“IN Their Own WORDS”

Retirement Housing Foundation

service in the community since 1961
Successful, prosperous nations are comprised of caring individuals and businesses that work together to ensure that basic human needs are met for all of its citizens. Access to safe, comfortable housing is chief among those needs, as the individuals profiled in this anniversary book will tell you so clearly in their own words. U.S. Bank is pleased to partner with the Retirement Housing Foundation (RHF) to present their stories so eloquently. RHF knows the importance of affordable housing for seniors, low income families, and persons with disabilities, and we commend them for their 50 years of dedication to this cause.

In addition to its support for RHF, U.S. Bank is committed to do its part in making housing affordable for more and more people throughout the country. Through the U.S. Bancorp Foundation, we place special emphasis on support & creation of economic opportunity through grants to organizations that provide affordable housing, encourage self-sufficiency, and foster economic development. U.S. Bank supports organizations that encourage the purchase, preservation, rehabilitation, and construction of quality, affordable housing that assists underserved low and moderate income populations in our local communities. The U.S. Bancorp Community Development Corporation is one of the nation’s largest tax credit investors investing in efforts including the creation of affordable housing as a means to improve and revitalize communities. Additionally, U.S. Bank Community Lending specializes in multi-family housing, participates in the Federal Home Loan Bank Community Investment Lending Program, and provides Affordable Housing Program grants for qualified projects.

That commitment to funding affordable housing is backed by the strength and stability of one of the nation’s largest banks. U.S. Bancorp (NYSE: USB) is the parent company of U.S. Bank, the fifth largest commercial bank in the United States. The company operates 3,069 banking offices in 25 states and 5,310 ATMs and provides a comprehensive line of banking, brokerage, insurance, investment, mortgage, trust and payment services products to consumers, businesses and institutions. With the more than 60,000 employees and generations of experience supporting this cause, there’s no question that housing will continue to be a fundamental benefit that all Americans will have access to in generations to come.

Congratulations, RHF, on your 50 year commitment to this worthy cause. We stand ready to put the power of U.S. Bank to work for you and your constituents.
The **Vision** of RHF (Retirement Housing Foundation), is a society in which all persons have quality, affordable housing thus reducing the difficult choices which would otherwise need to be made between the basic necessities of life.

The **Mission** of RHF, a national nonprofit organization, is to provide various housing options and services for older adults, low income families, and persons with disabilities, in an environment which enhances their quality of life - physically, mentally, and spiritually.

RHF is committed to serving its residents and their local communities.
RHF was founded in 1961 by two United Church of Christ clergy, Rev. Clark Harshfield and Rev. Reinhold Klein, and a layman, Steve Pilibos. It was launched as a faith-based, nonprofit to address the mission of housing and services for older adults. That mission has since grown nationally and includes limited income families and persons with disabilities. At the time of publication of this book in 2011, there are 163 communities in 25 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands, with 2,600 team members serving 17,000 residents. Very soon we will have communities in two additional states.

But our story is not about numbers, it is about people – every one an individual with a story, a unique life history. As you read these brief vignettes that residents, volunteers, and staff have shared, in their own words, I’m sure you will be moved as I was. When I visit with residents and team members in our communities, it underscores that what RHF does makes a difference.

Our mission matters because people matter.

I have long said that, among the many things I enjoy about my calling as President and CEO, there are four that stand out:

1) to build and open new communities or acquire and preserve existing ones;
2) to work on advocacy matters which help to shape the programs and policies that support those who look to us for assistance;
3) to work with the wonderful team members RHF has assembled; and
4) to hear the stories of our residents.

For every story shared in this book, there are thousands more. I thank all who have contributed their stories for this publication and to U.S. Bank for partnering with us to publish them. May the message of the RHF Mission by residents, volunteers and staff, in their own words, inspire all of us to consider what we can do to continue and expand this important Mission.

Rev. Laverne R. Joseph, D.D.
President and CEO
Our Residents

300 Main
Estacada, Oregon

Lily Ann Johnsen

If I weren’t living here, I’d be in a nursing home! I get so much help here. I was 103 on July 7, and I’ve lived here for 19 years. There’s so much going on. You never get lonely. Every week there’s one or two things that are entertaining. I like to listen to the music groups that come here, or just sit in the lobby and visit.

Over 25 years ago, I worked on the committee to get 300 Main started. The City was having weekly meetings all over town: there was money available for revenue-sharing, and they were trying to decide how to spend it. Gladys Bridgeman and I went to every meeting. No matter where it was, we found them. I think they said, “Oh no! Here they are again.” Finally, they agreed to set aside money for senior housing. We had to raise a lot of money after we got the permit. The land that the City bought was the site of the old Ford Garage at 3rd and Main. Both my husband and I had worked there - he was a mechanic and I worked in the office. I never thought I’d live there!

Gladys moved into 300 Main right away, but I had just moved to another place and didn’t want to move again. I left my name on the list, and moved in when I knew I couldn’t drive much longer.

300 Main is so close to everything. For many years, I walked to the Senior Center every day. There were three of us from 300 Main, and they called us the “Golden Girls.”

Now the bus picks us up every day for noon meal, and when they don’t, a meal is delivered to me. The program I’m on - Oregon Project Independence - wants me to have a balanced meal each day. I can get that at the Senior Center, and then just have a snack at night in my apartment.

At 300 Main, I’m independent. I have many good friends. I can go and come as I please. The Lord takes good care of me!

Dora Jane McCary

The good Lord put me here at 300 Main to help other people.

When I feel like I can’t go on, I come downstairs and there’s somebody who is worse off than me. Just talking to each other is therapy. I come down and work on the puzzle and pretty soon, I have company and we both feel better.

Adam & Bruce Apartments
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Essie M. Bell

Living at an RHF community has allowed me to be more free to do things that I couldn’t always do because most of the time I had other people living with me. I couldn’t always do things like walk around in pajamas or a nightie if I wanted to.
I always wanted my quiet time to read and meditate in my Bible or even have my prayer time. But now I don’t have to worry about that. I’ve met people that will share in on these times with me.

I can leave home and don’t have to worry about how things are going to look when I return. I don’t have to cook for anyone but me unless I just want to cook something for someone else. I can even work a little part time job and come home and relax.

A Place Called Home
It’s not a little house with a picket fence
It’s not a great big mansion with a fancy dome,
It’s just a small peaceful dwelling;
a place that I call home.

Within its walls friendly people dwell
They’re warm and caring people with life’s stories to tell
It’s a place where seniors can be at ease with all the comforts of home.
So that’s why this pleasant atmosphere is a place I call home.

They say that wisdom comes with age
And I believe this is true
How else would I know to choose
This wonderful place that I call home.

Anciano Tower
Montrose, Colorado
Frankie Corrella

I am no longer invisible, useless or unwanted. I was homeless for 9 years. By living in a RHF community, I have been given a second chance. It has enabled me to gain self-worth, self-respect and respect and acceptance from others.

I have been reunited with my children and grandchildren. I now have 2 families, biological and the RHF community.

I prayed and prayed to get off of the streets. Believing in God and believing in prayer, my prayers were answered. I now have a HOME, not just an apartment.

Not everyone homeless and on the street is bad. Like me, there are many that need a hand up and a second chance.

Thank you so much and may God continue blessing your ministry and RHF communities.

Auburn Ravine Terrace
Auburn, California
Winnie Schimmelman

Living in the RHF community means everything to me. I’m able to be somewhat independent and I take in most of all activities.

I’ve been able to meet so many wonderful people. I could not say enough good things.

Benson Manor
Smyrna, Georgia
Geraldine Sessoms

RHF has provided me with an opportunity to have a home that is affordable.

In my life at 70 years, I am now able to enjoy peace and quiet 24/7 as never before. I am now in a better position to focus more on my health and meeting others in this community.

Patricia Smith

Before I moved into Adam & Bruce I was living with my son and his family in his apartment. I had wanted my own home again and the independence it would give me.

At Adam & Bruce I was able to have my little dog and best friend, Chico. He was very welcomed here – as I was. We have made many friends and have been treated with the best courtesy and respect I have ever had.

I feel very secure and safe here. It is my desire to spend the rest of my life here. I can have my independence but still live alone. There are so many benefits to living here, such as help with utilities, food, health, maintenance and activities. It is a beautiful, well-maintained place to live.

I love it here.
I am now enjoying one of my goals, writing.
I’m grateful for the many wonderful people I’ve met here that perhaps I would not have met. I’m also thankful for the staff, safety and tidiness of this RHF community.

I’m also grateful to God for putting the idea for seniors in the hearts of those responsible for RHF living. These people had a vision from God to plan for this moment of need for us here in this community.

Jan Tobelmann
Living in Benson Manor is wonderful. I have been here for five years and I have been very happy.

Before I came here I was distressed because I have seen other low income communities that were horrible. I was afraid I would be relegated to one of those depressing buildings. However, this community is beautiful, restful, helpful, safe and very friendly. The office is always there to help when emergencies arise. I feel blessed to be in this special corner of heaven here on earth. I am very thankful to God that He directed me into this beautiful community.

Since I have been here I have written two books and recorded three musical CD’s that have been a blessing to many. I do not believe I would have been able to do this any other place.

Thank you RHF for helping to make my retirement the best years of my life.

Bishop’s Glen
Holly Hill, Florida
Claire Donovan
Previous to moving to Bishop’s Glen I lived a very busy life working as a Real Estate broker for almost 20 years, taking care of a home and a sick husband.

We moved here 3 ½ years ago and he passed away shortly thereafter. I now spend many hours a day playing my digital piano on which I take lessons every week; I have joined two travel groups and go on trips as often as I can while I am able to do so; enjoy watching golf tournaments and football games; dine out with old (and new!) friends; discovering new restaurants and new talent for our entertainment programs; doing needlework; and helping less fortunate people in any way I can.

Since moving to Bishop’s Glen, I feel I am in the right place at this time in my life, with no responsibilities of taking care of a home; I feel there are always people here to call upon if I need help in any way; there are four stages of care available here if I need them; the personnel are great; the residents are fantastic and I have made so many wonderful friends here; household chores are at a minimum (no more cooking); security is great; and it is like living in one big family; the activities are more than enough to keep one busy and well-informed on many subjects, and happy!

Bishop’s Glen is a wonderful place to live and I am happy I made the decision to move here.

Liz Cocks
“Live life to the fullest after age 80”. For 77 years of being active and doing whatever I chose to do, I came down with lymphoma and after 1½ years of chemotherapy, it seemed life had ended for me. Being attached to an oxygen machine, not being able to walk without aid and not able to drive, I thought my active days were over. That is when I moved to Bishop’s Glen for the few months I had left.

What a change that made in me and my health! I am able to go outside, walk the beautiful grounds, have a well balanced meal in the beautiful dining room, eat with other residents and, overnight, I had an extended family that cared. I became active again and before long, I was as active as I was in my 70’s. What a difference the move made for me and what an opportunity for many activities that I had never endeavored before!

This has been a new life for me and also a new beginning.

I will always be grateful for Bishop’s Glen and for the past 5 years of being able to adjust, fit into a new life style and to have the opportunity to be active in so many fields. Now I am “living life to the fullest” at age 83.

PS I love Wii bowling!!
Camelot Village
Council Bluffs, Iowa

Nancy Cowles

I am so very thankful to be able to live in such a clean, comfortable, safe environment that is affordable on my retirement income. I have good neighbors all around me, yet have my own privacy.

Our Manager is friendly, caring, kind and fair in treatment of everyone to the best of her ability.

Our maintenance needs are met promptly by a very capable, knowledgeable young man who has used his artistic talents to beautify various areas of our building as well.

Also, our Service Coordinator spends hours researching the many senior resources available and arranges for meetings with any and all of them that she feels might benefit our Camelot residents, or that are requested residents that live here.

All in all, it is a pleasant place to call “home” for me – and I can only thank my heavenly Father that He laid it on the hearts of those involved with RHF to want to help provide such housing for folks like myself who could not afford even the least expensive rents in today’s world.

Cimarron Court
Kearney, Nebraska

Christina & Jamie Eshleman

This place is a good place to live. We had no place to live. The manager worked with us to get us into Cimarron Court. This place is safe. This is a good home.

Olive Gay Stouffer

Living in this RHF community means living in a close knit place, where people come together as friends, help each other if needed. It is a friendly, caring, safe environment. I have lived here almost 10 years. I feel safe here. If I want to be alone, I can.

Colonial Jess Lopez
Los Angeles, California

Hortencia Solis

After my children married and moved out I had to sell my house as I could not afford it on my own.

I rented a few apartments, but they were very expensive.

I was very sad and desperate trying to make ends meet. I put in an application to this community and was accepted.

I thank God that I was able to live at this community. It has changed my life completely. I have all of the benefits required to live well. I have good, friendly neighbors. The apartments and building are always clean. The staff has become my friends.

Cimarron Court
Kearney, Nebraska

Christina & Jamie Eshleman

This place is a good place to live. We had no place to live. The manager worked with us to get us into Cimarron Court. This place is safe. This is a good home.

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Colonial Heights
and Gardens
Florence, Kentucky

Verna M. Cornett

I came to Colonial Heights in April, 2008 at the age of 75. I came with my husband who was very ill, and because I had suffered a heart attack while trying to care for him, I needed a caregiver. With the help of a caring staff, we managed to keep him comfortable until December, when he went to be with Jesus.

When I first came to Colonial Heights I felt like a lost puppy. Before long, however, with the help of a friendly and capable staff and the many friendly residents I soon called it home!

One of the first things I noticed was the food (because I love to eat!) Our meals are tasty and nutritious, thanks to the great chefs and the gracious service provided by the wait staff.

“IN Their Own WORDS” 9
Next, the amenities provided for us. Laundry, housekeepers, repairmen, social events, library, fitness room, beauty shop, post office, bank, transportation are all provided for us here. The entire staff is the most helpful and caring people I’ve ever known.

**Bill Rice**

My wife and I moved here in July of 2007 in order to get help with her dementia. It was an easy choice for us to make. We were familiar with Colonial Gardens from having visited friends who lived there and we were aware of the good reputation the Gardens has. The cleanliness of the place, good food and reasonable cost made the choice even easier. We were very well cared for and I really appreciated the help with my wife.

In August of 09 my wife passed away and I decided I would just stay here. I realize I am probably the most mobile resident, which offers me the opportunity to help others who cannot find their rooms or know what to do or where to be next. I was offered a garden spot and have been lucky to have some beautiful flowers and a bountiful garden to share with others. I was also permitted to plant some flowering trees which have made the place homier.

Living here has been a good experience for me and I encourage others to do the same.

**Crescent Manor**

**Mesquite, Texas**

**Nellie B. Coleman**

I enjoy my independent living in an environment of peers that are close to my age. There is no loud music to be concerned with. Social activities and bingo are offered every week and we have easy access to shopping with a Wal-Mart right down the street. There is also a hospital nearby as well as the local police department.

God has blessed us with a wonderful manager and a caring maintenance man. My ministry is singing and I am very committed to God. I am 100% disabled and thank God every day for the home RHF has provided for me.

**Crooked Creek Tower**

**Indianapolis, Indiana**

**Nancy Lane**

I was once homeless. I stayed at a shelter of the Salvation Army for abused and neglected women. It was thru friends that I heard about Crooked Creek Tower. I filled out an application and waited, somewhat patiently. I was accepted, moved in and have been very happy.

I have lived here at Crooked Creek Towers almost a year. I have enjoyed meeting new people. I like the staff. They are always busy trying to keep the building up to date. I have enjoyed the many seminars. It is really interesting to learn new things about food, diet, exercise and fire safety.

I hope to be here for a long time.

**Desert Sage Manor**

**Hermiston, Oregon**

**Elizabeth Castaneda**

Living at Desert Sage Manor has allowed me to feel safe and cared about. I am home at last.

Before I came here I felt as though there was nothing to look forward to, but that has changed now. Thanks to you and the caring ways of our manager, Darlene, I have the freedom to live life to the fullest.

**DeSmet Retirement Community**

**Florrisant, Missouri**

**Doris Ditchfield**

Living here at DeSmet Retirement Community gives me peace of mind. It means security to me; I don’t have to worry. I have lived here for over five years, and I feel at ease. Being here with the community members and socializing is nice.
I go to activities, especially Bingo and horse racing, and get to relax with my friends. We feel secure here and enjoy being in a community setting.

**Diakonia Housing I & II**  
**Sacramento, California**

**Catherine Porter**

After suffering through one family crisis after another, I found myself unable to support myself due to undiagnosed medical conditions. I became homeless and it wasn’t until several years later that I found Diakonia Housing.

While I was awaiting approval of SSI benefits, it has been a Godsend to have a safe, clean, and affordable place to call my home away from home. The staff has assisted me in every way possible.

All my neighbors are respectful of my privacy and are eager to help with anything I’ve asked for. I’m happy to be here, my children and grandchildren are able to visit me in a safe clean atmosphere. I believe that what’s important while we are here on this Earth.

The RHF mission means affordable housing for families and a sanctuary to share the holidays with each other.

**Barney Romero**

During my time here RHF has allowed me to prove to my family that I can manage to live independently in spite of several physical limitations.

**Dogwood Apartments**  
**Milledgeville, Georgia**

**Alma Bing**

I have experienced a life of joy and contentment since moving to Dogwood.

It is a warm and friendly community. The benefits here have made my living alone just wonderful.

I am truly happy now. I still have the problems that everyone else experiences, but I don’t let them dampen my joy here.

I play bingo each week, go to the parties and gatherings, visit with my many friends. I am better able to cope with my aches and pains because I do not have the worry of being homeless.

I am now part of a large family, whose viewpoints and our different beliefs draws us closer together - which leads to a more meaningful line of communication and understanding. We are a family here and we love each other.

**Mildred R. Teague**

In 2002 I retired from a job I really loved due to health problems. When I came to Dogwood to apply for acceptance, I was greeted by several residents who seemed quite content to call Dogwood “home.”

The staff keep our community beautiful, both inside and out.

During my first years at Dogwood I was very reclusive as I thought that was what a person should do after retirement. After a while I felt I should be more involved and became President of the Resident Association for two years. Although I am no longer president, I try to stay involved so we can have activities which the association makes possible.

Both my children are glad that I feel very safe here.

**Joe & Alma Warren**

When my husband and I moved here we both were very stressed out. We could barely walk, so worn out from overload.

Now, almost two years later, we finally got back on track. We get to limit our daily activities when before we could not do any activities. Thank God for this place and the staff who look after us.

The manager at Dogwood does a great job. She is a mother, doctor, peace maker, whine listener, debater, friend, secret keeper and much more. She was made for Dogwood and we hope she stays for a long time.
Mable Jackson

I love Dogwood. I was the first one to move into Dogwood all by myself (7/1/88). I love our manager, she looks after me. I never plan to leave Dogwood.

Esperanza Apts.
Seattle, Washington

Anita J. Lowe

Bad started when the house I’d rented for 20 years and fixed up and painted was demolished to become a condo. It got worse when I was laid off. But sometimes bad turns out to be good.

I landed in Seattle’s Esperanza Apartments and, since it is clean and attractive already, I didn’t have to spend months, and years, painting and improving it, as I did in my rental home. Instead I did what I always wanted to do – artwork!

I went to Italy for a month to find out what all the hub-bub about Italian sculptures and murals was about. I took an art class there.

When I got back to Seattle I joined a faux and mural painters group and we painted a mural for ADWAS, a safe-house for abused deaf women.

I’m not sure where my new path is taking me, but I do know it certainly will be more exciting than sanding the baseboard in my old rental home.

Fajardo Housing
Fajardo, Puerto Rico

Candido y Zaide Baez

Before I came here I did not walk and go outside. Now I can. I’m free and relaxed. I can relate to my neighbors and talk to them. I’m very happy.

The maintenance team keeps the yard clean and fixes all the problems in the apartments.

Edna Mattos Ramos

I am a new resident, but always dreamed of living here since I first filled out my application. I kept checking my status and finally it was time for me to move in.

It is very soothing here, beautiful gardens, clean, everything in order. The staff treats the residents respectfully. I feel like I am in paradise.

Gold Country Health Center
Placerville, California

George J. Farineau

I found a great improvement in my life style and in my outlook since I have moved to the Assisted Living Unit of Gold Country Retirement Community.

Since I have been in assisted living, I have taken part in most of the activities offered, including weekly country bus cruises (where we visited various local cities and parks), daily exercise sessions, various games such as Dominoes, Scrabble, UNO card game, crossword puzzles and other games which require the use of numbers and words to solve.

These are all beneficial to me as I am a Parkinson’s Disease patient and being active both mentally and physically help to retard it’s advance.

Elizabeth Schneider

Living here brings me a sense of security. I have lived here for over five years and find joy in my surroundings.

I am thankful that I live close to my granddaughter and that my friends can visit me often.

It is nice to be able to visit the on-site beautician, go on outings and participate in activities. I live in a beautiful environment and enjoy all that nature provides. I look out my window and see birds, cats, and squirrels.
I can’t say enough about the wonderful care I receive from the CNAs, nurses and the rest of the staff who makes me and my family feel so welcome at Gold Country Health Center.

**Grace Place**  
Norfolk, Virginia

**Portia Henson**

Living at Grace Place means peace of mind. I don’t have to worry about paying exorbitant rent. It offers an ideal location in the heart of the city and it is even on the bus line!

When I first moved to Grace Place I only knew one person. I now have lots of friends. I know everyone in the buildings through the many activities that are offered.

Thanks RHF for the housing opportunity. I now have good neighbors that are concerned about me.

**Milton Banks**

Living at Grace Place is peaceful. I’m able to live independently. The community is friendly and it’s like a family environment. People look out for each other. We share time together with a variety of activities.

The location is accessible for bus service and everything is within walking distance. It is a safe community where the residents are aware of who is who. Visitors are easily identified.

I’m happy to be a resident of Grace Place. Thanks RHF for a great residential community.

**Granada Gardens**  
Granada Hills, California

**Irma Morales**

For my children and I it has been a great blessing from God to move us to this community. We are safe here. My children have more space. We are better set economically. I can occasionally buy new clothes for my children.

**Kathleen Shimizu**

When I first came to Granada Gardens, I was very impressed with the entire complex. Everything is so clean and the landscaping is beautiful. There are so many trees it almost looks like a park.

I moved into Granada Gardens on November of 2009 with a lot of health issues. They are in the process of being taken care of. I know that if it weren’t for living in a place that I could afford, my health problems would have been even more stressful. I know that I will be able to spend many happy years at Granada Gardens.

**Gour Dubaryan**

Living at Granada Gardens has been a great help financially. I’m able to provide for my daughter. It feels good to live in such a beautiful community.

**Harvest Pointe**  
Loveland, Colorado

**Irma Young**

- I am close to my son who lives in Loveland
- I feel safe and secure.
- I have a nice clean place to live.
- I have lovely neighbors
- Everyone seems so friendly.
- The manager and assistant are excellent.
- My apartment is close to the laundry room, the trash container, and mail boxes.
- I love Colorado.
- What more could I ask for at 97?
Elizabeth Proksch  
**Hollyview Apartments**  
**Hollywood, California**  
**Manuk Krzlyan**

It has meant a lot to me to be living in an RHF community. At almost 90 years old, it means I don’t have to be afraid to live by myself in my own apartment or be too much of a burden to my loved ones.

As I continue to age, and need more assistance, I will be able to have nursing staff come in to care for me. Now I can take my own shower every day. The bathroom is made so helpful with all of the railings along the walls making it easier to use.

My former HUD apartment in Michigan was older and did not have the newer items in the bathroom or a shower. It was difficult to manage my own care and I had to have someone come in to assist me. It was nice to be able to move into a new apartment in an RHF community. I was one of the first to move in after Christmas in 2008. It sure is great! My daughter and son-in-law live nearby and they are a big help to me.

I enjoy the big community room and attend various parties to celebrate birthdays and other occasions. We have a wonderful library and computer access.

Gloria Green  
**Independence Square**  
**Evansville, Indiana**  
**Dorothy Stephens**

I moved to Harvest in July 2009. I am a senior citizen who has medical problems such as diabetes and other health issues.

Since living at Harvest Pointe I no longer fear not receiving emergency medical help if I should need it. I also feel safe. Before moving into Harvest Pointe a person living on a fixed income used to worry about being able to pay my rent and purchase all my prescription medications. By living at Harvest Pointe I no longer worry because I can afford both.

At Harvest Pointe there is a community of friendly people who I enjoy so much. As a senior citizen I can still live an independent life. There are lots of social activities such as the yoga, wellness, and cooking classes. Since I have been participating in these classes I have a new perspective on living and feeling healthy.

I recommend Harvest Point to any senior who is looking to remain healthy and independent.

Hollyview Apartments with my wife for about two years. My wife and I are very happy here because the building is beautiful. The view from our apartment is outstanding.

We have made great friendships with our neighbors. It feels like one big “village.” We feel happier and healthier because our environment is stress free.

Our manager and service coordinator help me and the rest of the residents with all of our needs. I’m thankful for having the opportunity to live in this wonderful building.

I had a daughter living with me at the time. She called Independence Square and I got an apartment. The security was good. I never left the building without one of my daughters with me. I feel very safe here and have made many friends.

The office staff was very good to us. I lost my daughter in 2004, which was very hard on me. I received a lot of support from my fellow residents/friends here at Independence Square.

My husband died December, 2009. So, I am now free to go anywhere I want without looking over my shoulder. I would not live anywhere else. I am very happy here and thank God for that every day.

Ingleside Manor  
**Macon, Georgia**  
**Carolyn Jones**

My grandchildren decided to move me back to Macon, Georgia so I could be close to them. They wanted to be able to look after me.
Before moving into Ingleside Manor, I lived in a duplex apartment in a small town in South Georgia. I was living from day to day reading or watching T.V. I often thought, what was my purpose in life? I stayed depressed. One of my granddaughters’ mothers saw the ad for Ingleside Manor on the internet. I praise the Lord for finding Ingleside Manor for me.

I no longer feel like I just exist.

We have activities here such as Bingo, Bible Study, Crafts, and Card Games and have guests come in to entertain us. We go on bus trips and have dinners on special holidays.

Most of all, I’m thankful for friends and neighbors. I feel safe here, I feel very content and happy. I only wish there were more places like Ingleside Manor for the elderly.

Charles Gordon

Since living in an RHF Community for four years, a whole new world has opened up for me.

I came to Ingleside Manor straight from the hospital, knowing my son had found this place. I did not know anything about Ingleside Manor at the time.

My first impression was I did not think I would like it. I was moving from my private residence into a place where I would not have any privacy, or so I thought. However, the longer I lived at Ingleside Manor the more I liked it.

All of us residents feel like this is our home and we also feel safe. We are like brothers and sisters here. When one of us has a problem, whether it is sickness, needing something, or just feeling the need to talk to someone, the rest of us will help out in any way we can. I have never known people who care about each other like we do here. Many times, I have seen some residents move into Ingleside Manor who had hardly any clothes, no food, and no furniture. I am sure they were wondering what were they going to do. In a very short time, the current residents would get together and make sure the new resident had everything they needed. We make it a point to welcome all new residents who move into Ingleside. We want them to feel loved and cared about.

Living at Ingleside Manor has taught me the true meaning of love, caring about people and helping take care of each other. Thanks to our Manager, Ms. Vicky Ellis and her staff.

Leana Bentley

Before 2007, I was living in the country by myself. I was lonely. I was living alone and it took all of my check to pay bills and buy medicine with nothing left over.

Since I have been living at Ingleside Manor, I have found a new family and very good friends. Now, I don’t have as many bills to pay. Now, I can save a little money.

I have been so happy; my life has changed in so many ways since I moved here. The management here is wonderful and I thank God for this place and my new family. I am not lonely anymore and my new home is so beautiful and clean.

Shortly after moving into Ingleside Manor I met Donna Cawthon, RHF’s 2009 Volunteer of the Year and she is the fun of the whole place. Thank God for everyone in my life. I am happy, happy!

Neo Dennis

I was lonely and depressed before moving to Ingleside Manor. Now, I have met many nice people who live here and love one another.

Living here has allowed me to be more independent and involved with other people. I am now able to live on my own with little assistance and am able to socialize with new friends.

I am now involved with the Resident’s Association and the Bible Study group. I was even crowned King at the Valentine’s Day Dinner this year!

I am happy now and enjoy everything and everyone at Ingleside Manor. I am blessed by the Lord Jesus Christ to be in such a wonderful place.

“IN Their Own WORDS” 15
Ruth Compea
On March 9, 2009 my world fell apart. I lost my home, business, everything I know in my life. My son found Ingleside Manor and brought me to see it. It became a home to me. So many people welcomed me at the front door. So many friends, I feel like I have a whole new family.

Maurice Herring
I was living in a rural area in a home with high utilities and taxes. I did not have any neighbors close by. I have heart problems and had to have a pacemaker. One day I passed out and no one was around to help me. I became afraid to live alone after that.

I found Ingleside Manor, filled out an application and shortly thereafter the manager called me to come in for an interview. I sold my home and move into Ingleside.

I am not afraid anymore.

My life has been so different since I moved here. It is a beautiful, immaculate building with beautiful landscaping. I have made so many friends and we have such a good time. We talk and laugh every day. We love sitting on the patio watching the humming birds and looking at the pretty flowers.

I now have money left over each month since my rent and utilities are very affordable. Thank you RHF and HUD for making it possible for me to live in such a safe, beautiful, clean and friendly place.

La Mirada Vistas
La Mirada, California
Eldwin Cheng
La Mirada Vistas has provided a safe and stable place for me to live. I don’t need to worry about moving in and out from one place to another in the past. Living in a RHF community has allowed me to have more freedom and privacy than I’ve ever enjoyed before.

La Fontaine Center
Huntington, Indiana
Eileen Mason
This home means everything to me.

I feel safe and comfortable here. It is clean and there are very nice people here that I like. We have activities going on and our manager is always there to help us.

I want to spend the rest of my life here.

Lake Ella Manor
Tallahassee, Florida
Mary Holden
It is so nice living here at Lake Ella Manor. At home, which was about 30 miles east of Pittsburgh, PA, the rent was so high; I had little left to buy gifts for my grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Now, for the first time in years, I am able to be generous with those I love.

I have such a charming little apartment that is very easy to keep clean. And it is always cool in the summer and warm in the winter.

I have met so many lovely, hospitable people. Two kind ladies see to it that I am taken to church each Sunday. Recently, a neighbor upstairs took me to the movies. I have read that the most difficult thing for the elderly is that they have no way to get where they want to go, but I do not have that problem.

Kemet House
Chesapeake, Virginia
Gloria Osborne
There are sunshine smiles every day. Great extended family here that is full of hugs and care.

We mend one another’s hearts.
And another wonderful thing about living at Lake Ella Manor – the Tallahassee Senior Center is right next door. When I first moved here, I was taking German conversation lessons in the morning and playing pinochle in the evening. Now, I am taking painting lessons and my computer class reconvenes in a couple of weeks.

Marcia Steiner
Living in a RHF community has enriched my life in many ways. It has allowed me to live near my family.

I cannot afford normal rent and associated expenses. RHF provides me with air conditioning – a must here in hot Tallahassee.

RHF has also allowed me to continue developing my leadership abilities through the Resident’s Association. I have been able to access many social services through Ceola Grant, my Service Coordinator.

The greatest benefit I have from RHF is all of the new friends I have here. They, indeed, improve my life every day.

Lakeview Manor
Storm Lake, Iowa

Darnell Johnson
Moving from a small town to a larger town was a little scary since I don’t drive. After moving into Lakeview Manor Apartments in Storm Lake I felt like all of the residents were like family.

We sit in the community room chit-chatting and having coffee before getting started for the day. The manager always has a smile for you.

Lindsay Place
Lindsay, Oklahoma

Michael Don Logan
My sister is helping write this because my hands aren’t too steady. I’m a 64 year old Viet Nam veteran.

I fell and shattered my left hip in 2007 and had a complete hip replacement. After my healing process I discovered I could not go up and down steps very well. My sister and I came out to Lindsay Place and I liked it right away…no steps.

I found that because of my low income I was able to afford an apartment here. I have a very nice one bedroom apartment at the very end so I can look across a pasture. I do not feel closed in, it’s quiet and no one bothers me. I like the managers, they help me a lot.

I’m happy having my own home and not to have to depend on my sister anymore than I already do. I have a place to keep some of my mother’s memories.

She would have liked it here too.

Evelyn Kennedy
What it means to me living at the Lindsay Place is all of the good people here and our get-togethers.

After I lost my husband in 2004, I didn’t know what I was going to do. I had to move in with my brother and his wife for a little while until I could find a place to live.

I was very glad to find Lindsay Place. I have been here for 5 years now, and I like living here better than anyplace I have lived before.

I have my freedom living here. I like living by myself better than anything. I feel safe living here. It is the best thing that has ever happened to me.

Lomita Kiwanis Gardens
Lomita, California

Robert De Luca
My mother and I moved into Lomita Kiwanis Gardens in July 1986. We were among the first tenants in the building. My mother had an apartment on the second floor and my apartment was and is on the first floor.
Moving into Lomita Kiwanis Gardens meant many things to us. First that we would not be homeless, which was a distinct possibility. Second we made new friends in the building. There was a sense of community in the 1980’s. There was a spirit of friendliness among the majority of residents.

My mother lived at Lomita Gardens until 1993, when illness caused her to be placed in a nursing home. Until then it gave us time to be together living only floors apart, and to help each other when we needed help.

Longfellow Plaza
Anderson, Indiana

Lou Ann Cummins

I am so thankful to be able to live here at Longfellow Plaza in the same neighborhood I was born in. Other than bringing back many childhood memories I am thankful for the many new friends I have met as well as previous friends who have moved here.

I am thankful for the security I feel here since the house I previously lived in was broken into twice.

I am also thankful for the staff who work here and the way they care for all of the residents. I am thankful for all the conveniences that Longfellow Plaza provides.

Los Arcos
Poway, California

Mary O’Neill

Living at Los Arcos means an entirely new lifestyle for me beginning six years ago. After 20 years in the neighborhood I found Los Arcos.

It has enabled me to stay with my church within walking distance, keep in weekly contact with my friends of 20 years, use the same bank, telephone number in a brand new home! I have made new friends here at Los Arcos and I have a safe, secure home with many options to fill my spare time.

Having my independence means a lot to me and my family respects my wishes and my privacy. At my age my worries are now few and living at Los Arcos has made that possible. When the Lord wants me, I hope he will find me at Los Arcos.

Madison Heritage
Madison, Indiana

Mary L. Boston

When I was 83 I realized it was no longer safe for me to be driving my automobile. I was living on the hilltop in a HUD apartment complex. I had known about the Heritage Apartments before they were built. So, one day I made a phone call and talked to the manager. She asked me to come in to the office and fill out an application. I did and six months later I was called in for an interview. I was accepted and moved in February of 2008.

By living at the Madison Heritage I have walking access to many churches, the grocery store, library, the Senior Center, banks and other establishments that I wish to visit.

The Heritage Apartments are an ideal place for older single ladies to live in. Living here lets me feel secure from outside invasion and there are nice people, friendly and willing to lend a helping hand.

Maple City Square
LaPorte, Indiana

Judith Shepherd

Maple City Square is a unique place to live. It helps people like me, who live on limited resources, to have affordable housing.

With the high cost of living, I couldn’t afford to pay big bucks for rent. Without my Section 8 discount for rent I’d probably be living in a tent.

Most of all, I enjoy my lovely apartment. I even have a little garden in the back of the house. I love to garden.

Marple Manor
Modesto, California

Karen Swain

Living at Marple Manor means I can share my thoughts, dreams, and memories with people who are my age. It means when someone says “How are you?” they really want to know.
When I wake up in the morning, I look over to the doggie bed and see two very black eyes looking back at me with unconditional love. You can’t buy that but Marple Manor and RHF made that feeling possible.

The RHF community allows me to feel safe. The staff makes me feel that they care about my wants and needs while remaining totally professional. The residents provide a source of knowledge about history that I never learned in college.

Thank you, Marple Manor and RHF, for making my final years as happy as possible.

James Goodson

An RHF community means living in a place that provides me with a standard of living that significantly above what I could maintain in a normal commercial apartment complex. This is not only because rent is subsidized but because the staff sincerely cares about the comfort and well being of the residents.

I was warmly greeted when I first arrived as a resident and have felt that my stay here has been everything I anticipated.

Mary Denton

The community means freedom to me. I am grateful to God that I could have my cat. It is a blessing to live here.

Mesquite Gardens
Mesquite, Texas

Frances Burton

Since I moved into The Gardens my life has changed. I have peace of mind. I feel safe living by myself – something I didn’t have before. I have friends here that care for each other and the convenience of indoor mail boxes, a laundry room just down the hall and a trash chute steps away from my apartment.

I love working with the neighbors in different activities such as sewing Christmas stockings for “Santa Cop.” Having pot-luck lunches once a month is very enjoyable for us because we get to bring some of our favorite home-made dishes to share with our friends.

My most enjoyable time here was when our manager adopted a little boy which I have learned to love very much. Mesquite Gardens was his first home.

Mill Pond Manor
Saline, Michigan

Shirley Slagle

When my husband, Don, died I faced a very uncertain future. He left me with no pension and my finances were very restricted.

I obtained a part-time job at our community library. With that money and my Social Security widow’s benefits, I was barely able to meet everyday expenses.

When Mill Pond was brought to my attention by friends, I applied and was accepted, and moved into an apartment I could afford. I have made wonderful new friends and was relieved of the responsibility of shoveling snow, moving grass and outside work which formerly caused pain due to spinal problems.

My whole life at this stage and age has changed for the better. I can join in the many productive activities and friendships which brighten and fulfill my days.

Thank you RHF.

Norma Epply

I now have independence!

If I couldn’t live at Mill Pond Manor, I would need to live with one of my children. Though they are great, their pace of life is different from mine.

Living here I can take care of myself and my apartment and have friends my own age. There are many activities to choose from or I can choose my own. It feels like a family here.
Mission Palms
Mission, Texas
Raul Garcia

This community is a happy place that makes you forget you are old. It makes you feel life is going on.

I like having meetings with the Police and Fire Departments. Living in an RHF community means having many friends and this makes my life so full. The manager is like a member of my family. She cares for all of us.

Monona Meadows
Monona, Wisconsin
Lola Cator

Living at Monona Meadows has allowed me to take care of my health better and that I couldn’t do before.

I had to mow my own lawn, rake leaves and bag them (which amounted to 20 bags a year). In the winter I had a long gravel driveway that I had to shovel. I never could have kept this up. I have severe asthma and allergies.

In addition to my health, I never could have made it financially – the taxes were over $2,000 a year and the heat and air was over $150 a month. With the health and financial worries, I was very stressed.

I am 78 years old and have lived at Monona Meadows for five years – you saved my life! I have more peace and enjoy living at Monona Meadows. Thank you for allowing me to have a wonderful life! I have made many new friends and I really enjoy the puzzle room (I LOVE jigsaw puzzles!). RHF has allowed me to have a fulfilling life!

Mount Beulah Terrace
St. Louis, Missouri
Annie L. Jones

I like Mount Beulah Terrace because of the good living. It is wheelchair accessible. This is a very quiet place to live, it has a good location, its on the bus line, and it is new!

North Capitol
at Plymouth
Washington, D.C.
Mattie Tremble

I moved to North Capitol at Plymouth February of 2009. My happiness has multiplied over and over through true friendships that abound where I live.

My gratitude will continue to grow daily as my blessings continue to multiply. Our heavenly Father never takes anything from his children unless he means to give them something else that is different and better. I am in a better place than the one I left behind, I lived there for forty three years. My horizon has broadened and will continue to bloom.

I am blessed that God brought me to North Capitol at Plymouth.

Olson Rotary Village
Delano, California
Lupe Herrera

I have lived at Olson Rotary Village for five years.

I am so glad that we have places like this for seniors, that makes it possible for us to maintain our independence – otherwise we wouldn’t be able to afford an apartment on our fixed income.

Our grounds and apartments are very well taken care of. They are checked to make sure that everything is working properly. There should be more places like this.

I feel very safe living here.

Louis B. Medrano

I enjoy living at Olson Rotary Village for many reasons. All of my neighbors are very friendly and caring.
We all look out for each other, and when one of our neighbors is not feeling well, we all worry for the well-being of that neighbor. Our neighbors come from all experiences and walks of life, and we are a varied family within this retirement community.

Our manager is an extremely compassionate, sincere, encouraging, and informed person. She always knows what to do when it comes to assisting us, and she sure knows how to organize activities like our fun monthly potlucks, a terrific opportunity for us residents to fellowship, share memories, and laugh! The residents know that she is there to help and listen.

My own family is always busy with their own families and work, so they do not get to visit me as often as I/they would like. With friends my own age, living in this apartment community provides me with a positive and pleasant way to pass my day. Having our recreation room allows me to sit and read the newspaper or watch a special sports program on the television alone late in the afternoon.

I really like living in this community because I feel like it’s my own little corner of the world, and my wonderful neighbors and our manager are there for me when my family cannot be. This is a comforting thought and it makes me feel safe and give me peace of mind that I’m not alone.

**Park Place**  
**Seattle, Washington**

**Dodie Dean**

Living here has taught me to smile, love and understand others. Something I never took the time to do before.

My life is so easy. I don’t know where I’d be if it were not for Park Place. The care givers and all the staff are so caring and helpful. They do everything except rock me to sleep at night.

My health is not good, but when I moved in here to Park Place it was so bad that I didn’t take time to smile or care about others – now I do. And I am so grateful.

**Sandra Henderson**

After living most of my life in Memphis, TN, I decided to pull up stakes and move to Washington. I had been retired for almost two years and was tired of hot summers and crime. In Memphis, I had a lifetime of friends and was used to getting out and about.

I moved to an apartment in Auburn, WA – right beside the Green River. Little did I know how hard it would be to make new friends and meet people. While I loved the climate, scenery, seeing eagles soaring, etc – I found living in an apartment complex where most everyone is at work all day and attending church where most of the membership is young with small children to be a lonely life. After living in WA almost two years, I had three friends and one of them moved away.

So when I was admitted to the hospital on July of 2009, I didn’t know how my life would change. To make a long story short – my severe arthritis combined with a broken ankle landed me in the acute rehab unit at the hospital in Auburn. After spending twenty days there I had made over twenty new friends I felt very close to. So when it was decided I needed to move to an assisted living facility, I was not a happy camper.

I arrived at Park Place, feeling sorry for myself and thinking I no longer was in control of anything. So that night, when I fell, I spent the rest of the night calling people in Tennessee to come pick me up. The next day I discussed my feelings with the nurse on our floor and things began to get a little better. That was the first week in August. After getting acquainted with the caregivers and staff and a few residents, I began to like it a little more.

At Christmas I was talking on the phone with the mother of one of my friends in Memphis. She said “You sound happier than I have heard you sound in a long time.”

That night I started thinking about the friends I had made here, the activities that go on and the great care I get here and decided that she was right – I was happier than I had been since my parents passed away.
We have games, outings, parties and there is always someone to talk to. I have met friends from all over – our caregivers are THE BEST and all in all my life here is good. Who knew how much fun Crossword Co-Ops, Red Hat meetings, new friends and all that goes with living here could be.

I can’t say enough about the great caregivers we have here – they are making growing old a lot easier.

**Jane Bille**

Three years ago I had lost almost everything.

Park Place has given me safety, love and the experience of Christian charity.

**Pecan Place**

*Bonnham, Texas*

**Francie Cravens**

November 2007 marked a bleak and bitter financial ending to an era of my life resulting from a corporate layoff of Texoma Medical Center employees that’s led me to follow our Lord’s direction of moving to Pecan Place in March 2008. Immediately upon moving into my flat, I realized relinquishing favored possessions and financial stability did not affect me only, but many of the residents around me.

Our learning teaches us not to cry over spilled milk or to live in the past but to move forward. The greatest thrill I received from moving to Pecan Place was the relief from the financial stress I experienced from not knowing how I could afford to live on such a limited income.

Now, I am employed in a federal work program through the Department of Labor for senior citizens. It gives me the opportunity to earn a little spending money.

My niche is gardening and I consider myself a “Master Gardener” of sorts although, quite honestly, many would disagree. With some of the extra money I’ve earn, I created a patio, complete with beautiful plants, outside my apartment for my enjoyment and personal retreat.

The indulgence I consider a gift from Pecan Place and RHF. Thank you.

**Mildred Lamley**

Living at Pecan Place means that I have a roof over my head and, because the rent is reasonable, I can buy decent food to eat.

This place is well kept and we have an excellent manager. I’ve been living here for fifteen years and have no desire to move.

**Pilgrim Place**

*Mason City, Iowa*

**Linda Sachen**

I came from a nursing home three years ago. I have always lived in a house, so when I first came to Pilgrim Place I didn’t know if I would like living in an apartment.

I like my apartment very much - it is the right size for me. I like the people that live here and the friends I’ve made.

Carol, Barb & Jim (Pilgrim Place staff) are the best people I know. They help me with questions and Jim helps me when I need him to fix things.

I like it here because I don’t have to cut grass or shovel snow. I like the fact that our heat and air conditioning is furnished with the apartment. I have a pet cat and most places don’t allow pets.

**Kristin Corlew**

I moved here March of 2006 and after I moved in I would go down to the community room and read or visit with people. I could not do that where I lived before because I lived on the top floor and had to climb the stairs.

Here at Pilgrim Place it is handicapped accessible. We have elevators and I live on the 3rd floor and I love it!

The people are friendly and we have a good manager.

Living here means that my life is easier and I feel safe, secure and I have peace of mind in the knowledge that I will have help with any problem I might have. I love it here.
Pilgrim Tower East
Pasadena, California
Clare Carpenter
Living at PTE has allowed me to lead a life of privacy, security, and individuality. As a Service Extender for Center For Aging Resources, I am giving back to others, making living that much more worthwhile. This “dream job” entails finding ways to make life easier for elders and following up on it.

Interaction with the residents and staying active in the RHF Community helped develop skills that are used on the job.

I am grateful to RHF and the PTE Management and Staff for providing quality housing. It pleases me to hear my grandchildren say that Grandma lives in a really “cool” apartment.

Pinewood Manor
Bremerton, Washington
Daisy Waddell
Like so many others I was living with a family. While living there I broke my right femur. While dealing with that, I met a woman named Betty who was living at Pinewood Manor and she told me what a great place it was.

I continued living with my son and submitted my application for an apartment at Pinewood Manor. A little over 5 years ago my name came up and I moved into my lovely studio apartment. It is so wonderful to be able to have my independence back. I love living at Pinewood Manor where I have my own kitchen, bath, and large living area.

Living at Pinewood Manor is like being a part of a family or a small community. I meet and talk with all the neighbors and friends.

I am very happy living here. I praise God for this wonderful place to live.

Wilma Snow
Living at Pinewood Manor gave me more confidence. By living on my own I have gained independence and lots of friends to talk to. We are a happy family here. I can’t imagine living anywhere else.

Pioneer Manor
Geneva, Nebraska
Arvin Wood
I am very happy I am living here. My wife passed away in 2005, so I sold the house and I had 30 days to move out. I was so grateful to have found Pioneer Manor.

Phyllis Bruning
I have lived at Pioneer Manor for almost a year now. My beloved husband passed away in 2009 and I was given the opportunity to move to Geneva. But I decided on staying at Pioneer Manor because I had a chance to know the residents. I was sharing their joy and I am very grateful for their friendship.

The RHF community gives me a sense of belonging and friendship with the residents. The time I have spent living here has granted me an independence I never knew I could have.

Pioneer Towers
Sacramento, California
Kathryn D. Coad
During my working years, sometimes the realization of being alone and on my own would almost send me in panic. I wondered how I would ever manage on my own. But had I known there was a place that was warm and caring as Pioneer Tower, I would have never feared.
Life at Pioneer Towers has been good for me. I have tried to do my share to keep the friendly atmosphere along with the many activities that are available, but time has quickly passed.

Now 20 years later, I have reached “The Old Lady” stage of my life. I am no longer able to host the tea parties or cut birthday cakes.

However, I have been able to use my talents as the resident’s teacher in the H.A.N.D.S. project, teaching people how to knit and crochet.

May there be places like Pioneer Towers for older people, providing homes and comfort as we can no longer manage alone.

Angie Perez

When I first came to Pioneer Towers my family felt it would be better for me to be on my own to try to help myself recover from cerebral hemorrhage. They pushed me out of the safety net of their home to Pioneer Towers.

It was hard, lonely, and scary at first. It took awhile for me to appreciate my apartment, surroundings, and neighbors because I was reclusive.

One day about 18 months ago I decided to get out of the apartment and meet Sonda, our Activities Director. I asked whether the exercise class was free and I began attending the class.

Being around these beautiful and positive people helped me to come alive. I have now blossomed into a stronger and happier person than I have ever been in my whole life.

Robert Greer

Pioneer Towers was my salvation! I came from what was supposed to be a revitalization area at 16th and O St.

In October 2008, I begged and prayed for God to help. I had no money or any prospects for moving, so I pleaded for his help. I have been born again three times. So I figured I was on pretty good standing with him. His answer was “yes, I’ll help you.”

One month later I was turning 62 and the Social Security wanted to see my birth certificate. While, I was there, they made a copy of it. But after a while, they said something was wrong with my disability payments. I thought, “Oh God I owe them money.” But, they made the mistake and they owed me money to the tune of $20.00 a month since 1985. I fell out of my chair and remembered my prayer and I thanked him on the spot. The following week I heard that Pioneer Towers was accepting new applications for HUD and I was put on the waiting list.

So on May of 2008 my life changed forever. I left everything at the old place - like anger, resentment, and anxieties. I don’t know how to explain my joy of living here. One day, two men came in the back entrance and I was sitting there. One of the men asked me how I was going to spend my eternity and my reply was, “easy, I was going to spend it right here in Heaven.”

So I would like to say thank you to all my new friends for my life at Pioneer Towers.

God Bless you all for making me feel like I’m home.

Shirley O’Key

In 2002 I had lost two important members of my immediate family and was devastated with sorrow. I decided to get out of my three bedroom two bath home in Suisun. I no longer felt safe by myself and had to search for alternatives.

I’ve been independent and a self-sufficient person for a good portion of my life and was able to raise three children alone. At the age of 72 I joined the Peace Corps and spent one year in Albania.

When I returned to Northern California I stayed near a dear sister in Santa Rosa until her death in 1999. I then moved into a house that was too big for me and a garden that would have taken over the neighborhood eventually. I was now 82 and on Mother’s Day that year I lost my oldest son. That was the moment when I knew it was a time for a change.

Apprehensive, but curious, I returned to my old neighborhood of trees and wonderful walkways to see if there was still room for me and lo and behold there was a building that I had watched being built during the late 70’s and early 80’s - Pioneer Towers. I looked no further and put my application in.
I was lucky enough to be a resident in just a few months. What a relief I felt!

I have been a contributing member of this community by organizing fourteen productions of Readers Theatre plays. I am now the Assistant Editor of Tower Topics, our monthly newsletter and calendar. Both of these activities have had such a positive impact on my life and also my disposition. I am eternally grateful to be 90 years old and living here.

I am safe and I thank you all for that.

PS: My family never worries about me. In fact, sometimes they have to make an appointment!

Irvin and Vida Rasmussen

Our ages were creeping up on us too fast. We knew that we would have to make other living arrangements because we could not keep up with all the work entailed with living in a home. Consequently, we began looking toward what would work best for us.

We made a trip to Pioneer Towers to see a friend of ours who has already made the move. She was very happy and invited us to eat lunch with her. She took us all around and we became more and more interested in the facility. It was fitting into our scheme for the future, very well.

We sold our home and moved into Pioneer Towers in November of 1999. Meals were being served at that time and we took advantage of having three meals prepared by someone else. The rental fee was within our means, allowing us to live comfortably. There appeared to be quite a bit of activities, which was one of the biggest items we had on our list. We soon began to utilize our skills and volunteered to do many things. We worked as a team and had specialties that eventually blended into one. Two computers are better than one!

Our apartment is on the 11th floor, East End. We overlook a lot of trees; can see the capitol, but not the activities there. We feel safe here. We take part in many events going on. Irv is a very dedicated person and is known for be able to do everything and a sort of “Jack of all Trades.” He is Treasurer for our Residents Council.

Living at Pioneer Towers makes us happy and we find we laugh a lot and share with many others. We feel good even though we have a few aches and pains. We take walks when we can and they are enjoyable.

These reasons are medicine to our souls. This is why we celebrated our 65th wedding anniversary on April 15, 2010. Hooray for Pioneer Towers Senior Community and the great staff and residents.

Sunny Sorrels

When I first moved to Pioneer Towers two years ago, I scarcely had an inkling that my new home would provide me with so much - especially in the way of service.

Being a man with complex and demanding medical conditions, and subsequent energy levels of great and sudden fluctuations, I thought Pioneer Towers would provide a central location in Sacramento, as well as a van service to medical appointments. Additionally, The Towers offered various groups centering on special interests of mine, especially a writing group.

Part of my “success story” at Pioneer Towers has to do with this very aspect: the administration here absolutely supports personal expression. For example: not being attracted to the existing writing group with its focus on poetry - just not my cup of tea - I was encouraged to offer a class in writing memoirs. For a small group of us this became a major high point in our lives, once weekly.

There are so many aspects of my living here that have been distinctly life-enhancing: getting residents together for matinees when I directed or starred in local theater, writing for our monthly newsletter, emceeing and doing some set design for our Pioneer Singers’ shows, meditating Monday afternoons, starting a 12-step group in the building, attending an ongoing cancer group, and much more.

But perhaps the most unusual contribution on the part of RHF/Pioneer Towers to my personal/medical betterment is this: in view of my disabling condition of Clinical Depression, and of my need to be surrounded by color and visual stimulus, our brilliant maintenance department painted my apartment in the most astonishing colors: Alice in Wonderland Pink, for example, the most intense lime green, a turquoise that vibrates on the walls, and a dazzlingly bright sun yellow.
Though we shared the cost of the paint itself, I never once picked up a paint brush! I seem to be past that kind of physical activity, but the joy of seeing my apartment go from drab and predictable white walls to such an amazing palette did exactly what I wanted - I now live in Wonderland myself! The colors stimulate me, gets my mind moving out of the shadows and into the light.

As far as I can see, RHF really does make a supreme effort to fulfill its stated mission of helping people. I know because I’m lucky enough to be one of them!

**Prairie Grove Apartments**  
**East Prairie, Missouri**

**Gary Scott**

Before I moved to Prairie Grove I was practically homeless. I stayed with my daughter sometimes and stayed in my vehicle the other times.

Since I’ve moved here I have a warm safe and comfortable place to live. I now have a housekeeper and a nurse. I don’t know what would have happened to me if I didn’t live here and have the people that work here.

**Dan Smith**

In the winter of 2009, in the middle of an ice storm, I was sleeping in my truck due to no heat in the trailer I was living in. The floor had fallen through the trailer and it was really not livable but I thought I was doing okay. That was until a friend of mine told me about Prairie Grove Apartments and in a short time I had a nice warm apartment.

I’m thankful for the people who checked on me and helped me in any way they could when I moved into the community. Without Prairie Grove Apartments, I don’t know what would have happened to me.

**Providence Place**  
**Salem, Oregon**

**Ruby Williams Jones**

When I moved back to Salem, Oregon in May of 2007 I didn’t know where I would be living. I was welcomed at my son’s home but the bed and bath were located upstairs which was a problem for me.

I applied for residence at several places and in each instance I was told that vacancies are rare. Then a few days later, a lovely lady from family services called and told me about Providence Place. I drove out here immediately.

As the manager showed me around she was telling me how the tables and chairs in the community room were just delivered that morning. It was indeed, providence that led me here. Just 3 weeks later I was the 4th person to move into my new home. I have made some wonderful friends, people I never would have met elsewhere. This is my home! A house or apartment building is never automatically a home. It takes people who laugh and love, people who care about you to make a home.

I am happy and I love living here. My apartment is bright, cheerful, and I am comfortable. I don’t have to climb any stairs unless I want to. We have two elevators plus on each floor a trash room with garbage chute, laundry room with a folding table.

There are lots of activities in the community room. I’m warm in the winter and cool in the summer. I’ve never gone to bed hungry. I’m as content as I’ve ever been. I’m a happy camper.

**Lona Dorsett**

Living in a RHF community like Providence Place enables me to stretch my budget (a little more) so I can work on projects like H.A.N.D.S.

This year we’ve sent over ten boxes of goodies to the Oregon National Guardsmen in Afghanistan to thank them for their service.

We’re also planning a special Christmas for five young mentally challenged adults who live in a group home here in Salem.

I consider myself very fortunate to live in such a clean, quiet, safe, and affordable apartment. I have great neighbors and have made some wonderful friends.
**Ralston Tower**
**Modesto, California**

**Harley Cooney**

Even though this time honored dying WWII veteran is alone now, I must say that I am indeed grateful to be living here at Ralston Tower.

My wife Mary and I moved to Ralston Tower in the wake of retiring after 27 years in the printing business and after receiving the anguished news that Mary was diagnosed with cancer.

The doctors and their radiation treatments had depleted all of our hard earned savings and that is when RHF shined into focus.

I call this my home with complete respect and appreciation. It means that I live in a safe, well maintained and professionally managed shelter with a caring staff. I can say that those of us living here at Ralston Tower are safeguarded and well cared for, plus our resident association provides many programs and busy activities for our entertainment. Thank you and hallelujah for RHF.

**Karlyn Echols**

I was in a deep depression when I moved into Ralston Tower two years ago due to the loss of my older daughter.

Coming here has kept me out of a nursing home.

I have come out of the depression due to the friendly neighbors, office staff and a caring caregiver.

Since moving here my appearance has changed dramatically with weight loss, assisted by my caregiver. I am a new person. My family is so glad to have their old mother and grandmother back looking good and feeling happy.

Thank you Ralston Tower.

**Toni Lyon**

In 1973 I remember my parents telling me that Ralston Tower was completed. They planned to live at the tower when they retired. My dad wanted to take my mother to show her the building. However, my mother became ill with cancer and passed away in February of 1974.

After 52 years of marriage, my husband passed away on May 4th 2008. My sister got me an application to live at Ralston Tower. I was put on the waiting list and was able to move in 1 year ago.

Since living here I feel like I have a new life and a new family.

I was depressed and afraid when my husband passed away. I now feel safe and happy with my life. I also feel I have done what my dear parents had planned for themselves, but never had the chance to. I plan to live here for many years to come, God willing.

**Margaret Beerbower**

Ralston Tower is my home. I have a large family: 6 children, 24 grandchildren and 50 great grandchildren. Now my new friends I met here are like an extended family. I feel secure here. We have our doors checked am and pm.

I worked nights for 23 years and learned to enjoy the sunrise as I was driving home. Now I see the most breathtaking sunrises from my apartment on the 9th floor. On clear days I can see the mountains and it makes me realize how wonderful our God is that created the heavens and the earth.

All of the staff does a great job. I truly enjoy my life here in this community.
**Redding Pilgrim House**
*Redding, California*

**Lillian Duplantis**

As a retired caregiver I find this the perfect place to live. Having rent that I can manage is one thing but it is so much more.

I had never lived in a place where neighbors visit and care so much about one another. Here we laugh together and cry together if need be. We are friends as well as neighbors.

Personally I am able to continue in a small way what I did as a caregiver. I can volunteer with our Project H.A.N.D.S. group or lend a hand to a neighbor once in a while. Not only is that a help to them but it helps me fill my need as a caregiver that has not yet gone away with retirement.

Karleen, our Services Coordinator, helps us find things that make life easier. There are many things available for seniors and low income people that I never would have known about had she not helped to make them available. I know it is her job but both she and Linda, the manager are not just good at their jobs but good people as well.

Redding Pilgrim House has been a blessing to me. I am so happy I was fortunate enough to be called by them first instead of the other places where I had applied.

**Southdale Tower**
*Anderson, Indiana*

**Barbara Reeves**

I am disabled and my mom has lived at Southdale Tower for 8 years. Before she had to take a bus to get me and we took another bus to go to the store, I was afraid to go out alone where I lived. I have anxiety and panic attacks. Here my mother and I can catch the bus together. We can go outside to enjoy the grounds, pond and other tenants company, without worry.

I have a heart condition and also suffer from asthma. I now have air conditioning, so I can breathe, and an elevator to use as it is hard for me to climb stairs. I can attend exercise classes here in the building for my knees, back and other joints that bother me.

My health was going downhill before I moved here. Living here has improved my quality of living and my general health. To me, living here means the possibility of a longer, and healthier, life.

**Eveline Granger**

Living at Southdale Tower means I can afford a nicer apartment than before. I have more money for food and medicine. I do not have to choose between medicine and food, which I had to do in the past. I thank God every night for blessing me with this apartment.

I like the staff. They are all friendly, nice people. I love the view from my balcony and can look outdoors and see the wild life. I can use my walker to get exercise in the building if I cannot get out due to cold or snow.

**Southpointe Villa**
*Rialto, California*

**Maria Guzman**

Before moving to Southpointe Villa, I couldn’t afford to pay my rent and didn’t know what I would do.

I like living here, it is close to my family; it is in a safe area; the people here are courteous and helpful and I have made many good friends! I love my apartment.

**Roxie Smith**

I feel very safe living here. I can leave home and return and everything is the same. I don’t have to worry about robberies.

I enjoy the people and the fellowship. I praise God for this place and I pray for everyone at all times. Thank you very much.
St. Catherine
Florissant, Missouri

Ginny Roller

Two of the best decisions of my life were retiring and moving into St. Catherine Retirement Community.

Living here means peace of mind, contentment, happiness and joy! I chose to live here because I wanted to belong. I wanted to be around people and not feel lonely. I wanted to share my gifts and talents.

While I am the youngest one here, I am seeing the blessings of growing older. I witness the joy of living the golden years!

Living at St. Catherine means that I don’t have to plan my meals, or worry about getting to the doctor and the grocery store. I really enjoy the outings we take as well. Your days are YOURS! I am able to choose which activities, games and projects to participate in, and I get to help the community members as well. I am doing my heart’s desire, to live life to the fullest.

The Chapel is a very special place because God is important to me. Here we share Sunday services, Mass and Rosary. We also have a Wednesday night prayer service that was formed by the residents. You can spend time reflecting on all your blessings! Living here at St. Catherine is the joy of my life!

Tony Ortiz

Living in St. Mary Tower has afforded my wife and me many new experiences.

Talking to some seniors who are older than us made us realize how much more pleasant and enjoyable it is to live in a community than with married children who have their own lives to live.

Living in St. Mary Tower has given me the opportunity to do volunteer work in St. Mary Hospital as a Eucharist Minister, which I have been doing for the past ten years. My wife now has more time to focus on her favorite hobby – stamp collecting.

St. Mary Tower
Long Beach, California

Catalina Castro

I am very happy living in St. Mary Tower because it has made me more independent.

Everything I need is close to our community. I have made many friends and have met wonderful people. All of the staff is helpful.

I am grateful for an organization like RHF for providing us seniors on fixed incomes a place to call home. I hope to be able to call St. Mary Tower my home for many years to come.

Eugene Malito

I appreciate living here at Stone Creek Village because the facilities are made for the physically disabled.

Difficulty with opening and closing doors is solved with automatic openers. Grab bars in the wash room and bath tub has prevented me from falling numerous times. Elevators have helped because I’m not able to climb stairs any longer.

The staff here work together to keep the property and building clean and in order. Help is provided to clean my apartment every two weeks. The affordable rent has helped me tremendously as I have a very tight budget.

I am privileged to live here at Stone Creek Village as it has made my life so much easier and pleasant as the sun is setting. I love the peace and quiet.

Michael Stevens

Living here has allowed me to live independently on a very minimum budget.

Spacious apartments with open bathrooms including grab bars promote safety without assistance in caring for me at a time in my life when dignity means so much to me.

“IN Their Own Words” 29
Our manager, while faced with keeping the administrative requirements intact as well as the safety and security of each tenant in the forefront promotes a sense of stability.

Maintenance successfully juggles maintaining an aging building with the day to day maintenance issues of the tenants and, has for years, handled it with a professional attitude and without delay.

Our Service Coordinator is always available to address issues and meet the challenges of the tenants with a pleasant smile and the uncanny ability to get the job done. When dealing with the monumental task of the tenant’s issues with the state/DES as well as the health care/insurance problems we all face, she is certainly an asset to the Stone Creek family and we are fortunate to have her here.

Sun City Gardens
Sun City, California
Marie C. Farrago

Peace! Security! Contentment!

I moved to Sun City Gardens on 9-27-77. I have lived in the same apartment all these happy years. I moved in at 55 – I was 88 this year.

Lots of changes over the years. Some good – some not so good. The only perfect place is Heaven.

I have no family – never married. Wonderful God-children who visit me frequently – from as near as San Ramon and as far away as Australia. They enjoy the comforts of the guest room here at the community.

God willing, I hope to continue enjoying Sun City Gardens until God calls me home.

Sun City Gardens
Sun City, California
Marie C. Farrago

Sunny Isle Housing provides a senior with someplace to live in peace and quiet for people who cannot afford a lot.

The Carlin
Arlington, Virginia
Alese Brooks

The Carlin is a wonderful place to call home after retirement.

The neighbors are friendly sociable and dependable. The location is perfect.

There are some residents who have lived in the Carlin for 14 years. That says a lot about what it means to live in an RHF community.

Our theme is “We Care,” and for that reason we do many things for charitable causes.

Life is good at The Carlin.

Richard W. Fogle

You can’t beat the location of this community. I can walk to everything I desire. I’m only one block from a market. I walk to the corner and I’m at the Mall. There are several nice restaurants and a complex of 8 movie theaters among other stores.

All of these things were out of reach to me prior to moving into the Carlin as I don’t have a car. Now that I live at the Carlin, I don’t really need a car!

The Carolinian
Florence, South Carolina
Gloria Fahnert

It was Sunday, August 28, 2005, the day before Hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans full force, when I and my 48 year old son, David obeyed the mandatory evacuation order and hurriedly left our home.

We had no idea where we were going and what lay ahead.
The evacuation journey was long and harrowing, beset by obstacle upon obstacle. The vivid, traumatizing memories of going through the actual storm are etched in my mind forevermore. I was deathly afraid and I constantly prayed, “Please God don’t let go of my hand.” I know it was God who definitely led us through the entire journey. He never let go of my hand.

New Orleans was catastrophically devastated. I lost the cultural, historical New Orleans, city of my birth; my home, all of my documents and possession from my past, gone forever. But God has found a much better home for me, the Carolinian in Florence, SC. I have a beautiful home. From every room I have a panoramic view of heaven and the blue sky above, trees and flower shrubs below. All so beautiful, peaceful and serene, just right for me. I have the sun in the morning and the moon at night and my life is indeed a sheer delight.

God has given to me ~
A sunbeam to warm me
A moonbeam to charm me
Shelter and caring personnel so no one can harm me
Laughter to cheer me
Faithful friends near me
And when I pray, there is heaven to hear me.

God has never let go of my hand, and living in the Carolinian, I know he never will.

**The Concord**

**Pasadena, California**

**Catherine Tejano**

I have been at The Concord for about 10 years now. I would have been homeless or worse if I had not been accepted here. Thank God that I was. My rent is right for me on what I receive each month. Believe me, my rent is the 1st thing I pay each month.

Thank God for RHF for all they do for the elderly and disabled people. I am disabled and in a wheelchair. I have a roof over my head and God in my heart.

**The Cloisters**

**Deland, Florida**

**Joan Hindermann**

The feeling of being at home.
Relaxed with the knowledge that I am surrounded by people who will help me when needed.
Unlimited books are available in a very well kept library there is reading for everyone’s taste.
Lots of activities in which to participate, which I do!
Yet if I wish to spend a less active day in my apartment that is also an option.
Good programs are scheduled with speakers from local hospitals and other places of interest.
Old people my age are here to reminisce with and compare past adventures together.
Lots of friends are readily available to play bridge, dominoes, jigsaw etc.
Days for grocery shopping and transportation for trips are regularly scheduled for sightseeing, parks, restaurants etc.
Even a post office, country store, hairdresser and gym are right here in the building.
No Christmas, Easter, Birthday or Anniversary passes without celebration or a party and all residents are invited.
Yes I am very fortunate to find myself living at The Cloisters in my late years.
England is my native land. My town had 800 air raids during the war. I spent 2 years in a shelter and had my sleepless night.
And yet here I am now safe and in good health (for 86 years).
Residences where the surroundings are so attractive; the employees are so kind and capable & friendly residents
So could I ask for more? I should say not!! How could I be anything but happy here?

**The Heartland**

**Peoria, Illinois**

**Curline Lee**

I moved into The Heartland in November, 1997. I personally feel that your home should be a place of serenity and peace. As I reflect back on where I lived before - it was known as a troubled housing community. I have never encountered any trouble since living here.
At The Heartland I have the ideal apartment, it has a nice view above the offices. I open my mini blinds each morning to see people coming and going. The staff treats me with respect whenever I have a request. They go above and beyond to meet my needs. We have a new manager, and I have observed her getting out and doing yard work to make The Heartland a beautiful place to live.

My goal was to retire to a place where I had something in common with my neighbors and I think I have found it.

At the age of 85 years old, I consider myself blessed at this stage of my life. If I can invest in the mission to make the Heartland the ideal place to live, I’ll do whatever that is asked of me.

Donald E. Guthrie

I am a disabled Vietnam veteran living in The Heartland.

The community has impacted my life in a number of ways. It has allowed me to live among other residents with similar conditions, physical and financial.

Being on a fixed income, living at The Heartland allows me to be in an environment that offers modern conveniences, air conditioning, proper heating and furnished utilities. Social services, meals, computers and other resources are also provided.

I am grateful for the HUD subsidy and a staff of concerned employees who work to solve our concerns and accommodate our needs.

Towne Creek Apts
Palestine, Texas

Jeanne Richardson

With loving and friendly neighbors, I can relax far from the stress of the world. And when doctors order bed rest, it is undisturbed.

After experiencing some critical health issues, I am so grateful to be given a second chance at life. While I’m not strong enough to endure what many others can, I am able to enjoy quite a few events that are held here.

One of the things I have been able to pursue, while living at Towne Creek, is my love for poetry. The peace of mind and serenity of my surroundings have allowed me to write almost 200 poems in my eleven years at Towne Creek.

Nelma Hyde

Before moving into Towne Creek Apartments I was full of grief and depression with the loss of my husband. I was living in loneliness and isolation. Since I have moved here I have become alive again.

Towne Creek Apartments is a family of strange and wonderful critters, just like me. All of us - some timidly, some boldly - are seeking newness in the circumstances into which we have been thrust. Many fears and anxieties have melted away for me with the excellent management, maintenance and residential members that live here. The protection of “privacy” and the challenges and compassion of “community” provide healthy personal growth, friendships, and a wonderful sense of belonging.

What a blessing! What has living at a RHF community allowed me to do in my life that I couldn’t do before? Live, love and laugh.

Thank you.

Vacaville Autumn Leaves

Vacaville, California

Jennifer Hellmann

Through a tragedy I came to Autumn Leaves. My mother and stepfather were killed in a motorcycle accident about six years ago. Although I am an adult, my family members felt it was unwise for me to live on my own.

Their death took my life in a different direction, which lead me to living at Autumn Leaves. Living at Autumn Leaves has allowed me to heal from the sorrow and be accepted despite my disabilities.

At Autumn Leaves I began volunteering for the Brown Bag Program. I was helping with the picking up of groceries and bringing them back to the complex and helping deliver bags to the residents that are signed up for the program.
RHF is more than just a place to live. It’s a community where a person, like me, was able to find belonging and acceptance.

RHF is not just an affordable place to live, it is a community of like-minded people who live together as an extended family. Even though I seek help from others for assistance when needed, one of the best things about living here is that we can lean on one another yet also have our own space and privacy when needed.

**Valley View Apartments**  
**Manitowoc, Wisconsin**

We have an interesting story here at Valley View Apartments. In May 2004, Timmy Cadle moved in to our building. He is a great resident and is eager to help other residents and staff.

He enjoys living here so much that he encouraged his mom, Kathy, to join him here at Valley View. She moved in to her apartment in November of 2004. Timmy and Kathy are next-door neighbors and have loved every minute of it.

In fact, they are so happy here that Kathy encouraged her sister, Joan, to move in. It took Joan a while to decide to move here, but she eventually did, too.

Needless to say, all three of them are happy as clams living here. They wanted to tell what living here means to them. As the Service Coordinator, I have been asked to help compile their story to share with RHF for their book. I’ll do the best I can to inject their enthusiasm and their love of Valley View Apartments.

**Timmy, Kathy, and Joan Cadle:**

When I asked them “What does living here mean to you” all three of them smiled and told me “it means the world to me”. Kathy went on to say that it is the best place she ever lived. “The building is so clean; you don’t need to worry about doing your laundry in dirty washers.”

She loves the layout of her apartment and that there’s room for a kitchen table, something she couldn’t do in her old apartment.

Joan agrees with Kathy as in her old apartment you had to walk through the bedroom to get to the bathroom. Joan told me that she so much happier here than in her old place- “100%, no 200%, no 1000% happier here”. She feels safer here than in her other apartment, and Timmy and Kathy agreed with her.

Timmy told me that Valley View gave him the chance to have his first apartment on his own. He moved in as a 38 year-old, single guy who was living with his aunt, so it meant a lot that he was on his own. He is proud of his apartment and what it represents, freedom.

Affordability is another big plus for all 3 of the Cadles. It allows them to do more things in their free time. They all told me that they can’t wait to get back home, using the old saying “it’s nice to leave but it’s even better to come home.”

**Dick and Dorothy Zinkel**

Living in an RHF community means that our quality of life has improved greatly.

We’ve been married 64 years and some years ago Dick gave me a plaque that stated “Come, my love, grow old with me. The best is yet to be.” At that time I wondered if it would be true.

Now we know it is! Our “Golden Years” have, indeed, been golden since moving in to Valley View a year ago. We have never been so comfortable and secure as we are today. The physical beauty of this complex is breathtaking. The bright, spacious rooms and the cleanliness of the property makes it very attractive at a price we can afford.

The most special attribute, though, has been the people we are surrounded by- our neighbors down the hall or above us, our manager and his family. They have become dear, caring friends and we consider ourselves blessed beyond compare!

Thank you for beginning this mission 50 years ago - know you are appreciated.

“IN Their Own Words” 33
Margaret Steele
My name is Margaret Steele but everyone here at Valley View calls me Peggy, which I enjoy very much.

I first looked at Valley View in 2001. I was looking for a comfortable and secure apartment close to where I was working at the time. I felt quite impressed and content.

When I first moved in, I was in a studio apartment in which I was quite happy and content. Later, I was able to move in to a one bedroom apartment, where I am quite happy.

I feel very much at home, comfortable, secure, and enjoy privacy. I have the freedom to come and go as I please.

My home, Valley View, is becoming more comfy and attractive with all the changes, exterior and interior, in this past year. I also hear good comments from the public on its presentation.

Living here at Valley View means to me: I’m happy. I’m content. And I’m home.

Village Pointe
Norfolk, Virginia
James E. Handy
I describe Village Pointe as a senior establishment with an aura of urban living. Class!

We live here because it’s what we can afford and truth be told, it’s probably the best living situation most of us have ever experienced.

West Valley Tower
Van Nuys, California
Benjamin Recca
To live in this RHF community I have been able to find peace within myself. I have been able to develop a lifestyle that I can be comfortable with.

The management of this building really cares about the individuality of the tenants.

I am a traumatic brain survivor which can have a hard time living a normal life. The caring and understanding I receive here has given me a feeling of acceptance and an ability to experience happiness. I would not have this if it weren’t for RHF. For this I am grateful.

Mark S. Herzina
Living in a RHF community has allowed me (an incomplete paraplegic) to be able to afford living in an independent living facility and not a convalescent home.

Although I have been stricken with conditions that do not allow me to be mobile on my own, I still have access to all of the amenities that the RHF community provides for its tenants.

This alone brings me peace of mind and creates a more tranquil living condition for me throughout my daily life.

Verde View
Camp Verde, Arizona
Phillip N. Weldon
Living in a RHF community means that I am very safe in my apartment.

If a problem should arise a meeting with the building management will solve it. We have a great manager who makes every effort to find answers for you.

I live in a healthy and clean environment. I am happy, content and very comfortable here. As you can see, all of my needs are taken care of.
Hak Sook Kim

I am very happy I moved into West Valley Towers in October of 2006. Despite my husband’s 4 year battle with cancer, (he passed away in 2007), we both felt very blessed to live at West Valley Towers because of the loving support and genuine care from the Manager and Service Coordinator. I feel so privileged to live surrounded by these loving people.

Our building is so wonderful to live in. I am very proud of my RHF community. Together, we all strived to make the world a better place. Thank you so much.

Carmen Parenzuela

I have lived in this building for almost 20 years. It is affordable and it allows me to afford other things that I need, including medications and doctor’s care.

It is also a place where I feel safe, because this is a secured building. I don’t have to be afraid that someone is going to break into my home. The building is attractive and is well maintained.

There is a community of people who get together and have activities which develops friendships and companionship.

Pak Bo Ock

When I lived with my children I was isolated, lonely and did not have much information on the outside world.

Since I moved to West Valley Towers I have many friends. We share life’s journey together. With the assistance of the Service Coordinator, I am more self confident.

Thank you so much.

Westover Manor
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Dove D. Tanner

This is an organized, structured living environment. I’m legally blind and recently had my left leg amputated.

Don’t worry though! I’m happy and doing fine. I love to do carpentry work. I helped my dad do work on our home. We made an apartment upstairs, which provided extra income.

An old friend of mine recommended I visit Westover Manor. I did and I applied for an apartment and got one. It has just been wonderful. I have been here almost 15 years. The time sure goes by fast. I like my new friends I have met here. God bless you.

Eva Helebrandt

I lost my home and all of my furniture and possessions in the flood of 2008 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. I was not able to save anything except a few pieces of clothing to wear and some pictures.

I still worry about losing my house that was torn down and what to do about my garage and the things that are still in it.

My dog and I did not have a place to live.

I like the birthday parties and potlucks and cook outs.

I enjoy talking to the people here. Sometimes it helps with my problems. I like working in the vegetable garden.

I enjoy taking my dog outside. I enjoy having my dog and having fun with him. He is 15 years old and his name is Rambo! He has a good appetite and he is friendly and loves everybody here. They love him too, and always speak to him. He likes to stop in the office to see the manager, Amber.
David Ross
In 1950 Cedar Rapids had an epidemic of the disease Polio.

It was three more years before a vaccine was found. My wife Thelma became a victim to the disease and was admitted into the hospital for 3 months.

When discharged a large part of her body was paralyzed. We had a 3 year old daughter and my wife was 4 months pregnant. Our life was very tough. I had to go out to work to support the family, then go home to help prepare the means and take care of the 3 year old.

As she aged her body became weaker and it was impossible for me to maintain a house. We were looking for a handicapped apartment, but unable to find one.

One Saturday morning I was looking in the ads and I noticed one for a new senior citizen apartment and the ad stated there were handicapped units available. I raced over and talked to the manager who showed me the handicapped apartment, which was perfect for our needs.

When my wife died in 2007 she had endured a multitude of health issues. I took care of her for 54 years, but if it wasn’t for Westover Manor, it would not have been possible for us to live as well as we did.

We always thanked God for Westover Manor and the excellent organization and employees who helped us live as well as we did.

Thank you.

Donnie Gilbert
I was raised in Cedar Rapids, but when my parents retired to Tucson, Arizona in 1978, I moved there with them.

My brother brought me back to Cedar Rapids in August of 2009.

I am so very happy to be here. Living here, on my own, has taught me to take care of myself and make lots of new friends and be independent.

I love the location where the mall is close and I enjoy the bus route. There are plenty of places to go out to eat.

Most of all I am here with my family. I enjoy my brother and his wife, my nieces and my sister and her husband.

I am very happy here and I enjoy Amber (the manager) as she helps all of us here at Westover.

Winslow Manor
Winslow, Arizona

Mary E. Johnson
I have lived here in the Winslow Manor for 3 ½ years.

The first thing that comes to my mind is the security we have here. Being a woman alone, I need that.

The second thing is the “financial security.” I could not live anywhere else in Winslow and pay what I pay for rent! I have a wonderful apartment, I love it.

The manager and staff are always here to help me. I feel they are a part of my family. Thank you for having this for people like me.

Yellowwood Terrace
Clarksville, Indiana

Iva Huff
Living in a community like this is so much better than being in a home alone. It’s a pleasure to be able to visit within the building.

Having the Social Coordinator here is a great service to us and has helped me a lot.

It is also nice to be able to attend church. I enjoy all of the activities, dinners and gatherings that take place here.

Most of all it is a great feeling to be safe in our own home. There is also night security if ever you need help.

Moving here has been the best thing I ever did. I can honestly say I have picked the perfect place to spend my remaining years.

Thank you for making it possible by keeping my rent low enough for me to afford.
Lulu Cummings

I have only been here 1 year. Yellowwood Terrace has allowed me to regain my self esteem, and privacy which I did not have before.

I moved in here to get out of a violent situation. The office worked hard with me to get me in here.

I recently lost my dog “Elvis.” He was my baby. My friends in this building made his passing easier for me to handle. You really have friends when you are down. Praise the Lord.

Richard Darnell

Yellowwood Terrace is a large apartment building with 202 units. Some might think that living in a community that size would make you feel anonymous - but I have found it to be just the opposite.

Togetherness with 202 other people –
1. Church, everyone has a chance to attend.
2. Monday night pitch in dinners.
3. Puzzle tables on every lobby.
4. Dinners 5 days a week.
5. Laundry room.
7. I can go to my doctors now or shopping.
8. Check ups are given free by different doctors and nurses.
9. Play all kinds of games, cards and bingo.

I enjoy my life and friends here at Yellowwood Terrace!

Frankie J. Willis

Living in this RHF community has allowed me to do things that I could not do before.

Like cooking what I want. Going to the grocery store and picking out what I want to eat. Washing clothes or cleaning house when I want to.

Living at Yellowwood Terrace has provided me with freedom.

Yorkshire Place
Cape May, New Jersey

Joseph Rinior

The year was 2008 and it was a very upsetting time in my life. I lost my house to pay the doctor’s bills for my wife who had just passed away from cancer in 2009.

I had hit the bottom with nowhere to turn I sold my house for a third of what it was worth. I had nightmares of where I was going to live and if I would have a place to stay.

My mother told me about Yorkshire Place and I went there to see if there was a small one bedroom apartment. That was all I could afford on disability from a broken back. I made it into Yorkshire place with no food, no money, no furniture, and nobody that cared.

All of a sudden I had a roof over my head, a place to rest my head and, for the first time, a chance to mourn my wife’s death. RHF gave me back my life, my faith, a chance to help others.

Now I spend my time looking to get into any and all kinds of work that can help people like me. I want to help rebuild their lives, reach out, and let them know there are people out there that can help.

Margaret Brown

For three years I slept on my daughters couch. She had two dogs that slept in the same room with me and they both snored.

Although I was grateful for a roof over my head and love around me, I must say I didn’t get sufficient sleep or rest.

When Social Services told me about Yorkshire Place I was so happy and eagerly applied for residency there.

Since being here my health has improved and I have found fertile ground for a spiritual faith. My prayers are with you all.
Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in.

*Unknown*

Our Volunteers

**Rob Gaskill**  
Local Board Member  
300 Main  
Estacada, Oregon

RHF has provided our community not only with housing, but with a sense of belonging for our residents. Linda Forsberg (Manager of 300 Main) is committed to the mission of RHF.

I have the great privilege of being on the Board of Directors and playing music once a month at 300 Main. The smiles on the resident’s faces make it all worthwhile. Linda makes sure there are many activities and parties throughout the month and year. It gives me hope that when I am at that age, that there will be options for me to live a quality life at 300 Main.

**Donna Cawthon**  
Volunteer  
Ingleside Manor  
Macon, Georgia

I love helping people and I love the elderly. My mom worked in a nursing home when I was young and it was then that I knew I loved spending time with older people. So Ingleside Manor is the perfect place for me to volunteer.

The residents at Ingleside Manor tell me “thank you for all the joy and fun you bring to us.” I tell them it is my pleasure. I have just as much fun as they do.

It is a very rewarding feeling to volunteer here at Ingleside Manor. They are now a part of my family.

**Roberta Jahrling**  
National Advisory Commission  
Honolulu, Hawaii

It’s about people, caring people who are seeking to provide a safe haven for others to call home in an environment that encourages friendships to flourish and hope and peace of mind, where once there was doubt and despair.

**Toni Walmsley**  
Volunteer  
Lake Ella Manor  
Tallahassee, Florida

This community serves its residents well. It makes it possible for them to remain independent due to its affordability and services offered to them. It is a loving and caring environment and I know my friend is safe and cared for.
Patricia Taylor
Volunteer
Gold Country
Retirement Center
Placerville, California

I retired from teaching and a friend said “I have an idea for your newly acquired spare time.”

I now volunteer six days a week in four different areas of Gold Country. Because my first teaching job was in Physical Education and because I am a firm believer in keeping the body active, leading the exercise program was pure logic. It’s good for the participants, and it’s good for me.

Marlene Olsen
Volunteer
La Mirada Vistas
La Mirada, California

The Mission, as I see it in practice at La Mirada Vistas, a senior residence, affords our seniors a very nice and safe quality of life, which many would otherwise not have.

Many do not have families, so the friendships of neighbors let them know they are not alone.

Joining in Project H.A.N.D.S. gives them a purpose, and the close proximity to shopping, along with Dial-A-Ride bus to pick them up, gives them self reliance.

I would find this a safe haven for any of my loved ones.

Ray East
National Board of Directors
Charlottesville, Virginia

I have been a member of the RHF Board for the past 15 years, and to me, “it has been the gift that keeps on giving.”

Early on a board member said to me that “once you visit the homes of those we serve and share their story, you will then know of the rewards that we receive while doing God’s work here at The Retirement Housing Foundation.”

A passage in the Bible from Luke that I often think of says, “To whom much is given, much is required.” I have been given much. So as I think about the RHF family and all of the good that we are capable of doing, it is truly a blessing to be a part of this mission and to share in the joy of our successes.

Harvey Kandler
Local Board Member
Round House Manor
Kaukauna, Wisconsin

It means a caring community that has the life of Christ who taught that “in as much as we do it unto the lease of these we do it unto him.”

Out of this Commission Christ’s Church has gone out to start all sorts of institutions down through the ages that fulfill that purpose. Housing for older adults, low-income families, and persons with disabilities is an ever growing fulfillment purpose.

The clergy who began RHF did it as an outreach of the church in their day because they loved Christ and wanted to make his love tangible. I and three other clergy, representing four denominations of Christianity in Kaukauna, established Round House Manor.

There was a need for such housing in God’s purpose. I was on the Mayor’s conference committee of health and welfare. Through the United Church of Christ, I knew about RHF and made a call to their national headquarters to see if they could make affordable housing for the seniors in Kaukauna a reality. The RHF mission was and is fulfilled in our midst. It means to me Christ’s Teachings has become concrete and real.

The RHF mission of caring has now entered 159 communities and made God’s love real to thousands of residents these fifty years.
Rev. Dr. John E. Trnka
National Board of Directors
Newburgh, Indiana

I have been a part of the Church since I was a child. I have been an ordained Pastor for 54 years. I have had kind of a love/hate relationship with the Church throughout my life. The Faith that is at the foundation of the Church is needed for the peace of the entire world. Yet, the Church has seemed most of the time to function at a snail’s pace.

Time is so short, there is so much need for the faithful of the Church and yet the Church moves ponderously slow.

That perception existed, until I became a part of RHF. Suddenly I was a part of the Church, RHF, that was energetically moving to meet human need. Since 1961, this organization has grown, from a tiny beginning to now serving people in at least 162 locations in our nation, the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. That kind of energetic accomplishment has changed my image of the Church at work in our lives.

The RHF Mission is desperately needed in our country. Affordable housing is a rapidly growing need in our land while less and less funds are available to meet that need. RHF is hard at work to meet this challenge, recognizing we are not basically talking about building bricks and stone, but about human beings, people in need, who without RHF would have homes far less pleasant, maybe no homes at all.

More than 17,000 people now call RHF facilities their home. That is crucially important to me.

Our Mission is helping to uplift entire communities, for instance Angelus Plaza, which when constructed was in a devastated, even dangerous area of the city. Today it is in the center of a wonderful rehabilitated community, providing housing and work opportunities for many.

The Mission gives Staff and Board Members a vehicle by which they are personally helping to care for a world of people who are uplifted by their commitments. People who are working through the our Mission are affirmed when they hear comments like this one from one new resident, “This is the nicest place I have ever lived.”

Karen Donaldson
Volunteer
Towne Creek Apartments
McKinney, Texas

I am involved with an RHF community because of the ladies in the Young at Heart Art Club at Towne Creek Apartments in McKinney, Texas. In November 2009, I attended my first Art Club meeting with the hope of learning how to paint.

Little did I know what I had walked in to. I have developed many special friendships with the ladies. I have assembled jigsaw puzzles, learned to make smoothies, shared recipes and life stories, learned to play Mexican Train and have celebrated holidays, birthdays and family visits. I have sung show tunes and danced the Macarena. I’ve exchanged books and sometimes, I even paint.

I have had my heart touched in ways I never knew were possible. I have found joy in a hug and happiness in a smile. I used to look forward to Fridays as the start of the weekend. Now I can’t wait to see my “Friday friends!”

Shirley Trnka
National Advisory Commission
Newburgh, Indiana

The RHF Mission means the world to people who need a helping hand. To live in a community that is safe, well built and provides a pleasing lifestyle are very important.

The mission enables me to relate to the people who live in our communities. I hear them say in a heartfelt way that they have never lived in such a safe, lovely place. It is always a pleasure to be a part of our communities.

I am involved with RHF because my husband is a board member. We have been volunteering for 26 years and have enjoyed it very much.

John and I know how important RHF is to people who need a helping hand to live in a beautiful, safe surrounding.

RHF has many dedicated workers who keep the mission alive. Dr. Laverne Joseph has devoted many years to seeing that it all happens.
Alice Decator  
Volunteer  
Bishop’s Glen  
Holly Hill, Florida

I have been involved in donating time to many causes during my lifetime. My personal mantra is “If you’re not giving, you’re not living.”

As I owned a child-care facility for most of my adult life, my volunteer work was related to what I knew.

I am a Guardian Ad Litem, have done work as a mentor in the public school system, been involved in the drop-out prevention program, was a Girl Scout troop leader, and on and on. Many wonderful hours were given to many excellent causes.

As my husband has had Parkinson’s disease for 26 years now, and I no longer own my child-care center, my interest shifted to seeking out a different community involvement that I can better relate to at this time of my life.

I began doing volunteer work at Bishop’s Glen and have found it quite rewarding. I am not only visiting with the residents but also helping in other ways that I can, like assisting with decorating the bulletin boards with each changing season.

Getting a close-up look at the life style the residents enjoy at the Retirement Housing Foundation Community has been enriching for me. I am so pleased at the quality of meals, the compassion of the CNAs and the variety of daily activities provided for the residents.

Indeed I believe your staff is working diligently towards accomplishing your mission statement – providing an environment to enhance the quality of life physically, mentally and spiritually.

I am so happy to be a small part of such an awesome organization. Thank you for the opportunity to get involved. The pleasure is all mine.

Caroline East  
National Advisory Commission  
Charlottesville, Virginia

It is critical to provide healthy, well-maintained housing at an affordable rate for those in need.

It means people can live without worrying about where they will be sleeping every night or if they are going to be safe.

It is our responsibility to help those who are in need. It gives me a great deal of hope seeing the elderly and disabled living productive, meaningful lives.

The happy faces keep us motivated to keep doing RHF’s work.

Bobby Shields  
Local Board Member  
Mount Beulah Terrace  
St. Louis, Missouri

Helping people that are elderly, giving them the support needed to live in life, spiritually, physically and mentally.

Helping people so they may have a roof over their head and not have to live on the street with nowhere to go. Mount Beulah Terrace provides a means for them to live a happy and healthy life.

Jean Dremstedt  
National Board of Directors  
Evansville, Indiana

As a Board member of RHF I was part of the team that wrote the Mission Statement and we really feel strongly about those words.

There is a great need for affordable housing in this country and that need will continue to grow. So regardless of age, income, or physical limitations RHF is there across our nation to help fill that need of low income housing.

The Mission Statement is who we are at RHF.
RHF Team Members

Vicky Ellis
Manager
Ingleside Manor
Macon, Georgia

The RHF Mission means helping and caring for others. There are so many disadvantaged people in the world and RHF is committed to helping as many of them as they can.

As Manager of Ingleside Manor, I am honored to work for such a wonderful company. This is the best job I have ever had; I only wish I had known about RHF twenty years ago. I would have certainly tried to come on board with them then.

Every day I enjoy going to work. I love the residents of Ingleside Manor. I have never seen such a loving and caring group of individuals! If one of the residents gets sick or need a ride to the doctor or grocery store, there is always another resident willing to help them.

The residents of Ingleside Manor love their home! They tell me on a daily basis how beautiful the grounds are. I take such pride in managing such a beautiful place for low income elderly residents. It makes my heart so happy to see the residents laughing and having a good time.

They are family and friends to each other. I am very humble and honored to have the opportunity of working for such a wonderful company with such an awesome Mission.

Michelle Capps
Service Coordinator
Harvest Pointe
Loveland, Colorado

The RHF Mission means the world to me. I became a part of this wonderful organization about a year ago. I was attempting to find my father affordable living in Loveland and was having a very difficult time. My father had lost his 2nd wife after 25 years and at the age of 80 we felt it was for his best to move him from Aurora to Loveland to be close to me and my family.

I came across Harvest Pointe after a lot of prayers and tears. I believe that “God” had his hands on every piece of the puzzle of finding my father affordable housing and finding myself working for a wonderful company.

I call it a company with a purpose! When I first saw Harvest Pointe and thought what a beautiful building. My father fell in love with it, too. I felt I could put my talents to use by using my contacts of the wonderful people I have gotten to know (in the city of Loveland) in the last 20 years to donate items to make Harvest not just an apartment but a place that our residents can call home and show off.

I believe I have been blessed not only by getting a job at Harvest Pointe, but also knowing my father is in a wonderful, safe environment.

I also love how RHF encourages its residents to work as a team to contribute back to the community. I have been involved with Project H.A.N.D.S. and I see the difference our resident’s and staff make by giving back. What a great feeling!
In a dry and weary land
Lord, You are the rain
In a sea of shattered ones
Your love comes rushing in
You hold the world within
Your hands
And see each tear that falls
Through every fire and every storm
You’re always enough, always enough
Your love is peace to the broken
Faith for the widow, hope for the orphan, strength for the weak
Your love is the anthem of nations, rings out through the ages
And You’re always enough for me

What does the RHF Mission mean to me?

Above are the lyrics of one of my favorite songs from Casting Crowns, “Always Enough.” The song reminds me each time I hear it of what’s important about working at Park Place, and RHF’s Mission.

At Park Place we are a place where God’s love comes rushing in for people. We provide the environment for the “sea of shattered ones” each day. One resident that comes to mind is Arthur and his cat, they were homeless before Park Place. I think of Joanne and Ruth who both had their homes repossessed, no way to make the house payment because of their chronic illness’. There are many stories of seniors who have weathered the storms of their lives, yet the last storm put them in a nursing home, or worse left them with no place to go.

At Park Place we are blessed to work with residents and their families when the world has crashed in on them, we are able to give them hope. Some times that “hope” looks like an apartment full of furniture, medication management, three meals every day, or the face of a caregiver who checks on them during the night.

The other part of the lyrics that reminds me of Park Place is, “Your love is the anthem of nations.” Park Place is located in the most diverse zip code in Washington. (Maybe the U.S.) The staff of Park Place are the anthem of nations. We are proud of our differences, we deal everyday with the challenges and joys that diversity brings.

At a staff meeting, we shared what makes us each unique and different - then we talked about what makes us all alike. That being the Mission of RHF - loving each person that God sends to us.

We are all about providing an environment which enhances quality of life. That environment at Park Place looks like: Peace to the broken (Yes we take Medicaid, yes it is a nice place...not what you were expecting is it?) Faith for the widow (“I will be here to check on you...use that call button if you need me), Hope for the orphan (“You’ve got a new family now - Park Place) Strength for the weak (“I will help you find your way...) this environment is provided by the “anthem of nations” (Philippians, Fiji, India, Africa, Romania, Mexico to name a few places).

What the mission means to me personally: In this dry and weary land, I am blessed to help provide the rain.

Linda Beau Lieu
Resident Manager
Cardosa Village
Sacramento, California

As an apartment manager for thirty-three years, my career has afforded me the opportunity to meet a large diverse community of people. All with their own special needs, desires, wants, and problems dealing with daily life.

It has always been important to me to be able to practice Christian values in my career as well as my personal life. We live in a time that too many seem to be so busy or pre-occupied to speak and treat others with sincere compassion, respect and concern - to take the time to extend a Christian hand of love no matter what the circumstances are to another person in need.

To give a smile, hug, or words of encouragement and understanding are priceless gifts that can make such a difference in one person’s day. To see a frown turn to a warm smile is the icing on my cake.

Knowing I am able to give someone a special moment to feel good about themselves and that there are those that care enough in this busy world to take time out to let some one know how special they are and that we are blessed for their presence in our life. To help solve a problem, lend an ear to listen or at times to even share laughter and tears.
RHF has given me an opportunity to be a part of their mission. To be able to help re-kindle and nurture the human spirit with the aid of a power greater than ours. Helping others to to acquire a space of their own to call home has been a very rewarding career and life growing experience. I am proud to be a very small part of such a worthy endeavor and organization.

Lori Hazelwood
Manager
Gaslight Apartments
Converse, Indiana

Our Mission is the means of promoting a dream for many people. For the Residents of our apartments, the Mission promotes a safe haven and the means to keep being the “parent” of their family no matter how old or young their children are. It can be seen on their faces and heard in their voices. They are thankful for their OWN HOME and for the family of friends that surrounds them.

Personally, it means that I am their voice, their backbone, their ten-foot tall, bullet-proof wall to protect and serve them. It is my pleasure to do all I can to enhance their quality of life — and I try to do that every day. The greatest reward is the sweet smiles, warm handshakes and gentle pats on the back given by my residents when their burden has been lifted and the peace of mind washes across their face because we are here and we are helping. That’s why I came back to RHF and to these residents. You just can’t recreate the whole-hearted good feeling you get from serving them.

Rita Nealy
Manager
Grace Place
Norfolk, Virginia

The vision of RHF touched me when I researched the company prior to my employment. The other aspect I looked at was the longevity of the other employees. My experience prior to coming to RHF was real estate sales and property management.

RHF gave me the opportunity to work with seniors and persons with disabilities, providing a community for them.

I am a Minister and often times I have residents of Norfolk coming to me regarding their need for subsidized housing because they can no longer afford market rent. RHF is meeting the housing needs for this community and allows its residents to be independent. This job has afforded me the opportunity to meet people and experience the changes our mission makes in their lives.

Emily Hidalgo
Manager
Crescent Manor /Mesquite Gardens
Mesquite, Texas

I am involved with an RHF community because I enjoy hearing how things used to be and then being able to say, “I’m so glad I’m able to ease this burden for you.”

The look on a resident’s face when they are able to become independent again is what makes me enjoy my job.

You tell them what their rent is going to be and watch as they mentally digest this. Next, they are thanking you like you’re the one subsidizing their rent. They start planning how much they’ll have left for food, medicine, and maybe getting their hair done at a beauty shop. I keep a box of tissues on my desk for such occasions. It’s 50/50 as to who needs the tissue first, me or the resident.

Thank you RHF for the trust you put in me to be your agent and help people during what can be the hardest times of their lives.

Bobby Garnes
Maintenance
Grace Place
Norfolk, Virginia

First of all I love working with elderly people. I feel as though I can make a difference in their lives and help to improve their living conditions. The people feel comfortable knowing we are here for them.
Karleen Davis  
Services Coordinator  
Redding Pilgrim House  
Redding, California  

When I interviewed for the position of Service Coordinator at Redding Pilgrim House four years ago I had been out of the nonprofit industry for ten years raising my children and I felt very strongly that I would only enter the work force again for a company which had the same sense of values as I hold.

I immediately felt that RHF and Redding Pilgrim House is where I was led to be. It was further confirmed to me when I was given the business card of the property manager with the motto on the back which states Committed to Service, Dedicated to Excellence & Enhancing Quality of Life.

I believe in the RHF mission and it fills my servants heart with joy to have the opportunity to further RHF’s mission by serving the residents at Redding Pilgrim House.

Linda Grigsby  
Manager  
Redding Pilgrim House  
Redding, California  

The RHF Mission is the reason that I get up in the morning.

I could not have asked for a better opportunity to serve the GOD that I love than the RHF Mission. I am not cut out to go to Africa or any other exotic mission field but I am certainly cut out to do this job. It is absolutely perfect and one of the most rewarding things that I have done in my lifetime.

I have been with RHF for 15 years. I have served at three different properties and I love them all, especially the people. My job everyday gives me an opportunity to help someone, whether it is unlogging a toilet or signing the lease and handing the keys over to someone who desperately needs affordable housing.

I would not change a thing and I am so grateful for the opportunity to serve in this capacity.

Olga Torres  
Manager  
Fajardo Housing for the Elderly  
Fajardo, Puerto Rico  

I love working with people and the responsibility that I carry out is like caring for a flower that’s in your garden.

My vision is to protect, care and give the best of myself to make this community a great place. I identify myself with the elderly because they are like flowers that decorate my garden.

I really love my job.

Amber Miles  
Manager  
Centennial Manor  
Boise, Idaho  

The services offered by RHF provide a sense of security in the lives of our residents. In these tough economic times it is important to have stability. Our housing options provide dignity and independence for those who could not afford it otherwise.

Ceola Grant  
Service Coordinator  
Lake Ella Manor  
Tallahassee, Florida  

The RHF mission means a great deal to me as a Service Coordinator at Lake Ella Manor.

It embodies caring for the whole person and it is completely resident-centered. RHF provides housing with social services that allow older adults to live independently and have the freedom to make their own decisions.

I am always emotionally moved by how surprised they are that I am able to assist them with a crisis. I am consistently reassured that I am in the right place and it is truly a blessing to work for my residents and community.
Sharifa Hanks
Service Coordinator
Crescent Manor
/Mesquite Gardens
Mesquite, Texas

RHF means that well kept communities are provided throughout the U.S. for elderly seniors on fixed income. They provide a safe home, free from fear of people who want to prey on them. This is a place where residents can have peace of mind and are provided with help to deal with the many problems they may have.

Araceli Valencia
Service Coordinator
Colonia Jess Lopez
/Rio Vista Village
Los Angeles, California

RHF’s mission means a lot to me for the support and equality that is given to each person. I love the idea of helping and serving the community. I like watching the expression of each person when they come to life in a community like ours.

I am proud to work and be part of a company that has a mission to help and bring joy and happiness to many people who do not have much in life. RHF is not only a housing assistance program to me. It is also a spiritual aid.

I love being a part of the RHF mission.

Kerry Jennings
Service Coordinator
Ingleside Manor
Macon, Georgia

RHF allows their residents to have a safe place to call “home” and know that there are staff and people who care about them.

RHF communities provide people with opportunities and services that they need to be able to survive. Their mission should always be remembered by everyone; on a personal level as well as a professional level.

Patricio Godoy
Manager
Hollyview Apartments
Hollywood, California

In a few words, it means to me that everything that the Mission does is in the name of God, and for me, as a Christian, RHF is a very good and safe company to work for, where people are treated with respect and dignity.

Dan Perronne
Manager
Round House Manor
Kaukauna, Wisconsin

The RHF Mission allows me to do something more than just have a job. This career path not only helps provide for my family, but also allows me an opportunity to positively impact the lives of the residents I serve.

As manager, I not only have the responsibility of the business side of Round House Manor, but also the human side in working with the residents to help make their home as pleasant as possible.

Richard Eveland
Maintenance
Los Arcos
Poway, California

It means being able to help people!

Just getting to know these wonderful, knowledgeable people and their amazing life stores is a privilege.

I think above all it is when you make a difference in someone’s life that is counts the most. It could be a small thing, a smile, a joke, but when I hear a tenant say to me “you made my day”, that’s when I know I’m doing my job right.

I have learned so much about life from those I work with and in turn when one of the resident’s comments “what would we do without you”, it is what makes me want to get up and come to work in the morning.
Jewel Milton
RN Supervisor
Gold Country Health Center
Placerville, California

I started at Gold Country Health Center (GCHC) when it first opened as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) in the skilled nursing section.

At that time there was only skilled nursing here (now we have Memory Care, too). I had no idea where my future career was headed as I was very young and unaware of my prospects, I just needed a job.

I worked as a CNA for approximately 9 years, and then was promoted to the Central Supply/CNA for the nursing department.

RHF gave me an opportunity that I am still grateful for - through GCHC, they provided (in conjunction with the Los Rios Institute) college off-site classes for the local SNF’s in the area to upgrade CNAs by providing required classes to pursue a Licensed Vocational Nurse course.

Not only did this make it a reachable goal, but a realistic one that I could not pass up. I eventually graduated with my LVN license and was hired immediately at GCHC.

I will always be grateful to GCHC for giving me this opportunity and helping me further my career.

Since then I continued with my nursing education and graduated in 2001 as an RN with an Associate degree. I now work only on Mondays at GCHC as an RN Supervisor, and work full time at Mercy General Hospital in Sacramento on the Neuro Care Unit as a RN/Clinical Coordinator.

I believe in GCHC values, its leadership team, their morals as a skilled nursing facility and the importance of maintaining our residents’ dignity, compassion, and comfort during the later years of their lives. This is my passion as a nurse.

I will forever be grateful for the families and friends that I’ve made and been able to help during my 26 years at Gold Country Health Center/RHF.

Suzanne Taylor
Service Coordinator
Los Arcos
Poway, California

I literally fell into this job as the Service Coordinator by my previous association with Lynne Lichtenstern, the manager. She strongly encouraged me to apply for this job 2 years ago, because she valued my people skills, experience and heart.

Being a Service Coordinator is truly a “heart” job. Daily I get to interact with so many wonderful seniors. It truly is about relationships, both ongoing and new.

I care about the everyday occurrences in my resident’s lives. I get to be a sounding board for them when they need to bounce ideas off of me as to how to fix problems or how to deal with frustrations. I help provide a consistent and secure environment where they live.

They know that someone is watching out for their best interests and that they have a support system.

Peggy Chapel
Office Staff
Providence Place
Salem, Oregon

My apartment here was really a Godsend. I had applied for the manager position but since I had already retired a few times, I prayed. “God if you think I can handle this physically, please allow me to get this position. If not then please let me be accepted as a tenant.”

The Lord really does work in mysterious ways. I was accepted as a tenant here and fell in love with my apartment the first time I walked in.

After a couple of months, I got very bored and a little depressed with nothing to do but watch TV. So I asked if I could volunteer for office work. Then several months later I was really blessed by actually being hired to work in the office. I have a great home surrounded by wonderful people and I have a great boss.

Thank you RHF and God bless you.
Linda Morris  
Activity Director  
Auburn Ravine Terrace  
Auburn, California

After spending half my life in Southern California and going through many changes as we often do, I decided it was time to move up north. I took a year off from working for the first time ever. I was looking in the local paper and noticed an opening for an activity assistant. It sounded like a fun job so I applied. I was escorted around the community and introduced to skilled nursing residents; my first response was “Wow! Look at all the aunts, uncles, grandpas, and grandmas.” Since my family was so small, this was an opportunity to extend it. I was in family paradise. Remember, I knew nothing about senior living, assisted living, and skilled nursing.

They hired me and my journey began. Slowly, I learned what was actually required from the Activity Department. Helping people have fun was hard work. But with each week, month, and year I felt I became a part of their lives and you could tell many felt the same way.

Eventually, I became a certified Activity Director and that was another learning experience. There were added responsibilities such as: State and Federal regulations, activity planning, procuring, and documentation. I became the official paper pusher and substitute if my staff was absent, needed help, or was on vocation.

Being a combined community, I am responsible for Senior Living, Skilled Nursing, and Assisted Living activities. I have an excellent staff that makes it all happen.

RHF has given me the opportunity to learn and grow. They have given me a variety of people in different stages of their life, and how to know how important we are to one another. By being there, extending a hand, offering a hug, sitting close by, giving a smile, or compliment in passing enables a resident to once again make simple choices when many decisions in their lives have been made for them by their family or community living.

Now, 19 years later I realize RHF has given me the gift and knowledge that one person can make a difference in the lives of others, if only for a moment.

Darcey McKee  
Service Coordinator  
Winslow Manor  
Winslow, Arizona

The Mission of RHF is a statement that holds me as a Service Coordinator to a higher standard. It keeps me aware of the elderly in my community. I am always watching for changes, updates and new ways of help them, both on the clock and off.

Being part of this committed service has given me the drive to bring outside agencies to our facility to help build a strong community in Winslow and in Winslow Manor.

Pam Shafer  
Service Coordinator  
Westover Manor  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

As I have worked for RHF for 2.5 years now as a Service Coordinator, I have had the opportunity to see concrete examples of RHF’s mission in my own hometown community.

Shortly after I started working, it meant seeing several victims of the catastrophic flood of 2008 find new, and in some cases, even better housing in our community. One person displaced by the flood was even able to keep her pet dog of 14 years when she came to live here.

It means talking with residents who have come from situations of abuse and neglect and who now live independently in their own apartments.

It means visiting with residents who have no money in the bank and no car but are very proud of their apartments and how they are furnished.
The RHF mission means listening to residents who have come from situations of isolation and loneliness talk about their new friends and neighbors in our community and watching these people playing games and bingo together, celebrating birthdays and participating in Bible studies.

And finally as Service Coordinator, the RHF mission means having the opportunity to help the residents in acquiring the financial, medical and nutritional assistance they need in order to age in place; to continue to live independently with dignity and confidence.

Diana Edwards
Housekeeping
Bishop’s Glen
Holly Hill, Florida

I love to work with older people. They are my people. I do all I can to help them and show love to them. They are special to me. If your heart isn’t in this kind of work then you don’t belong here.

The RHF Mission reinforces that we should show respect to all residents. We take care of our residents the best we can at whatever job we do. Our residents are to be #1.

Cecilia A. Simmonds
Manager
Sunny Isle
St. Croix,
U. S. Virgin Islands

The true meaning of RHF Mission statement is the caring services provided throughout the nation of housing assistance for seniors, people with disabilities and families from all walks of life on a fixed income.

RHF gives that spiritual loving care that enhances the way people live and tries to assist them in being comfortable. RHF takes great care to provide assistance to the less fortunate.

Jessica Rebhuhn
Service Coordinator
Lakeview Manor
Storm Lake, Iowa

The mission of RHF means to me that they are here to help everyone in need. They are here to provide shelter to those in times of hardship and give them comfort knowing they have a place to call home.

They have committed to bettering the lives of those in our community in every way they possibly can.

Marilyn Matlock
Co-Manager
Pinewood Manor
Bremerton, Washington

My husband and I came to Pinewood Manor eight years ago as co-managers and we feel it has been a very rewarding time in our life.

RHF is a wonderful organization to work for. It is just great to be able to be involved in an organization that cares so much for the elderly and low-income seniors.

It is just heart-warming to see how appreciative our residents are to be able to find housing they can afford and that allows them to be independent and come and go as they please. They are also grateful to live in a community that is a safe and secure place.

It is not long after a new resident comes to Pinewood before other tenants are welcoming them and asking them to join in the various activities here at Pinewood Manor. They make everyone feel welcome and I have heard more than one express the fact that “we are like family.”

When you look at the many hurting people that are out there, it gives us joy to know that we can have an influence in the lives of seniors and are able to offer them an opportunity that many times will turn their lives around. I am very grateful to be a part of the process.
Wendi Butkovich  
Service Coordinator  
Valley View Apts /Round House Manor  
Manitowoc /Kaukauna, Wisconsin

I spent a lot of my youth in Senior Housing.  
My grandparents were on site managers/caretakers of a 100+ unit senior living complex and we would spend time there in between my dad’s assignments with the US Navy. Later on, my parents were on-site managers at a different 100 unit senior apartment complex, so to me, the RHF Mission means home.  
Not just housing or services, but a place to belong. A place to thrive.  
For 2 years now, I have been the Service Coordinator for 2 properties in Wisconsin. The people that reside in our facilities aren’t just there because it’s affordable or convenient; they are there to have a home.  
The 80+ people that I serve have found somewhere to thrive, to grow, to share, and to age in place. They have friends, neighbors, and family there to enhance their lives and friendly staff to be sure things work behind the scenes.  
Every resident has a reason for coming to a RHF building, whether it’s financial, location, referral from a friend, whatever. But they all have come to find “home”.

Lois Brown  
Housekeeping Staff  
La Fontaine Center  
Huntington, Indiana

I enjoy working with the elderly. I like being around older people. They always have some interesting stories to tell. I can learn from these stories too.  
I consider my place of employment my home away from home. I love to see my residents enjoying life to the fullest. We all need to take a lesson from them.

Rhonda Urena  
Assistant Manager  
Southpointe Villa  
Rialto, California

I say God bless the RHF Mission. They give the elderly a comfortable and safe place to live, that they can afford and still have money left over for extras they may need.

Lois Piscitelli  
Director of Social Services  
Auburn Ravine Terrace  
Auburn, California

I was hired in March of 1993 for assisting the Activities for Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF). In 1996 I started training for Social Services in Skilled Nursing. I have been with Auburn Ravine Terrace SNF for the past 17 ½ years. I enjoy the daily challenges, trials, and tribulations that go with being the Director of Social Services.

A resident was admitted to Auburn Ravine Terrace in 1991 due to a stroke and had Expressive Aphasia. She knew what she wanted to say but had difficulty with her words.  
In 1996 this person wanted to learn how to say everyday words; i.e. hello, how are you, and I am fine. She wanted to be able to write a letter to send her daughter who lived in Australia. After many months of practicing on an IBM Selectric in my office and learning what keys to use she accomplished her letter about 8 months later. I would give her the word and she would find the keys to type her letter.  
You should have seen her face after the first letter she types. It was a proud look of accomplishment. “I did it.” Later on that day she came down to my office and said, “I am now having fun!”

How to make your day and know that you made a difference in someone’s life was truly gratifying. She is no-longer with us but I think of her often especially when I am typing a letter. She would have loved doing this on a computer.
Our Logo

Retirement Housing Foundation’s logo is a registered trademark that represents the integration of our mission with our Christian heritage.

What appears to be a snowflake is actually a grouping of four houses and four apartment buildings. The buildings are joined together by a cross, representing our Christian tradition and the motivating force of RHF’s mission. The diamond shape of the logo emphasizes our sense of community, and the houses have open doors, symbolizing availability to those who need housing. The logo points in all directions - East, West, North and South - signifying our geographical diversity and inclusiveness.

Susan Ball
Manager
Madison Heritage Apts.
Madison, Indiana

Madison Heritage Apts. has been my dream job for years. I’m here to help serve the residents that live here, as well as the public.
I have met many people that come here and ask to be put onto our waiting list. I want to meet all the goals asked of me to help Madison Heritage Apartments.

Jorvina Richmond
Service Coordinator
The Carlin
Arlington, Virginia

My opinion of the RHF Mission is maintaining and providing a safe, secure, educational community through planned development, communication and understanding of and for older adults and their needs.
We promote educational growth through activities and programs that link older adults to internal and external support agencies.