

Marc Craig, CEO, Community Housing Network

Marc believes that diverse communities that include people of all backgrounds are stronger communities. His career began with a focus on finding solutions for individuals with developmental disabilities and mental illness when institutions were closing, working alongside state and federal programs to establish community-based living arrangements. Marc witnessed how institutions affect people and saw the positive transformations that inclusive housing within supportive communities can bring. This belief is the foundation of CHN's mission and continues to shape the organization's strategy and drive its sense of urgency.

After serving as the founding CEO and President of CHN for the past 22 years, Marc Craig has announced his plans to retire in 2024. Under Marc's leadership, Community Housing Network (CHN) has grown from a small team to an organization with over 110 dedicated individuals and a \$15 million annual budget. With offices in Oakland and Macomb counties, Marc and his team have leveraged resources totaling over \$120 million, increasing the availability of affordable housing across Michigan.

Community Housing Network started as a nonprofit organization focusing on three main services: managing and developing affordable housing, operating the Housing Resource Center (HRC) as a central hub for supportive services, and offering housing opportunities and support for homeless individuals and families through funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The organization has grown to become a leading developer of affordable housing, a provider of extensive homelessness prevention resources, and the largest provider of permanent supportive housing in Oakland and Macomb counties. CHN has also emerged as an influential community educator and advocate, promoting positive change in the housing sector. Last year, Community Housing Network was selected as one of the region's top five best-managed nonprofits by Crain's Detroit Business. The organization has also received accolades from the Detroit Free Press as a Top 100 Workplace and as one of Crain's Cool Places to Work.

Marc's tenure has been marked by his fiscal, strategic, and operational leadership, reducing debt, promoting growth, and enhancing operating results. He attributes his success to staying true to the mission while embracing innovation, nurturing a successful partnership with Oakland County Health Network, the organization's largest funder, and developing an exceptional team. Kirsten Elliott, one of his standout early hires, is a key contributor and Marc's second-in-command, slated to succeed him as the leader of CHN.

During the transition period, Marc will continue to maximize funding and growth opportunities for CHN while ensuring a seamless leadership handover. In retirement, he plans to spend more time with his family and stay connected to his lifelong dedication to housing equity and advocacy for all members of society. His legacy at CHN is a testament to his profound impact on affordable housing and community support in Michigan.