



**For Immediate Release**

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**CTI's Tom Sun Receives Transformative Leadership Award from THRIVE**

**Lowell – Tom Sun**, Director of the Housing Communication and Education Center (HCEC) at Community Teamwork, was recently presented with the Transformative Leadership Award from THRIVE. THRIVE's "Transformative Leadership Award, is presented to a local leader who embodies transformative values in their work and community engagement. Recipients are individuals who have built upon their personal experiences to inspire, nurture, and heal their community. These leaders are paving the way for systemic change. This describes Tom Sun.

**Connie Martin**, Division Director of EC&R at CTI expressed, "We are so proud of our award-winning Tom Sun. As Director of HCEC, Tom has worked diligently to lead his team to successfully help hundreds of clients receive the benefits of the RAFT program - during the pandemic and beyond." The **Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT)** program is a state-funded, targeted program, that helps keep qualifying households in stable housing situations when facing eviction, loss of utilities, and other housing emergencies.

In addition, Tom has worked with THRIVE over the past years helping to educate their clients on available resources in relation to **Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT)**, tenants' rights, and the eviction process. Tom has been able to successfully assist THRIVE clients in securing assistance with housing or to maintain housing.

**Kim Yeasir**, CEO of THRIVE Communities of Massachusetts shared, "Thrive enthusiastically affirms Tom for the years he has dedicated to supporting greater Lowell community members as they navigate some of the most challenging experiences an individual can face. Always thoughtful and in-tune with what people in difficult situations are experiencing, Tom is guiding the next generation of service providers to carry on the work with dignity, empathy, and sincerity. Thank you Tom for all you have done for THRIVE members and for our Lowell community!"

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**About Community Teamwork**

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 nearly 54,000 individuals from 71 cities and towns in northeastern Massachusetts gain greater economic independence. For more information, please visit [www.commteam.org](http://www.commteam.org).

## **About THRIVE**

THRIVE's mission is to empower communities to welcome and support their neighbors transitioning from incarceration. THRIVE will disrupt cycles of incarceration, isolation, and social harm by organizing and supporting grassroots efforts for restorative reentry, community building, and leadership development among those most impacted by incarceration. This community-based response to the challenges of reentry will help communities learn how to heal themselves and address systemic barriers to reentry.

[www.thrivema.org](http://www.thrivema.org)