

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, Sept. 2, 2020

People Inc. CEO honored with national community action award **Rob Goldsmith received the Lyndon Baines Johnson Human Services Award**

ABINGDON, Va. – People Incorporated President and CEO Rob Goldsmith was honored last week by the National Community Action Partnership with the Lyndon Baines Johnson Human Services Award for his decades of work with People Incorporated and Community Action.

“It is a real honor to receive this award,” said Goldsmith. “I am really blessed to have been able to have been a part of this movement. While I’m very proud of all the services People Inc. offers, it’s our community economic development work that sets us apart from most of our peers.”

“It is fitting that Rob received an award named for the president who declared the War on Poverty and signed the Economic Opportunity Act, as Rob’s visionary leadership in community economic development has positively impacted the lives of so many people,” said Denise Harlow, CEO of the National Community Action Partnership. “I am thrilled that the board of directors chose Rob to receive this award.”

The Lyndon Baines Johnson Human Services Award is given to an individual who has made a significant contribution to helping families improve their health and well-being while also striving to strengthen the broader community. The award was established in 1983 to “recognize and acknowledge outstanding achievements in support of Community Action.”

Goldsmith has served as the President and CEO of People Inc. for 38 years. He oversees a staff of nearly 300, an annual budget of \$30 million and acts as a liaison between the agency and legislative partners, funders, organizational partners and the national Community Action network.

People Inc. has been recognized as one of the most innovative Community Action agencies in the country under Goldsmith’s leadership. The agency has received three innovation awards from the National Community Action Partnership since 2011.

Goldsmith has led the agency in expanding access to affordable housing and raised over \$60 million in capital for affordable housing development in rural counties across Virginia. Today, the agency owns and manages over 30 affordable housing properties totaling 1,031 units.

People Incorporated of Virginia

Headquarters 1173 West Main Street, Abingdon, VA 24210 **Phone:** 276.623.9000 or 276.466.6527 **Fax:** 276.628.2931 **Email:** info@peopleinc.net

Bristol Office 800 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, Bristol, VA 24201 **Phone:** 276.466.5587 **Fax:** 276.466.0728 **Email:** bristol@peopleinc.net

Grundy Office 20694 Riverside Drive, Grundy, VA 24614 **Phone:** 276.935.4747 **Fax:** 276.935.4368 **Email:** buchanan@peopleinc.net

Lebanon Office 122 Price Street, Lebanon, VA 24266 **Phone:** 276.889.0999 **Fax:** 276.889.0117 **Email:** russell@peopleinc.net

Manassas Office 9324 West Street, Manassas, VA 20110 **Phone:** 571.445.3020 **Fax:** 571.445.3030 **Email:** pwc@peopleinc.net

Woodstock Office 135 South Main Street, Woodstock, VA 22664 **Phone:** 540.459.9096 **Fax:** 540.459.8732 **Email:** woodstock@peopleinc.net

Culpeper Office 233 East Davis Street, Suite 100 and 300, Culpeper, VA 22701 **Phone:** 833.277.9330 **Email:** info@peopleinc.net



In 2008, People Inc. became the first and only Community Action-led New Markets Tax Credits Development Entity in the nation. Since that time, the organization has been awarded \$209 million in New Markets Tax Credit allocations leading to the creation of over 4,800 jobs and more than \$160 million invested in low-income communities across the southeastern United States. The agency was also the first Community Action Agency in the country to offer microenterprise development services.

Goldsmith has served as executive director of Ninth District Development Financing (NDDF) since 1998, which makes loans for the development of tourism destinations in Virginia's ninth congressional district. NDDF financed an expansion to the state theatre of Virginia, the Barter Theatre, in 2003. The theatre used funding to rehabilitate its Stage Two.

Goldsmith retired last month from the national Community Action Partnership Board of Directors after serving for 10 years. He retired as Chairman of the Virginia Community Action Board of Directors earlier this summer, after serving for 13 years. He continues to serve as chair of the legislative committee.

Goldsmith will retire from the agency in December 2021 and remain on in an advisory capacity until the end of January 2022. He began his career at People Inc. in 1978 as a program planner.

Last year, People Inc. served over 11,300 people in the areas of child and family development, community economic development, housing services, workforce development and community services. The agency made loans totaling over \$18 million, creating 719 new jobs and community facilities. People Inc. housed over 1,300 families in its affordable housing properties last year.

People Inc. serves 16 cities and counties across Virginia. For more information, visit peopleinc.net.

About People Incorporated of Virginia

People Incorporated is a non-profit Community Action Agency and Community Development Corporation committed to providing opportunities for economically disadvantaged people to reach their goals in order to enhance their lives, families, and communities. People Incorporated develops programs and strategies that are designed to move people and communities into the economic mainstream. In Fiscal Year 2020, People Incorporated provided services to over 11,300 clients. For more information about People Incorporated's programs and services contact the Abingdon office at 276-623-9000 or visit us at www.peopleinc.net.

###

People Incorporated of Virginia

Headquarters 1173 West Main Street, Abingdon, VA 24210 **Phone:** 276.623.9000 or 276.466.6527 **Fax:** 276.628.2931 **Email:** info@peopleinc.net

Bristol Office 800 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, Bristol, VA 24201 **Phone:** 276.466.5587 **Fax:** 276.466.0728 **Email:** bristol@peopleinc.net

Grundy Office 20694 Riverside Drive, Grundy, VA 24614 **Phone:** 276.935.4747 **Fax:** 276.935.4368 **Email:** buchanan@peopleinc.net

Lebanon Office 122 Price Street, Lebanon, VA 24266 **Phone:** 276.889.0999 **Fax:** 276.889.0117 **Email:** russell@peopleinc.net

Manassas Office 9324 West Street, Manassas, VA 20110 **Phone:** 571.445.3020 **Fax:** 571.445.3030 **Email:** pwc@peopleinc.net

Woodstock Office 135 South Main Street, Woodstock, VA 22664 **Phone:** 540.459.9096 **Fax:** 540.459.8732 **Email:** woodstock@peopleinc.net

Culpeper Office 219 East Davis Street, Suite 100, Culpeper, VA 22701 **Phone:** 833.277.9330 **Email:** info@peopleinc.net

