



## ST. LOUIS EQUITY FUND, INC.

## 2021 Report to the Community



707 N. 2nd Street, Suite 308 St. Louis, Missouri 63102

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www.slefi.com



## MISSION

Our purpose is to effectively utilize corporate investment and available tax incentives to stimulate the development of affordable, low- and moderate-income housing units. We strive to revitalize and stabilize neighborhoods, through public/private cooperation and superior asset management.



Fox Meadows Supportive Living Facility

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Salisbury Park 3 Homes

LETTER

## FROM THE PRESIDENT









The Low Income Housing Tax Credit program, its continued growth and refinements, including ongoing bi-partisan support on the national level and a return of the Missouri State Low Income Housing tax Credit program, all demonstrate the continuing support for and success of this remarkable public-private partnership providing

rental housing to low-moderate income individuals.

The St. Louis Equity Fund is pleased and honored to be reflective of that success, which is only possible with the financial investments from our investors. Since 1988, we've assisted in the creation and/or preservation of 4,997 units of housing in 152 real estate partnerships in the St. Louis and Kansas City metropolitan areas as well as eastern Kansas and southern Illinois.

Our CDFI, Gateway Community Development Fund, Inc. has assisted in the preservation of 541 units of housing through \$13,243,845 in financing in over 77 developments.

Each of our investments, in conjunction with our housing partners as sponsors and developers, has had a tremendous impact in the creation and/or preservation of affordable housing in the St. Louis MSA, Kansas City MSA, southern Illinois and outstate Missouri.

We are especially thankful of being able to work with many developers who have long range plans for impacting their communities, including Beyond Housing, DeSales Community Development, Northside Community Housing, North Newstead

## Values: Dedication,

Association, The Salvation Army, The Oakland Group and LMAC Holdings. The mission component and long-term goals of organizations such as these and the many others we partner with make it possible for us to deliver on the value-added aspect of an investment by the St. Louis Equity Funds. To each of these and the many others (see our General Partners list at the end of this report), the staff and the investors in the St. Louis Equity Fund say a sincere THANK YOU!

As we move forward and into a new era reminding us that life is unpredictable, our commitment to low to moderate income individuals, families, seniors and special needs populations is unwavering.

Thank you to all our investors and community partners for your commitment to this most important need.

Sincerely,

John F. Kennedy President and CEO



St. Ferdinand Homes II

## **Professionalism, Collaboration**

## WHY INVEST

## IN THE EQUITY FUNDS?

## **History & Impact**

The St. Louis Equity Fund was founded in 1988 with a \$75,000 grant from Civic Progress in response to the need for a locally owned and controlled organization to syndicate low-income housing tax credits created by the Tax Reform Act of 1986. The first Fund in 1988 raised \$3.25 million and facilitated the production of 105 affordable homes. Since that time, the St. Louis and Kansas City Equity Funds have raised over \$485 million in capital which has aided in the production of 4,997 housing units.

In addition to raising equity to develop affordable housing, the Equity Fund provides non-traditional loan products and development consulting services through its wholly owned subsidiary, Gateway Community Development Fund, Inc. (Gateway). Gateway was established in 2009, as a U.S. Treasury Certified Development Financial Institution, and serves underserved areas throughout the state of Missouri, Central and Southern Illinois and Eastern Kansas.

## **SLEFI Portfolio**

Total Developments: **152**  Total Units: **4,997** 

Total Development Cost since 1988: \$727,430,000 Equity Raised since 1988: **\$485,445,000** 

## A Resident's Perspective

Lacely and her four children moved into a brand-new single-family home, part of the Lucas and Hunt Heights development, in 2008. This was her first new home, and she hopes to be able to own this home someday. Lacely is a hardworking mother who struggled with literacy issues and financial difficulties; but she was determined to achieve her goal of receiving her high school diploma. With a lot of hard work and the support of Beyond Housing's social service programs and referrals, Lacely recently received her high school diploma. She is continuing her education and plans to obtain a Certified Nurse Assistance license. "Without a stable place to raise my family and Beyond Housing's programs, I would not have been able to reach my goals. I am very thankful."



Lacely Resident, Lucas & Hunt Heights



Vetter Place Apartments



Lucas & Hunt Heights

## WHY PARTNER

WITH THE EQUITY FUNDS?

## **Investment Opportunities**

The St. Louis and Kansas City Equity Funds offer an excellent opportunity for corporations and financial institutions to support the communities they serve while, at the same time, earning a return on their investment. The St. Louis and Kansas City Equity Funds raise capital on an annual basis from corporations and financial institutions and form a Fund which invests in Low Income Housing Tax Credits and, when applicable, Historic Tax Credits to aid the production of affordable housing units. The tax benefits generated from these investments are then allocated to the investors, proportionate to their investment, providing them a market rate of return. Benefits of Investing:

- The St. Louis and Kansas City Equity Funds have an excellent track record of managing investments and a solid reputation in the affordable housing industry.
- The investments are CRA-qualified for financial institutions.
- Investors in the Equity Funds support the communities in which they reside and serve and earn a return on their investment.
- Investors are given the opportunity to participate in the governance of the St. Louis Equity Fund by serving on the Board or one of its five Corporate Committees.

## **Development Opportunities**

The St. Louis and Kansas City Equity Funds partner with nonprofit and for-profit developers to create and rehabilitate affordable housing developments, preserve neighborhoods and stabilize communities. Throughout the life of a development, the Equity Funds provide support to their partners including both financial and technical assistance through Gateway. From the planning process through the operational phase, management and staff are committed to providing professional guidance to assist in the success of the affordable housing developments. Benefits of Partnering:

- The Equity Funds are local and are able to monitor all stages of the development, from the planning process through the operations phase.
- The Equity Funds provide competitive pricing and work closely with developer partners to ensure a financially stable investment.
- The Equity Funds are full service partners for all of your affordable housing and community development needs.

## **A Resident's Perspective**

Dennis is a recovering alcoholic and homeless veteran who went through a months-long sobriety program at the Salvation Army's Midtown Service and Treatment Center and established permanent housing at The Salvation Army's 3010 Apartments. At 63, Dennis said he had to swallow part of his pride first, taking Army directives to attend classes, go to full-time work with a two-hour public transportation commute, stay sober, and attend group meetings with fellow veterans at night. Dennis said, "I really sat down and had a one-on-one with myself. What do I really want? I want to get clean and sober. I need stability. I need a place and a roof over my head."

Dennis plans to retire at the age of 65 which is just a few short years away. The programs and services offered by the Salvation Army coupled with safe, affordable housing was the perfect fit to help Dennis turn his life around!



Dennis The Salvation Army 3010 Apartments Resident



The Salvation Army 3010 Apartments

## DEVELOPMENTS

### Elm Ridge BEDROOM 10-11-X11-X Senior Apartments



Elm Ridge Senior Apartments is the first affordable housing project located in the City of Hazelwood. This project consists of 50 units – 14 one-bedroom units and 36 two-bedroom units. As a mixed income community, the development has eight units dedicated to residents at or below 30% of area median income, 37 units for residents at or below 60% of area median income and five market rate units. Supportive services available to the residents include tax preparation assistance, computer classes, social events, transportation, CORP (County Older Residents Program), exercise classes and health screenings.



Number of units: 50

**SLEF Equity Commitment:** \$7,125,037

Direct Investor: Sugar Creek Capital

Financing: Federal and State Low Income Housing Tax Credits

**Developers:** 

The Oakland Group; BTWF–Urban Initiative Corporation; Unicorn Group, LLC General Contractor: Roanoke Construction, Inc.

Architect: Rosemann & Associates, P.C.

Construction Lender: Legacy Bank & Trust

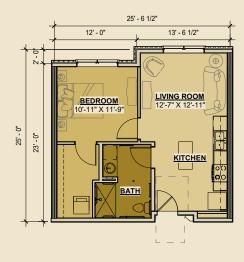
Permanent Lender: Legacy Bank & Trust

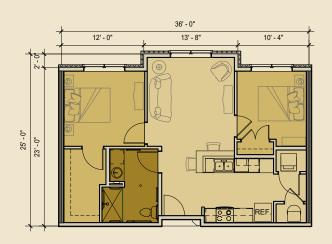
Property Manager: Sansone Group











## DEVELOPMENTS

## Scott Manor II Senior Apartments

Scott Manor II Senior Apartments is the second phase of the recently completed Scott Manor Senior Apartments. The second phase will include 50 units and is located on the same campus in unincorporated North St. Louis County near the intersection of Chambers and Halls Ferry Roads. The unit mix consists of 14 one-bedroom units and 36 two-bedroom units. As a mixed income community, the development will have eight units dedicated to residents at or below 30% of area median income, 37 units for residents at or below 60% of area median income and five market rate units.



Number of units: 50

**SLEF Equity Commitment:** \$8,389,244

Direct Investor: Sugar Creek Capital

Financing: Federal and State Low Income Housing Tax Credits

**Developers:** The Oakland Group; BTWF– Urban Initiative Corporation General Contractor: Roanoke Construction, Inc.

Architect: Rosemann & Associates, P.C.

Construction Lender: Legacy Bank & Trust

Permanent Lender: Legacy Bank & Trust

Property Manager: Sansone Group







Scott Manor I



## **Mission:**

To provide consulting services, financial products and training to entities serving low-income neighborhoods and their residents in the St. Louis and Kansas City metro areas; filling the need for innovative financing and development services.

## **Quick Facts**

Through 12/31/2021 Originated **77** loans

Financing **541** units of housing

Total funding: \$13,843,845



www.gatewaycdfi.com

## **History:**

Gateway Community Development Fund, Inc. was formed in 2009 as an affiliate of the St. Louis and Kansas City Equity Funds. Certified by the U.S. Departments of the Treasury, Gateway's primary purposes include: lending, consulting and collaboration to promote community and economic development throughout Missouri and the Midwest.

#### With the financing available through Gateway's participation loan pool, Flourish Properties completed the redevelopment of this two-family property in St. Louis City. These before and after photos show the amount of work completed and beauty of this building.

## Lending:

Gateway provides capital to borrowers, both for-profit and non-profit entities, which are seeking funds to develop and maintain affordable housing in underserved areas throughout Gateway's target markets. Gateway provides lending opportunities directly and also through its Participation Loan Pools which are funded by its banking partners and managed by Gateway. Below are the products that Gateway offers:

- First mortgage loans
- Predevelopment loans
- Acquisition & rehabilitation loans
- Construction loans





# Lending •

## **Consulting:**

Gateway's consulting practice is regional in scope and offers a wide range of services which include:

- Consulting to developers of affordable housing
- Modeling financial projections for affordable housing developments
- Financial and construction draw management
- Performance of physical needs assessment
- Training in LIHTC compliance and asset management
- Technical assistance for organizational development and strategic planning

After

## **Collaboration:**

An important part of Gateway's mission is collaboration with financial institutions, government entities, developers, and other community-based organizations working in the housing and community development arena. Gateway has the flexibility and knowledge to tailor its products and services to the needs of its partners and clients.

## **Gateway Team**

John F. Kennedy President

Jerry Burka Consultant – Old Orchard Consulting

Joseph Cavato Consultant – JAC Consulting, LLC

Erica A. Dobreff Consultant – Somerset Consulting, LLC

### **Board of Directors:**

John F. Kennedy, Chair St. Louis Equity Fund, Inc.

Erica A. Dobreff Somerset Consulting, LLC

**Jim Holtzman** Consultant

Chris Krehmeyer Beyond Housing

Lansden (Sandy) McCandless III First Bank

Reginald Scott Washington University in St. Louis

Ann Sutter Consultant

Peter Zeiser Midwest BankCentre

### Internal Loan Committee:

John Kennedy, Chair St. Louis Equity Fund, Inc.

Mark Brandom CIBC Bank

Erica Dobreff Somerset Consulting, LLC

Chris Krehmeyer Beyond Housing

Brian Davies Great Southern Bank

# Consulting - Collaboration

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS effective 6.9.2022

Brian Davies, Chair Great Southern Bank Steve Rasche, Vice Chair Spire Inc.

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Todd Gomez Bank of America James Snyder Centene Corporation Katie Seibel Central Bank of St. Louis

Mark Brandom CIBC Bank Jason Penfield

Commerce Bank

Loura Gilbert Consultant Steve Kassing

FCB BANKS

Midland States Bank Wes Burns Midwort BankContro

Midwest BankCentre

## Niccole Clements PNC Community Development Bank

John Kennedy St. Louis Equity Fund, Inc.

Suzy Agin Stifel Bank & Trust Jen Call US Bancorp CDC

## **Investment Committee**

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James Snyder Centene Corporation

Mark Brandom CIBC Bank

Jason Penfield Commerce Bank

Loura Gilbert Consultant

Steve Kassing FCB BANKS

Brian Davies Great Southern Bank Wes Burns Midwest BankCentre David Noble

Midland States Bank Niccole Clements

PNC Community Development Bank

Suzy Agin Stifel Bank & Trust

John Kennedy St. Louis Equity Fund, Inc., Non-voting Member

## **Finance Committee**

Kevin DeGraw, Chair Ameren Dave Harris First State Bank of St. Charles

Tom Murphy Great Southern Bank

Jennifer Perkins Midland States Bank

David Noble Midland States Bank **Derek Laur** Parkside Financial Bank & Trust

Joseph Sooter Stifel Bank & Trust

John Kennedy St. Louis Equity Fund, Inc.

## **Executive and Governance Committee**

Brian Davies, Chair Great Southern Bank Steve Rasche, Vice Chair Spire Inc.

Kevin DeGraw Ameren Katie Seibel Central Bank of St. Louis

John Kennedy St. Louis Equity Fund, Inc., Non-voting Member

## **Nominating Committee**

Brian Davies, Chair Great Southern Bank Kevin DeGraw Ameren

Loura Gilbert Consultant Wes Burns Midwest BankCentre

John Kennedy St. Louis Equity Fund, Inc., Non-voting Member

## **Audit Committee**

Steve Rasche, Chairman Spire Inc.

Kevin DeGraw Ameren Marsha Benney Midwest BankCentre John Barringer Stifel Bank

## 2021 INVESTOR LIST

Ameren Anheuser-Busch Bank of Labor Busey Bank Cass Commercial Bank Centene Corporation Central Bank of St. Louis Central Bank of the Midwest CIBC Bank USA CNB St. Louis Bank Commerce Bank FCB BANKS First State Bank of St. Charles Great Southern Bank Jefferson Bank and Trust Midland States Bank Midwest BankCentre Northern Trust Corporation Parkside Financial Bank & Trust PNC Bank, N.A. Simmons Bank Spire Inc. Stifel Bank Stifel Bank & Trust

## **CURRENT ST. LOUIS EQUITY FUND GENERAL PARTNERS**

Believers Temple Word Fellowship Church Better Living Communities Beyond Housing Cardinal Ritter Senior Services DeSales Community Development Fox Meadows Supportive Living, LLC Fulson Housing Group Gardner Capital Affordable Housing, LLC Gateway Housing First Hart Development Group Housing Revitalization, Inc. Irving Partners, LLC Ivanhoe Neighborhood Council Jamison Memorial Temple, CDC KEB Holdings, LLC The Lawrence Group LoftWorks, LLC Lutheran Senior Services McEagle Properties, LLC Metropolitan Housing Development Corporation Milton D. Rothschild Missouri Housing Partners ND Properties North Newstead Association Northside Community Housing, Inc. North Star Housing, LLC The Oakland Group Overland Property Group Pruitt-Igoe Development Corporation Renaissance Property Group Robert Wood Rubicon Corporation Sisters of the Most Precious Blood St. Patrick Center The Salvation Army – Midland Division STAR Management II LLC Touchette Regional Hospital Webster School GP LLC Westside Housing Organization



**DeSales** Preservation

## **OUR TEAM**





John F. Kennedy President and CEO

Andrew Walshaw Executive Vice President









**Amy McDermott** Vice President – Operations

**Cleo Miller Sr.** Construction Manager

**Eldina Qirici** Accounting Manager

Cate Trende Asset Manager

## **Professional Consultants**

**Spencer Fane** Attorneys at Law



**Polsinelli** Attorneys at Law



The Hawes Law Firm P.C. Attorneys at Law

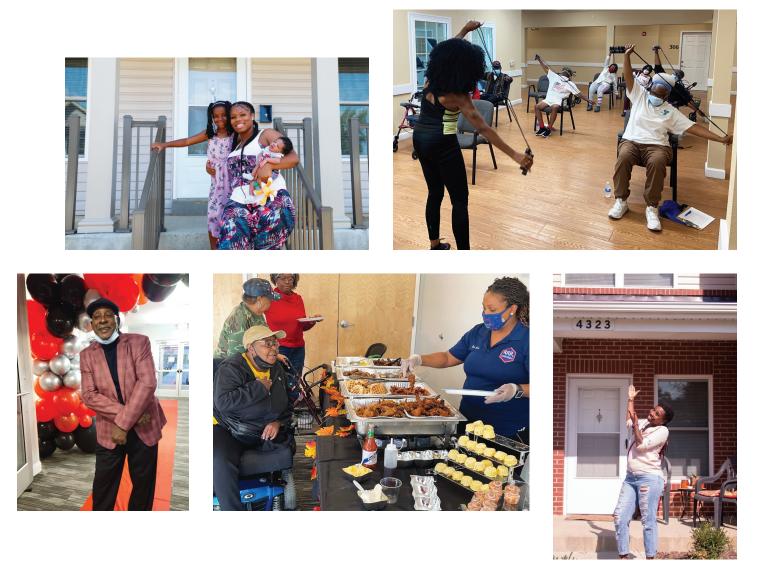
THE HAWES LAW FIRM P.C. RubinBrown LLP Certified Public Accountants



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## www.slefi.com



## Investments building affordable communities