



### FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

The racial supremacy-fueled march in Charlottesville and terrible violence against counter-demonstrators last month forced the nation to reopen the dialogue on bigotry and intolerance and how best to confront them. It also begged some important questions: Do we know and accept the truths of our history? Do we understand how our ancestors were viewed, and how they were treated, when they came to these shores? How do we see our diversity, including the diversity that current immigrants bring to the American fabric? Do we view our growing diversity as reinforcing the American identity?

At Leviticus, we see our work supporting organizations serving diverse communities of low-income individuals and families as a way to provide opportunity for vulnerable people whose voices are often not heard in the cacophonous debate among those with power. We are grateful for the support of our members, investors and all of our partners as we choose to look ahead with hope and optimism.

*"I choose to believe there is more justice and dignity on the horizon for all Americans, despite our differences, because I still see access and opportunity, coupled with steadfast effort, as hallmarks of the American experiment."*

— An excerpt from Leviticus Fund Executive Director Greg Maher's remarks on economic justice at the Widener University Commonwealth Law School's Annual Dean's Forum, March 17, 2017. Click to read his full remarks.

### BRINGING THE FILM INDUSTRY TO KINGSTON

For decades, RUPCO has been a leading provider of affordable housing in New York's Hudson Valley, creating hundreds of new homes in the region. RUPCO has had its greatest impact in its hometown of Kingston, where it now owns and manages 117 housing units, including the recently completed Lace Mill, a 55-unit live-work residence for artists.



This year, with our lending support, RUPCO expanded into economic development work for the first time, another step in advancing its new creative placemaking strategy. Its first commercial project is a bold one: the revitalization of a vacant 70,000-square-foot warehouse in Kingston. The planned anchor tenant, a nonprofit, will use up to 55,000 square feet as a film studio, post-production space, and office space, bringing the enormous economic potential of the film industry to Kingston, which has a poverty rate of 16%. The nonprofit will also provide local residents access to entertainment and technology jobs and workforce training. We partnered with NeighborWorks Capital to provide RUPCO a flexible \$1.9 million loan to quickly acquire this building, allowing them to gain site control and the time they needed to secure tax credits to fund the project.

### BREATHING NEW LIFE INTO SYRACUSE'S NORTH SIDE

Just blocks north of downtown Syracuse, New York, the area around Butternut and Townsend Streets has long been a site of unmet potential: several lots are vacant or underused, and each nearby block is home to blighted and abandoned properties. Since forming in Syracuse 28 years ago, Housing Visions, a sustainable neighborhood revitalization company, has specialized in transforming areas just like this one into places of stability and opportunity.



Sincerely,  
Greg Maher

## IN THE NEWS

[Zombie Syracuse Homes to be Replaced by Affordable Apartments](#) (Sep. 8, 2017)

[New Push for Hartford Supermarket Considers Downtown, Neighborhoods](#) (Sep 25, 2017)

[Kingston Officials Get First Look at Proposed RUPCO'S 'Metro' Project](#) (Sep. 27, 2017)

## DONATE

**Leviticus welcomes donations of any size, which increase our lending capacity and allow our donors to give back to the communities where they live and work. Please consider [donating today](#).**

## INVEST

**Leviticus' investors enjoy a financial return on their investment while supporting high-impact projects in low-income areas. To learn more about investing, click [here](#).**

Next year, Housing Visions will transform "[Butternut Crossing](#)" by completing construction of seven new properties that will contain 53 new units of high-quality, high-amenity affordable housing. The project will provide nine homes for the physically disabled, and all units will be affordable for 50 years to individuals and families earning between 30 and 85% of area median income, ensuring that they will meet the needs of local low-income residents even as the neighborhood grows. We provided Housing Visions a critical \$580,000 predevelopment loan, allowing them to leverage \$16 million in public and private funds to move this ambitious project forward.

## CDFI FUND AWARDS LEVITICUS OVER \$1 MILLION

On September 19, the CDFI Fund announced its [2017 Financial Assistance \(FA\) Awards](#). We were thrilled to be among a group of under 40 CDFIs to receive over \$1 million. This award is a testament to the strength of our recent performance, an affirmation of our vision for expanding our impact in the years ahead, and most of all, a boost to our capacity to meet our growing demand for capital.



We will use our FA Award, and the private investments it attracts, to fill capital gaps and provide even more flexible capital to our partners across New York, Connecticut, and New Jersey. Our capital will help them meet more affordable housing needs and reduce more cost burdens faced by underserved families in their communities.

## WELCOMING THE FELICIAN SISTERS OF NORTH AMERICA

From the first five Sisters who arrived in Polonia, Wisconsin in 1874 to educate local immigrant children, to the thousands of Sisters who have joined since, the [Felician Sisters of North America](#) have been committed to serving economically disadvantaged people across the continent, from New York to Northern Canada. Today, their services include education, health care, senior care, and a range of social services. The work of the Sisters to bring afterschool programs, medical assistance, and food and clothing to rural Kingtree, South Carolina won [Catholic Extension Magazine's Lumen Christi Award in 2012](#).

*"Part of our spirituality, since our founding, has been to serve the marginalized. We therefore want to use our investments not only to benefit our community, but to serve others in need. When we looked at the projects that Leviticus was funding — and that they support housing those people who need the most help — we saw a great resonance with our values."*

*Sister Mary Christopher Moore  
Felician Sisters of North America*

While their work in communities is the face of the Felician Sisters, they also know they can make an impact through the portfolio of investments they use to secure the future of their members. In late 2016, the Sisters decided to expand the impact of this "silent resource" by investing in Leviticus Fund. We are proud to introduce them as a new member investor, and we thank them for trusting us to put their resources towards the causes they value.

