

Norwood “Buddy” Cowgill, Jr., is a successful Kentucky businessman and entrepreneur. A life-long resident of Lexington, he is the owner of Cowgill Properties, Inc., a leading real estate development and management company he founded in 1976. He attracted national attention in the late-1980s thanks to his creation and development of Studio Plus Hotels, Inc., a pioneer in the mid-price extended-stay lodging field. Under his guidance in 1995 Studio Plus Hotels became a public company which enabled the company to grow to over 50 hotels in 30 states. Unique in every aspect of its operation, Studio Plus was profiled in the *Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times* and on CNN and CNBC among others. In 1997 Studio Plus Hotels merged with Extended Stay America, a national lodging company. In 1999 Cowgill founded Office Suites Plus, Inc. which offered individuals or businesses temporary or virtual offices and meeting space. The company grew to 38 locations in ten states before being sold to Regis, an international office company.

He and his wife, Judy, have been married for 56 years and have three daughters and nine grandchildren. A graduate of Transylvania University, he presently serves on its Board of Trustees and has received many of the school’s top honors. An avid traveler in his free time, he and Judy have visited over 150 countries and all 50 states.