

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Diamond State Community Land Trust Announces Executive Director Transition

*Current Executive Director Van Temple to guide Louisiana CLT;  
will assist Diamond State board of directors through change in leadership*

*Organization to honor Temple at its 2011 Annual Meeting on November 17*

**September 23, 2011, DOVER, DE** – Diamond State CLT, the nation's first statewide land trust, today announced that Van Temple will be transitioning out of his post as executive director. Temple, who was central to the founding, building and early growth of Diamond State – and the community land trust movement in Delaware – will be returning to his home state of Louisiana to helm New Orleans' new Crescent City CLT.

"Because of Van's integrity, creativity and tireless work ethic, Diamond State CLT is at a place in terms of board leadership, programming and funding for him to make this move and for us to continue our good work and growth unabated," said Dawn Poczynek-Holdridge, president, Diamond State Community Land Trust Board of Directors. "As Van leaves, Diamond State will remain a steadfast, hard-working partner to our strong, talented network of financial, non-profit, civic and corporate funders and colleagues. We re-affirm our organizational goal of providing 350 permanently affordable homes to hardworking Delawareans by 2022."

Diamond State's board has launched a nationwide search to replace Temple. Concurrently, Temple will assist the organization's search committee and transition team through this shift in leadership, ensuring that Diamond State can continue its programming, fundraising, partnership-management and advocacy work statewide.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my work with Diamond State, our board and the good folks who are focused on making home ownership possible for all hard-working Delawareans who seek it," said Temple. "I leave knowing that the organization is strong, in good hands and on course to continue its growth for years to come."

### **Diamond State Annual Meeting To Honor Temple's Work**

On Thursday, November 17 at 6:30 p.m. in Dover's Brunswick Doverama, Diamond State will be honoring Temple at its Annual Meeting – a casual bowling night for homeowners, their families, partners and friends of the organization. It is open to the public. If you would like to attend this gathering and show your appreciation, please email Jo Ann Zorb at [joannzorb@diamondstateclt.org](mailto:joannzorb@diamondstateclt.org).

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### **About Diamond State Community Land Trust**

Founded in 2006 and based in Dover, Delaware, Diamond State is the nation's first statewide community land trust. Our mission is to strengthen Delaware's communities by creating and stewarding perpetually affordable housing. We do this by blending a fiscally conservative approach to home buying and homeownership with a progressive approach to land use.

Our model is proven to create wealth for homebuyers while mitigating foreclosure and maximizing investments of public funds in affordable housing. Through it, home buyers purchase the home from us and we own the land. In return, homeowners pay a modest fee (\$40/month) to rent the ground and use the land. We also stay in contact with the homeowner in case they face trouble, stepping into to support and educate should trouble arise while ensuring that they successfully meet their obligations and build on their investment.

This shared or collaborative equity enables the land trust to price the house well below its market value, making homeownership affordable to working families who might not otherwise be able to own their own homes. When homeowners choose to sell and move on, the re-sale price is set so that the home is affordable to the next working family. The privilege of homeownership is passed on. For more on us and our model, please visit our website at <http://www.diamondstateclt.org>.

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