Thank you for helping make our first 15 years a success!

This year we are celebrating our 15th anniversary of strengthening communities by connecting people to housing resources. There are literally thousands of people we have been able to serve through Opening Doors and Transforming Lives. Since 2001, we have been able to bring $88.9 million into the community to assist vulnerable residents of Southeastern Michigan. We could not have done this without your donations and your support. So thank you from the entire Community Housing Network team!

There are a few significant achievements the long-serving members of our executive team cited when looking back at our 15-year history.

Marc Craig, our president, says one of our most significant accomplishments is the ability “to change people’s hearts and minds about what affordable housing is, what it can be, and the kind of need there is for it in communities.”

As a most recent example, Grafton Townhomes, our 48-unit development in Eastpointe, was constructed with the city as willing partners. Some of the neighbors and other elected officials were concerned about the housing that would be constructed on the East 9 Mile property that once was a school property. Before the development was completed, there were more than 700 inquiries for the 48 available spots, many of them from neighbors.

The development was fully occupied upon completion and there is a waiting list.

At the Grafton Townhomes ribbon cutting in May, Steve Duchene, Eastpointe city manager, spoke about the changing attitudes surrounding affordable housing. “Affordable housing builds the backbone of communities,” he said, “I think it also builds a bigger picture of what we can become (here) and in this state of Michigan.”

He also spoke about the necessary federal, state, local and financial relationships cultivated in order to create such a development. Grafton Townhomes, he said, will “provide residents here a sense of community within community, which we really believe, in the city of Eastpointe, is the way of the future.”

Kirsten Elliott, our VP of Development, also touches on affordable housing when looking back with...
We are thrilled to again be named one of Crain’s Cool Places to Work! The honor is given every other year and we received it previously in 2014 and 2012. Would you like to be a part of our team? Please check out our openings and internship openings at communityhousingnetwork.org/employment-internships

Part of the reason we have been able to accomplish all that we have is because of the culture nurturing a healthy work-life balance, says Dawn Calnen-Pischel, our VP of Programs and Operations. She mentions being able to attend her son’s orientation during work hours, knowing “my CHN family understands.” On Mother’s Day evening she took some time to do office work and she says she knows her family understood as her youngest son told her, “You get what you give.”

She says creating and encouraging a culture where team members “can do what’s important, when it’s important, allows us to continue to be passionate and fulfill our awesome mission!”

You have been an important part of our 15-year journey and we are enthusiastic about future successes. Thank you for whatever way you have been a partner!
Unity Park Rentals Phase IV to add 12 new homes

The Unity Park Rentals development will be enhanced with 12 additional new lease-to-purchase single family homes. We secured $3.2 million in housing tax credit reservations from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) to construct Phase IV, bringing the total number of homes in the Unity Park Rentals development in to 68.

With the new development, our investment in the City of Pontiac totals more than $25 million.

Unity Park Rentals Phase IV will offer one-, two-, three- and four-bedroom homes. Construction is expected to begin before the end of the year and be completed and fully leased and occupied by the fall of 2017.

All homes in our Unity Park Rentals development are built on properties that were once vacant, blighted or foreclosed.

CHN’s housing tax credit reservations in Unity Park since 2013:

2016 - Unity Park Rentals, Phase II, Pontiac, 12 new homes, $3.2 million tax credit reservation. Groundbreaking occurred in the summer of 2016 with occupancy expected in March 2017.


2013 – Unity Park Rentals, Pontiac, Phase I, 32 new homes, $9 million tax credit reservation. Groundbreaking was in the fall of 2014, occupancy completed in 2015.

Adopt A Family

Looking for a way to give back at the holidays?

Generous donors and volunteers put some sparkle in the holidays for those in our housing programs by participating in our annual Adopt A Family program.

Last year, 692 people, including individuals and families who had been homeless and people with disabilities, were served. While these families now have a roof over their heads, many do not have money for holiday gifts or even basic necessities such as bedding, towels, and winter clothing.

Community Housing Network is excited to offer another year of giving through Adopt A Family.

We’ve made it easy to help:  
Step 1: Sign up for a wish list  
Let us know that you or your group are interested in becoming an Adopt A Family donor, decide how many individuals you would like to adopt, and we’ll send you a donor packet with a wish list and detailed instructions. We offer the Adopt A Family program out of our Troy and Wayne offices.

Step 2: Shop for gifts  
Our suggested budget is to spend approximately $100 per recipient; all gifts must be new.

Step 3: Wrap and label your gifts  
Wrap and label each gift individually with the participant’s name and participant number. We will provide gift tags that you can use if you choose.

Step 4: Deliver gifts to CHN  
Drop off your wrapped and labeled gifts to our distribution center no later than Monday, December 5, 2016.

Other ways you can help:  
You can also help by making a monetary donation to provide gifts. We will be happy to do the shopping for you! Kindly make a check payable to Community Housing Network and mail it in to the office or visit us online at communityhousingnetwork.org/-adoptafamily.

We hope that you will join us in making Adopt A Family a success this holiday season!

For questions or further information, please contact Lisa Fuhr at 248-824-7313 or LFuhr@chninc.net.
Marc’s Message

All too often, a security deposit is the only thing that stands in the way of an individual, or a family, moving from the streets into housing. While there are programs to assist with rent, there are no programs that provide for the necessary security deposit. And without a security deposit, individuals and families who could move into housing remain homeless.

Our Critical Needs Fund was created to help bridge the gaps between homelessness and housing. Other needs met through the fund are transportation, vital document fees and furniture. Just one of the people assisted by the fund is a woman who lived in her car with her dog, a long-time companion. Now housed, she has returned to college and is working on an accounting degree. She thanked us for the stability housing provided her, and put her on the path “to be independent again and provide for myself.”

The fund receives no program funding and the need far outweighs the resources. 100% of donations to this fund will provide for the unmet needs of the people we serve. Donations may be made through our website at communityhousingnetwork.org or mailed to our office Community Housing Network, 570 Kirts Blvd., Suite 231, Troy, MI 48084. Please note: Critical Needs Fund on the check.

Your donation to our Critical Needs Fund can help set someone on the road to recovery, housing and employment.

Thank you for your continued partnership.