Marc’s Message

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It was a process that took years from the idea, to securing the property and funding for the development, to sharing our idea with the community, meeting with neighbors about the development and going over plans with the architects and construction team. We have worked very, very hard and will continue to work to be strong community partners on this development and any others we do.

We know Grafton Townhomes will have a major impact on the community, just as our involvement has had in Unity Park, Pontiac. We don’t take these experiences lightly and want you to know they are all a very big deal for us. We know they are also a very big deal for those who are able to find quality affordable housing because of our work.

We have come a long way and we thank you for all of your support and for being a part of our journey. Thank you for your continued partnership.

Connecting for a Cause is June 25!

Connecting for a Cause is an event for young professionals who want to meet other rising stars from a wide range of area industries, and provides an opportunity to learn how they can engage with Community Housing Network. Attendees will enjoy a Michigan beer and wine tasting, appetizer station, and live entertainment.

Date: Thursday, June 25, 2015
Time: 5-7:30 p.m.
Place: The Lafayette Market in downtown Pontiac

Tickets: $10 per person/ $15 at the door - Includes 10 drink tickets (each good for one 3 oz. sample), appetizers, and live music. Tickets are available now on our website: www.communityhousingnetwork.org/connecting

Good Neighbor Sponsors: Aetna, Inc., Community Living Services

Place-Maker Sponsor: Autoliv

For additional sponsorship opportunities, contact Lisa Fuhr at LFuhr@chninc.net or 248-824-7313.

Help spread the word about this great event!
No longer homeless
Jeanine now gives back and builds community

Sitting inside on a chilly day, Jeanine Kazcor is warm, comfortable, and has an apartment she can safely call home. Last year however, this was not the case, “I came from a very dysfunctional family,” says Jeanine, “and I ended up on the streets at 12 years old.”

“My life started spiraling out of control and I knew I had to get myself together but I couldn’t.” Remembering how she ended up living in an abandoned funeral home she adds, “If it wasn’t for a police sweep picking me up and taking me to a transitional shelter, I would probably be dead.”

After moving into transitional housing, Jeanine got a job and began reaching out to organizations she had never realized existed. “I was letting my case worker know at Easter Seals: I’m sound in my recovery, clean and sober for 5 years, I finally have an income, but I don’t have any self-worth as far as having my own place.” Jeanine was interviewed by CHN and soon after, she moved into her new apartment – finally finding a place to call home.

After settling into her new home, Jeanine began to notice that her neighbors mostly kept to themselves. Wanting to bring the community closer together, Jeanine started organizing group activities. “We do movie nights every other Wednesday,” she smiles as she points to the event calendars she has created, “we have Bingo, we have exercise class.” In addition to volunteering around her apartment complex, Jeanine frequently helps with Forgotten Harvest and the transitional shelter where she used to live. “I’m a firm believer in giving back,” she says.

Katrina White, her CHN supportive services coordinator, has also become an important part of Jeanine’s routine. “At first I thought she was coming to take my apartment away,” Jeanine says, as she laughs at the memory. “But within the last year I’ve gotten to know her and I look forward to her visits every month. It keeps me on point, I stay responsible, and I really enjoy it when she comes.” She adds, “It’s like family.”

Despite having recently undergone major surgery, Jeanine never lets her smile fade. “What it means to me to have this home is to not live in fear. To be able to make my medical appointments was a really big issue, to be able to reach out to other agencies and actually have an address for them to reach me back at, to finally have a sense of being – that takes a big fear off of me.”

What will happen to my children when I’m gone?
Make a plan for long-term housing

Sometimes we hire an electrician, plumber or accountant to do work we can’t do. It will be the same for our adult children with disabilities – no matter how challenged. With appropriate supports, they can live interdependently in the community of their choice. To be able to do that successfully, though, takes planning.

So where do you start? The best place to start is with the needs, desires, and the resources available to the person you are planning for. What works for them in your home? What might work better? Explore what public funding may be available to them in addition to Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

Build the expectation of your child to have their own place someday. Point out how siblings, friends and other people in their life live in different living arrangements. Make contact with the parents of their classmates, teammates and others they have connections to for potential roommates. Roommates are the most cost effective way of living in the community.

Start the journey.

For more information on Getting My Own Address, contact Linda Brown at 248-269-1364 or LBrown@chninc.net.
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