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**For Immediate Release**

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**Community Teamwork’s Entrepreneurship Center Hires New Director**

**Lowell,** Charles Smith has joined Community Teamwork as the new Director of the Entrepreneurship Center (E-Center). The E-Center provides business coaching, consulting and funding local entrepreneurs, ensuring community businesses thrive. With over 14 years of SBA experience and 20 years of government lending experience, Charles has been involved in lending for his entire career.

“I am excited to be working with the entrepreneurs in the Merrimack Valley and look forward to the challenge of providing access to capital in these communities. I believe in giving entrepreneurs from all walks-of-life, no matter their stage of business, a chance to grow their business using all of the programs available to entrepreneurs in our communities, including conventional and SBA lending,” Charles stated.

Charles is an Adjunct Professor and PH.D candidate in 2026 at UMass Lowell, a graduate of Texas Tech School of Law, Rawls College of Business and Texas and Prairie View A&M University. When not working or in school, Charles enjoys downtime with his family, including a young son and daughter.

“We are thrilled to have Charles join our team. His wealth of experience, contacts and knowledge will be a great asset to our agency and the community,” said Karen Frederick, Chief Executive Office, Community Teamwork.

Please note, **The Entrepreneurship Center** will host a **Meet and Greet** with Charles Smith and the Entrepreneurship team on Wednesday, November 2nd, 4 -6pm at Mill City BBQ in Lowell. Open to all community members.

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**About The Entrepreneurship Center at Community Teamwork**

The Entrepreneurship Center (E-Center) was founded to provide entrepreneurs from ethnically and economically diverse groups with the educations, tools and access to SBA micro loan products necessary to launch expand and sustain small businesses. The E-Center also provides business coaching in many forms, and works with partners including SCORE, EforAll, and other small business consultants.

**About Community Teamwork**

Community Teamwork is a member of the National Community Action Partnership and the Community Action Network, which was born out of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964. Community Teamwork is a catalyst for social change. Our driving mission is to help people help themselves with childcare, family supports, nutrition, fuel assistance, housing, skills training, employment, financial education, and individual asset and small business development. As a Community Action Agency, a Regional Housing Agency, and a Community Development Corporation, Community Teamwork helps more than 54,000 individuals from over 70 cities and towns in Middlesex and Essex Counties gain greater economic independence.

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