

Letter from President of the Board

As we reflect on our successes of the past year and our overall track record for the past 18 years, we can take pride in our accomplishments. The development of the Hoffman Triangle is the beginning evolution of a neighborhood. Expansion of services to include Financial Fitness and Landlord Training, and homeownership training of over 5,000 individuals and the creation of over 2200 first-time homeowners are just some of our successes. There is no doubt that NDF is fulfilling its mission of creating homeownership opportunities to low and moderate income families.

However, as we look at the condition of the city of New Orleans, we realize that there is still much work to be done. The long-term effects of large percentages of people living in poverty, a poor public education system, a struggling economy compounded by the shortage of decent affordable housing have created a greater need for our services. There are still many hardworking families and potential homeowners that need our help.

Our challenge is to continue to that “guiding light” that leads to homeownership. We must continue to be proactive in finding new and innovative solutions to address the challenges that our clients face. To the NDF staff and Board of Directors, thanks for all your hard work and effort. Special thanks to our partners/supporters, who believed in our mission and had confidence in our ability to make a difference. Your continued support is crucial as we move forward assisting those individuals/families who have the desire and willingness to work toward achieving the goal of homeownership.



Mizell Scott
NDF Board President



Craig Silva
NDF Board Member

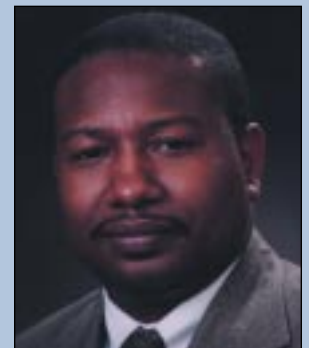
Nearly ten years ago, Craig Silva was persuaded by a former accounting partner to join the NDF Board. Initially, he admits, he didn't know what NDF did, but was quickly impressed with the mission of the organization and its successful training programs. Today, he continues to be impressed with the organization's accomplishments.

As a Certified Public Accountant, he lends his specialized proficiency as Treasurer of our Board. In addition to Board responsibilities, he is always accessible to aid the Executive Director with forecasting the annual budget, reviewing monthly financial statements and collaborating on the overall operations of NDF.

Mr. Silva states, “NDF is not in the business of charity, but in the business of preparation, guiding clients to improve their credit standards, and instructing them on the importance of maintaining their properties – all of which when accomplished helps build pride. With pride as a supporting keystone, the result is a strong, stable homeowner and an asset to the community.”

He admits it may sound corny, but quotes, “If you give a man a fish, he can eat for a day; but if you teach him to fish...” So it goes with NDF. Teaching rather than giving, so that at the end of the day, our clients can conquer the complexities and rest blanketed in the satisfaction of owning and maintaining their own property.

This past January, Lee Howard, Harrah's New Orleans Casino's Director of Slot Operations, joined the NDF team as a member of our Board of Directors. NDF's objective to provide training, education and the opportunity for citizens to become first-time homeowners gives him an occasion to provide a very valuable asset to the community, which he acknowledges as an essential obligation. Being actively involved in the communities in which he works is a personal and a professional responsibility that he is committed to deliver.



Lee Howard
NDF Board Member

In his ten year career with Harrah's, he has worked in two other communities - Vicksburg, Mississippi and Cherokee, North Carolina, a primarily Native American community. He has personally seen what the prospect for new jobs can bring to a population and plans to work with NDF to position the groundwork for the employees of Harrah's who are embarking upon their first home buying experience.

Mr. Howard firmly believes that our city will flourish when the citizens have a stake in its future, when they have the ability to own a part of it. Mr. Howard recognizes NDF as a major contributor in our city's dynamic future by giving the general public the instruction and the resources needed to attain their homeownership goals.