the Meriden YWCA, providing a variety of recreational and social programs for women and children. As community needs continued to evolve over the years, the organization ended its affiliation with the YWCA in 2000 and established itself as an independent nonprofit.

Today, WFC is a multi-faceted agency that serves Middlesex County and Greater New Haven. Leviticus Fund recently provided a \$600,000 loan to cover a portion of the development costs for one of WFC's newest projects: the construction of the WYSH House—WYSH stands for Women and Families Center, Youth, Supportive, Housing—a residential facility in Meriden for formerly homeless young adults. [Read More](#)

A New Center for Education and Opportunity



Newark's Ironbound District is a community of 50,000 that since the 19th century has attracted immigrants from around the world, especially in recent years from the Portuguese-speaking countries of Portugal, Brazil and Cape Verde. But today, despite its rich, diverse cultural heritage, the Ironbound faces critical challenges. Twenty-five percent of its residents live in poverty. Its elementary schools are so crowded that each year many of its children are unable to attend kindergarten due to the lack of space.

Those are challenges that the Legion of Good Will (LGW) is determined to take on.

With financial support and technical assistance from Leviticus Fund, LGW is developing the Paiva Netto Educational and Social Assistance Center, a new community facility that will provide early learning and after-school programs for children in the Ironbound as well as a variety of humanitarian programs and services for local residents. [Read More](#)

Extending a Long Tradition of Service to People With AIDS



Leviticus Fund provided a \$900,000 predevelopment loan to finance activities associated with the redevelopment of Bailey-Holt House, the nation's first group housing facility for people with AIDS.

The facility, located in New York City's Greenwich Village neighborhood, was created by Bailey House Inc., a leading provider of services to individuals and families living with HIV/AIDS and other chronic illnesses. Since its founding in 1983, Bailey House has been committed to providing housing first and then building on the stability that secure housing provides to improve the health and well-being of its clients. [Read More](#)

Leviticus Fund Welcomes New Staff

Our staff continued to grow in 2020, and we are excited to introduce the two newest members of the Leviticus team. We asked Jelani Jones and Colleen Ryan to share what they are looking forward to in the new year as they begin their work with Leviticus. To read more about our staff, click [here](#).

"I look forward to continuing to give families in need a helping hand in progressing further in life by alleviating some of the stress that comes with living paycheck to paycheck and having living expenses command most of that money. They need the opportunity to enjoy their hard earned money."

Jelani Jones
Lending Associate



"I hope we can work together in 2021 to make "Build Back Better" more than a political slogan. We have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to rethink how we do ... everything. Leviticus is positioned to help revitalize underserved communities with an eye toward justice, equity and resiliency, and I'm happy to be part of the team!"

Colleen Ryan
Resource Development Officer

A Strong Year for 2020 Funding

We thank the institutions and congregations listed below for their generous support of our community development work.

Apple Bank for Savings
BNY Mellon
Capital One, N.A.
CDFI Fund
Charities Aid Foundation of America
Deutsche Bank
HSBC Bank USA, N.A.
M&T Charitable Foundation
Morgan Stanley
MUFG Union Bank, N.A.
New York Community Bank
People's United Community Foundation
PNC Foundation

Ridgewood Bank
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Signature Bank
Sisters of the Good Shepherd
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