A Catalyst for Change

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Community Teamwork Announces Aleksandra Tugbiyele as New Board President

Longtime Board Member and Lowell Community Leader Brings Nearly Two Decades of Nonprofit Leadership, Advocacy, and Community Engagement Experience

LOWELL, MA – October 27, 2026 – Community Teamwork (CTI), one of Massachusetts' largest Community Action Agencies, is pleased to announce the appointment of **Aleksandra Tugbiyele as President of its Board of Directors**. Tugbiyele succeeds Sheila Och, who will continue her service and leadership on the Board as Vice Chair.

A Lowell resident and longtime community advocate, Tugbiyele has served on Community Teamwork's Board of Directors since December 2020, including the past four years as Vice President. She brings nearly 20 years of experience in the nonprofit and social impact sectors, with expertise in organizational leadership, fundraising, operations, and board governance.

“Aleksandra brings an extraordinary combination of nonprofit leadership experience, community connections, and a deeply personal understanding of Community Teamwork's mission,” said Nancy Van Alst, Interim Chief Executive Officer of Community Teamwork. “Her commitment to strengthening families and creating opportunities for our neighbors makes her exceptionally well suited to lead our Board. We are equally grateful to Sheila Och for her dedicated leadership as Board President and are pleased that she will continue to share her experience and guidance as Vice Chair.”

Tugbiyele's connection to Community Teamwork extends well beyond her Board service. Her husband, Bobby, previously worked for the organization as a Senior Career Advisor and Job Developer, and the couple participated in CTI parenting classes while raising two young children. That firsthand experience helped shape her appreciation for the organization's work and its impact on families throughout the region.

“Community Teamwork has a tremendous footprint in our community, providing critical assistance and support to thousands of individuals and families while advocating for a stronger Merrimack Valley,” said Tugbiyele. “I believe deeply that CTI's work is creating healthier, stronger, more stable families and communities, resulting in a better quality of life and brighter futures for all of us who call this area home.”

“I have tremendous respect for the people who make up CTI's team, especially those who connect personally with members of our community every day,” she continued. “Having experienced the organization's impact firsthand, I am grateful for the opportunity to serve in this new capacity and to support the dedicated staff who bring CTI's mission to life.”

Throughout her career, Tugbiyele has worked to connect people, build relationships, and advance meaningful community change. Most recently, she served as Chief of Staff and Board Clerk to the President and CEO of the Boston Arts Academy Foundation, where she supported the organization's historic *Building Our Future* comprehensive campaign, which successfully raised more than $36 million.

Her professional experience in Lowell includes leadership and development roles with Middlesex Community College, Acre Family Child Care, and UTEC. She has helped raise millions of dollars to sustain and expand programs that strengthen communities and create opportunities for individuals and families.

Tugbiyele's extensive community involvement includes co-founding the Foundation Mixer Series and serving with the Non-Profit Alliance of Greater Lowell, Lowell Women's Week, the Lowell Cultural Council, and Living the Dream Partners. In recognition of her longstanding commitment to the community, she received Community Teamwork's Champion of Community Action Award in 2022.

Her dedication to community extends beyond Lowell. In 2024, she joined the steering committee of the Pakachoag Project, a collaboration focused on preserving Greater Worcester's Black and Indigenous history. In 2026, she and members of her family founded the Quinsigamond Band of Nipmucs, Inc., a Worcester-based nonprofit dedicated in part to conserving Indigenous history, art, and culture.

Originally from Worcester, Tugbiyele has called Lowell home since 2009, where she lives with her husband, Bobby, and their two children.

As Board President, Tugbiyele will help guide Community Teamwork's strategic direction, strengthen community partnerships, and support the organization's continued commitment to meeting the evolving needs of individuals and families across Greater Lowell and surrounding communities.

“Community Teamwork has always been about people helping people,” Tugbiyele added. “I look forward to working alongside my fellow Board members, CTI's leadership, and its extraordinary staff to build on that legacy and ensure the organization continues to be a source of opportunity, stability, and hope for generations to come.”

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About Community Teamwork

Founded in 1965, Community Teamwork is a Community Action Agency dedicated to helping individuals and families achieve greater financial stability, housing security, and economic opportunity. Serving Greater Lowell and communities throughout Middlesex and Essex Counties, CTI provides a comprehensive network of services, including early education and child care, housing and homelessness prevention, energy assistance, workforce development, youth services, and financial empowerment programs. Guided by its values of integrity, equity, and compassion, Community Teamwork continues to be a catalyst for change while working to strengthen families, empower communities, and create lasting pathways out of poverty. For more information, visit www.commteam.org.

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