

## TRANSFORMING LIVES

Over the last year, Community Housing Network received 29,702 calls from local families and individuals seeking housing resources.

This past September, we received an urgent call from Celeste who was staying in her car with her two young children, Jaiden and Eli, ever since they lost their housing.

“Leading up to the day that I called for help, I had little hope left that I would be able to find a place for me and my kids,” Celeste recalled. “I was leaving an abusive relationship and struggled keeping up on the bills. When I could no longer afford rent, I relocated to the area hoping to find a better job and a safe place to raise my kids. However, it was hard to find resources and I was working against the clock because school was about to start.”



***“I have to thank everyone at Community Housing Network for saving my family. We have been through so much but for the first time in a very long time, things are looking up!” - Celeste , CHN Participant***

When Celeste called the HRC, she was immediately screened and placed on the housing registry as well as the housing choice voucher wait list. Not long after, a home was identified for the family at the family one of our affordable housing development communities that would be available in the following month.

“Everyone was so helpful and easy to work with – they walked with me through the entire process,” she said. While waiting for the unit to be ready, Celeste and her children were able to stay with family.

“The wait was the hardest part. My kids were so excited and couldn’t wait to sleep in their own beds and I couldn’t wait to have a home to raise my children in,” Celeste shared.

The family signed their lease and moved in on October 15th. “We are so happy to now be together as a family in our new home! My kids are both enrolled at their new school, and they love their teachers and new friends. Once we got settled, I was able to accept a new position and enrolled in online classes at Oakland Community College.”

Looking ahead, Celeste is excited to celebrate the holidays and decorate their new home. “This is going to be such a special time for my kids because they have missed out on so much over the last couple of years. I can’t wait to begin making new memories with them.”

“I have to thank everyone at Community Housing Network for saving my family. We have been through so much but for the first time in a very long time, things are looking up!”

# A message from our President...

**Dear Friends,**

*This time of year is often bittersweet as we look back at all we have accomplished during the last 12 months. This year not only are we looking back at one of the busiest years in our history, but I'm also reflecting on our work over the last two decades. Since we opened our doors in 2001, Community Housing Network has been an invaluable resource for people in need of housing. We're grateful and humbled to have been able to help so many and we're looking forward to even more wonderful things in the future.*

*This year we celebrated our 20th Anniversary, and I couldn't be prouder of the journey we have been on. At its inception, our work has been made possible through funding from Oakland Community Health Network and offered property management and housing resources to people with disabilities and their families.*

*As we grew, the Housing Resource Center (HRC) was created and it now fields thousands of calls each year from people across Metro Detroit seeking help. The HRC connects people to vital programs and services to prevent them from becoming homeless, or to help them with their housing needs.*

*We have also been able to develop affordable housing opportunities not only for individuals with disabilities, but also those with low income. In fact, our Housing Development programs have grown as well, with more than 824 homes developed since 2001 and more than \$122.3 million in funding leveraged.*

*In the wake of the pandemic, we were able to pivot and continue to meet the changing needs of our clients and communities. From the Eviction Diversion program -- which allowed us to keep more than 2,400 individuals in their homes -- to expanding staff to meet the incredible need for housing support that this pandemic has caused.*

*Currently, Community Housing Network and three other partner agencies manage nearly \$67 million in COVID Emergency Rental Assistance funding, which helps those facing eviction or who are having trouble paying other housing-related expenses.*

*After 20 years, however, the goal of building healthy vital communities through affordable housing remains unchanged. Thanks to our donors, volunteers, and community partners, we work tirelessly to make sure that Michigan residents have a place to stay where they feel safe -- and can call home.*

Best,



Marc Craig, President



*Cheers to 20 Years!*



*Help us reach our goal, \$20,000 for 20 years!*

We are very proud of the work we have accomplished over the past 20 years and we will continue to provide housing and housing resources to many individuals and families in our community. Together, we have raised \$9,948 toward our \$20,000 for 20 years goal.

You can help by making a donation in the envelope provided or on our website [www.communityhousingnetwork.org](http://www.communityhousingnetwork.org).

# Building A Better Future

As we continue our mission of providing safe, affordable housing to individuals and families across Michigan, we are excited to announce the completion of two new housing developments during the pandemic. In addition, we will break ground for the construction of new affordable housing community in Sault Ste. Marie in the coming months.

These developments, which began construction during the COVID-19 pandemic, will offer more options for families who need affordable housing in Oakland and Macomb Counties.

“We are excited to be able to offer these new and affordable housing solutions to residents of Oakland and Macomb counties,” said CHN President, Marc Craig. “We know many in our community have been struggling during the pandemic, so it means a lot to be able to offer hope and housing.” The two new housing projects are the Unity Park development in Oakland County, which is actually the completion of a five-phase project, and Erin Park in Macomb County.

## UNITY PARK

In Pontiac, Unity Park has 79 single family homes in the Unity Park neighborhood. Phases I-IV are complete; phase V is under construction and expected to be completed in fall 2021. This project will not only provide housing; it also will revitalize the neighborhood, decrease blight and vacant land and increase property values and quality of life. The first phase of the project began in 2013. The total development cost for phase V is \$4.2 million and it will serve low- to moderate-income families and individuals.

## ERIN PARK

Erin Park, in Eastpointe, will consist of 52 high-quality duplex style one- and two-bedroom homes. It is being built on the site of the former Deerfield School property and is near complete lease up. The units will be rentals for 15 years, after which existing tenants will be given the opportunity to buy the home. It’s also near many employment opportunities and public transportation along 9 Mile Road and Gratiot, as well as Groesbeck. The total development cost is \$16.1 million.

To learn more, visit our website at [www.communityhousingnetwork.org](http://www.communityhousingnetwork.org).



## Thank You Volunteers!

We'd like to give a HUGE shout out and THANK YOU to the incredible 159 volunteers we have had the pleasure to work with over the past year! Their collective 758 hours of volunteer work have enabled us to do amazing things in our local communities - such as build community gardens, clean up and refurbish parks, put on fun events for children, and complete beautification projects at our housing developments.

**CRAIN'S** 2021  
**COOL**  
**PLACES**  
**TO WORK**

We are thrilled to be named one of Crain's Detroit Business Cool Places to Work for the 8th consecutive year!





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### Executive Team

Marc Craig, President

Kirsten Elliott, Vice President, COO

Carrie Mendoza, Vice President, CFO

Shelley Brinkmann, Vice President of Real Estate



# Save the Date!

JOIN US AS WE COME TOGETHER FOR  
COMMUNITY HOUSING NETWORK'S ANNUAL  
FUNDRAISING EVENT...



Thursday, March 10, 2022 | 6 PM  
Petruzzello's | 6950 Rochester Rd., Troy, MI 48085

SPONSORSHIP, TICKET OR EVENT QUESTIONS?  
CONTACT: LISA FUHR | [LFUHR@CHNINC.NET](mailto:LFUHR@CHNINC.NET) | 248-824-7313

[WWW.COMMUNITYHOUSINGNETWORK.ORG/BRING-IT-HOME](http://WWW.COMMUNITYHOUSINGNETWORK.ORG/BRING-IT-HOME)



The Holidays are just around the corner, and we are excited to offer another year of giving this holiday season! Your support will help us to provide ongoing supportive housing resources, stable housing, and other essential items for the people we serve, during the holidays and throughout the year.

*There are many ways you can give!*

- + Donate Holiday Gift Baskets
- + Donate Toys/Gifts for Kids
- + Host a Donation Drive
- + Make a Cash Donation or Create an Online Fundraiser

Contact Lisa Fuhr to get started!

[Lfuhr@chninc.net](mailto:Lfuhr@chninc.net) | 248-824-7313  
[www.communityhousingnetwork.org/holiday-program](http://www.communityhousingnetwork.org/holiday-program)