

## NewVue: New name, new vision

Sentinel & Enterprise

Updated: 11/11/2015 06:33:13 AM EST

SentinelAndEnterprise.com

### Twin Cities CDC marks 35th birthday with change to its moniker and mission



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LEOMINSTER -- Twin Cities Community Development Corporation is 35 years old -- and won't get any older. Instead, it will move forward as NewVue Communities, a regional community-development organization.

On Tuesday night, at the annual meeting and 35th anniversary celebration of Twin Cities CDC, Executive Director Marc Dohan announced that the organization will change its name to reflect a new mission of serving the entire North Central Massachusetts region.

"We will not just stick to the tried and true," Dohan said. "We will keep inventing and reinventing ourselves to help us reach our vision of making this region a great place to live, work and invest.



"Twin Cities CDC has worked on community development and affordable-housing creation in Fitchburg and Leominster since 1980. On Tuesday, at the Boys and Girls Club in Leominster, the organization celebrated 35 years, welcoming elected officials, local residents and community partners to dine, drink, enter raffles and hear about past accomplishments and its exciting plans for future years.

Chrystal Kornegay, the undersecretary of housing for the state Department of Housing and Community Development, spoke about the importance of community-development organizations like Twin Cities CDC, now NewVue Communities.

"Community-development corporations engage residents in a meaningful way," Kornegay said.

"They take on projects nobody else can or will do but are often exactly what a community needs."

Kornegay added that regionalized community-development corporations are important because they bring people together to address "holistically" issues facing a whole region.

Deborah Boatwright, vice president of the Northeast Region of Neighborworks America, also spoke at the celebration, calling the work NewVue Communities does "transformative."

"NewVue Communities is on the cutting edge," Boatwright said. "Behind the new name is a new vision."

NewVue Communities will now serve Ashburnham, Ashby, Athol, Ayer, Baldwinville, Clinton, Fitchburg, Gardner, Groton, Harvard, Hubbardston, Lancaster, Leominster, Lunenburg, Petersham, Phillipston, Royalston, Shirley, Sterling, Templeton, Townsend, Westminster and Winchendon. It will have between 15 and 17 board members.

Dohan said the organization plans to continue the type of work it has done in Fitchburg and Leominster in the additional communities, citing a \$3 million federal deleading grant recently received by the region as a project that wouldn't work within only the Twin Cities.

The evening ended with awards for two valuable partners, Fitchburg Mayor Lisa Wong and former Greater Gardner CDC board member Robert Hubbard.

Wong received the Community Partnership Award because, as Twin Cities CDC board of trustees Vice President Emily MacRae said, "She has never been afraid of hard work," and because of "the vision she helped paint for the future."

Hubbard, who died last November, was posthumously given the Luz Sanchez Leadership Award for his commitment to the regionalization effort.

Hubbard's wife, Debbie, who accepted the award on his behalf, said Hubbard "would be so proud of NewVue Communities."

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