



**Press Release**  
**February 5, 2019**

**NextHome opens newest office in Ashland, Ohio**

*NextHome Next Stepp is the latest addition to the NextHome franchise*

**Pleasanton, CA — February 5, 2019** — NextHome is proud to announce our newest addition to the franchise, **NextHome Next Stepp**. The brokerage represents the fifth office location opened in the state of Ohio for the NextHome franchise.

The brokerage will be led by broker/owner Bill Stepp and he will handle all day-to-day operations for the company.

The team at NextHome Next Stepp will handle all types of residential property sales such as first-time home buyers, investors, land and farms, relocation, foreclosures, short sales, and all forms of residential sales of 1-4 units. Additionally, the brokerage will serve the community with an auction platform for all real estate properties.

Located an hour south of Cleveland and one hour north of Columbus, the Ashland-based NextHome Next Stepp will service various areas throughout Central Ohio including the cities of Ashland, Mansfield, Wooster, Millersburg, and the remainder of the Richland, Wayne and Holmes Counties.

A professional auctioneer since 1990, Bill brings a unique advantage to the local community. In 1997, he became a full-time auctioneer and has adapted his auction model to serve as a way of selling homes for over 30 years.

In 1997, Bill started in real estate with *Dilgard and Associates* – a real estate and auction company. Shortly after, Bill purchased it from the owner of the company, who started it in 1953, when he expressed a desire to retire. The company has been known for their real estate auctions and has been consistently auctioning more than 30 homes a year.

As the owner and broker of *Dilgard and Associates*, Bill grew the company to 14 agents with an annual sales volume of over \$13 million – no small feat when the average sales price of a home is around \$125,000. In 2018, the company closed over 100 real estate transactions.

While very successful, Bill did look at various real estate franchise models, but always decided to not franchise due to a lack of value. However, in mid-2017, he found NextHome through a real estate magazine. After researching for over a year, Bill made the decision to franchise with NextHome.

“As NextHome Next Stepp, I’m excited about bringing this fresh, new look and feel to our agents and our community,” said Bill. “Adding what NextHome offers, along with our auction platform, we really will be a cut above in what our agents can offer buyers and sellers.”



Bill has been recognized for his service to the real estate industry and auction community for many years.

Bill served as the 2011 President of the *Ohio Auctioneers Association* and in 2018, he was inducted into the *Ohio Auctioneers Association* Hall of Fame. In 2019, the company has been nominated by the Ashland Chamber of Commerce as a semi-finalist for the Sales and Marketing Award.

Bill and his wife of 34 years, Connie, have two sons – Zane, who is the Office Manager at NextHome Next Stepp, and Zach, a nurse based in Tampa, Florida.

Please join us in congratulating Bill and the rest of the team at NextHome Next Stepp on their new NextHome office in Ashland, OH!

***Interested in being a part of the NextHome Real Estate Franchise? Contact VP of Sales Charis Moreno at [Charis@NextHome.com](mailto:Charis@NextHome.com).***

Each office is an independently owned and operated business.

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About NextHome, Inc.

NextHome, Inc. is an independently owned national franchisor with a focus on changing the way consumers work with local agents and shop for real estate online. It owns the NextHome and Realty World Northern California & Northern Nevada franchise networks with over 440 offices and more than 3,400 agents. The company closes over 17,000 transactions annually worth over \$5B in volume.

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