Community Ventures helps people own homes and start businesses because we believe in people’s dreams. From affordable financing to education, to neighborhood revitalization, our areas of focus offer the opportunity to dramatically improve the quality of life for people across Kentucky. Founded in 1982, Community Ventures has evolved in capacity and knowledge, but our mission has stayed the same—to strengthen our communities by empowering individuals. We are focused on the areas of greatest need, where we can make the most impact. This is why we offer a range of products and services from financial counseling to large scale neighborhood revitalization. Vibrant communities start with people, so Community Ventures gives our clients knowledge and skills they can use for the rest of their lives, and even pass down to later generations.

Success Story: Kuk Ruadrew/Jasmine Rice Thai and Vietnamese Cuisine, Lexington, KY

Nipaporn “Kuk” Ruadrew, owner of Jasmine Rice Thai & Vietnamese Cuisine, grew up eating from the food carts in Thailand. Kuk recalls the joyful childhood ritual of walking with her mother through street markets in Thailand, Laos, and Vietnam as she chose fresh fruits, vegetables, herbs, and meat for her cooking. The menu at offers Thai and Vietnamese dishes, and on weekends, Lexington’s first encounter with Laotian cuisine. Along with her mother who runs the kitchen, Kuk makes certain each customer’s experience is special. Service is immediate, and you could not ask for friendlier or more responsive hosts. Kuk said is very meaningful for her family, who appreciate the opportunity they got for a new start many years ago when they were approved for a small business loan at Community Ventures. We’re blessed in so many ways…and we never forget that,” Kuk said, recalling her restaurant’s success. “That’s how we survived. We came here with nothing, and now we have great friends and family and belong to a great community.”

Financial and Social Impact

- Small businesses and microenterprise financing provided: $13MM
- Affordable housing finance provided: $9.2MM
- Affordable housing units financed: 646
- Total non-equity financing leveraged due to financing: $213,380,513

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