

Over-the-Rhine Community Housing

WHERE COMMUNITY COMES FIRST



Summer 2017 Newsletter

HOUSING IS THE FOUNDATION FOR A HEALTHY, PRODUCTIVE LIFE

Only 8 years ago, Bridgette was homeless and struggling with alcoholism. With the support of a caring community, Bridgette has completely transformed. **All she needed was a second chance.**

Three years after beginning her journey of recovery, Over-the-Rhine Community Housing rented Bridgette her first apartment at “buddy’s place” on Vine Street. She had never lived on her own and this was her first time paying rent. The stability of high-quality, safe, affordable housing has enabled Bridgette to achieve her goals and lead a productive life. “I love my apartment, I am so blessed!” she says.

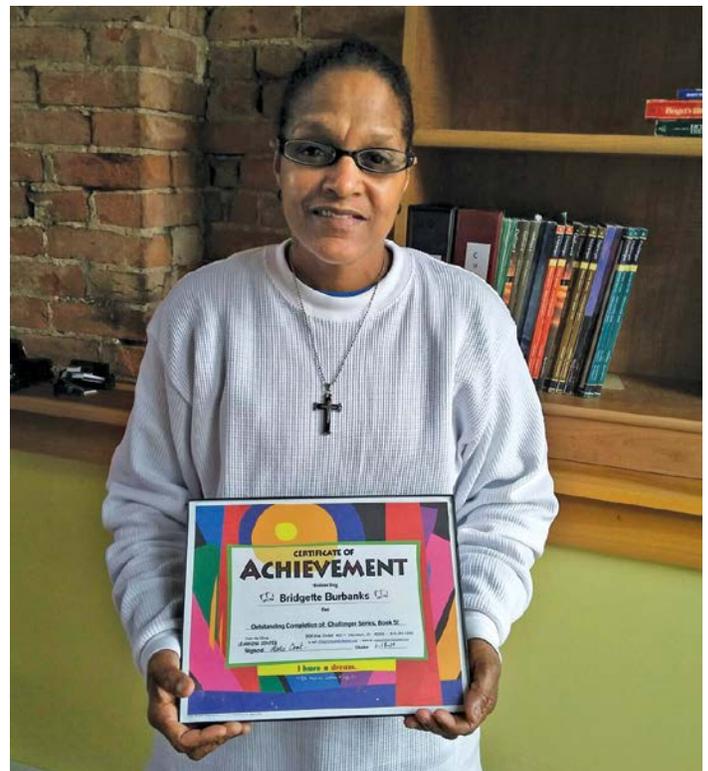
Since joining the OTRCH family, Bridgette has excelled in her career. She started out washing dishes in a pizza parlor and is now the assistant manager at a neighborhood recovery center and an OTRCH resident board member. Bridgette is giving back to our community by helping individuals who struggled with the same issues that affected her. She wants them to know, “you don’t have to live this way.”

Affordable housing has made a critical difference for Bridgette. A safe place to call home provided a foundation for Bridgette to thrive on her path to rebuilding her life.

“Over-the-Rhine Community Housing saw something in me that I didn’t see in myself.”

— Bridgette

Thank you for your generous support that gave Bridgette a second chance! Your continued support helps more individuals like Bridgette achieve stability so they can thrive.



Bridgette is pictured with her diploma from the OTR Learning Center. She attends lessons twice each week and is rapidly progressing through her GED courses.

FROM OUR STAFF

Where do you wake up, get dressed, and enjoy your morning coffee before heading out for the day? Where do you return after work, trips to the grocery store, family vacations, or a night out? Where do you snuggle up with your significant other, children, pets, or simply a warm blanket? If you're lucky, these memories are made in *your home*.

Think about how closely your life is connected to your home. In Matthew Desmond's book *Evicted*, he says, "The home offers privacy and personal security. It protects and nurtures. A stable home allows us to strive for self-reliance and personal expression, to seek gainful employment and enjoy individual freedoms." Think about how chaotic your life would be if you could barely afford to keep your home or if you didn't have one at all. It's astounding how many of us who enjoy the

security of home take it for granted, as it should be, while many others we may encounter everyday are desperately seeking that same security and comfort.

In this edition of Over-the-Rhine Community Housing's newsletter, you will see how a stable, affordable home protects and nurtures real residents, enabling them to better themselves and their communities. You will see how the fabric of the OTR community is stronger with caring neighbors, organizations, volunteers, and businesses who work together. Thank you for sharing our belief that all people deserve dignified housing and for supporting our work to provide affordable housing for low-income residents.

— Katie Cunningham, Fund Development Manager

U.S. BANK FUNDS SUPERHEROES OF REPUBLIC ST. PLAYGROUND RENOVATION



U.S. Bank selected Over-the-Rhine Community Housing as a local partner for the U.S. Bank Community Possible Relay 2.0., a nationwide initiative aimed to inspire volunteers across the country to take part in rebuilding and revitalizing their communities. We are so grateful to have received a \$50,000 grant to give the playground on the 1400 block of Republic Street a much-needed makeover!

On June 17, OTRCH and U.S. Bank gathered at the playground with our neighbors and their children to collect their input and ideas. We intend to build a space that reflects the desires of the community that uses it. Construction will begin early this fall!

PROVIDING AFFORDABLE HOUSING, ONE FIDGET SPINNER AT A TIME

“You must be the change you wish to see in the world.” We’ve all heard this Gandhi adage, but how many of us actually take action? When Joe Ruwe learned about Over-the-Rhine Community Housing, he decided to be the change he wanted to see and raised \$350 to make a difference in the lives of low-income residents in Over-the-Rhine.



Joe is a rising 8th grader at Conner Middle School in Hebron, KY. His teacher, Julia Hansel, had her students participate in Magnified Giving, where they learned about social concerns and needs and were given the opportunity to award a grant to a local nonprofit. Representing OTRCH, Joe came in 2nd place out of 70 organizations! That didn’t stop him from raising more money to support marginalized members of our community.

When we asked Joe what inspired him to raise this money, he told us, “Mother Teresa said that homelessness is not only the lack of a ‘home made of bricks.’ Homelessness is being rejected, unwanted, unloved, uncared, having forgotten what is human touch. **It occurred to me that a lot of people aren’t homeless because they chose that life...they might be people who have been unloved, unwanted, or forgotten.**”

Joe came up with the innovative idea to sell Fidget Spinners to his classmates at an increased rate of \$10 to raise funds for OTRCH. As a result of this project, Joe discovered his love for the nonprofit realm and aspires to become a fundraiser or an executive director some day. Thank you so much, Joe!

JOIN US FOR THE 10TH ANNUAL CELEBRATING OUR BELOVED COMMUNITY

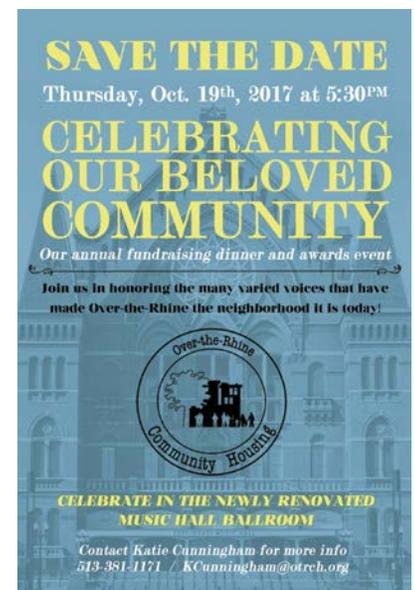
When: October 19, 2017 from 5:30-7:30pm

Where: The newly renovated Music Hall Ballroom

How: Visit www.otrch.org to buy your tickets today

Every October, we gather with our dearest friends, partners, and supporters at Celebrating Our Beloved Community, a fundraising and awards dinner honoring the many varied voices that make up our beloved community. Proceeds from this event go back into the community by supporting our efforts to develop high-quality affordable housing options for low-income residents. This year, we’re thrilled to present the “Building Our Beloved Community” award to **Finance Fund** and OTR resident, **Earl Hunt!**

As you may know, there have been significant cuts to affordable housing on a national scale which impact us locally. Your support of this event is critical to keep our community diverse and inclusive. We have an exciting program in the works, we hope to see you there!



CONSTRUCTION HAS BEGUN ON THE PRESERVATION OF 91 UNITS OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Morgan Apartments

Partnership between OTRCH and The Model Group

Units: 48 units (14 units and 34 existing units)

Importance to the Neighborhood: While the neighborhood has experienced a significant loss of deeply affordable housing over the past 10 years, this project will preserve 48 units of existing rental subsidy in the neighborhood. All of the units were at risk of the losing the rental subsidy due to deferred maintenance and the potential sale of the properties for market rate development. OTRCH and The Model Group partnered to take control of the properties and preserve the subsidy in place at 34 of the units. Fourteen units of the rental subsidy will be relocated to vacant properties, bringing them back to life. Thanks to all who have supported this project and for putting into action their desire for a mixed income community in Over-the-Rhine.



Carrie's Place

Units: 43 units (7 new units and 36 existing units)

Importance to the Neighborhood: Carrie's Place will preserve 11 units of permanent supportive housing and will create 10 new units of permanent supportive housing for people who have experienced homelessness. Additionally, the project will preserve 25 units of project-based rental subsidy within the neighborhood that had been threatened due to deferred maintenance and the sale of the property for market rate development. The subsidy will be relocated to 25 existing OTRCH units that will be redeveloped as part of the project and will provide updated amenities that will improve quality of life for residents.



FACES OF HOMELESSNESS

In partnership with Over-the-Rhine Community Housing and Strategies to End Homelessness, ArtWorks recently completed a mural on the south-facing wall of OTRCH's Recovery Hotel on Vine St. This vivid design, created by artists Icy + Sot, aims to raise awareness around homelessness and housing insecurity. Join us on October 3 for the ribbon cutting celebration!



HOW SUPPORTIVE HOUSING HELPED RACHEL BEAT ADDICTION

For 13 years, Rachel struggled with addiction, was exploited, and experienced several long periods of homelessness. She was scared to ask for help and never thought her life could be any different.



Rachel posing with Michelle Dillingham, CEO of Community Shares. This was taken after filming the OTRCH segment of “The Community Shares Show.”

A few years ago, Rachel began regularly attending NA meetings at Recovery Hotel and was inspired by seeing other people who were able to recover. The fact that other people could do it was an impetus for seeking support and a driving force throughout her recovery.

Rachel has been clean for over 2 years, continues to excel in her career in the culinary arts, and has reconnected with her 9-year-old daughter.

Rachel told us that Recovery Hotel is special compared

to other programs she experienced because she was surrounded by others who are on a similar path. “I feel safe at Recovery Hotel,” she said. Program Coordinator Christine Wooten, or “Miss Chris” as our residents lovingly call her, was a major source of support. “Miss Chris genuinely cared for my well-being. I could confide in her without any judgment.”

We are proud that Rachel recently moved out of Recovery Hotel to rent a new apartment on her own. While we miss seeing her in the neighborhood, we take comfort in knowing that Rachel will always be a part of the OTRCH family.

Thank you for your support that allows us to serve people like Rachel. Your continued support will allow us to help others who are in need of a safe place to beat addiction.

“I feel safe at Recovery Hotel.”

— Rachel

Rachel wants everyone who is struggling with addiction to know, “We live in a great city and there IS help available, you just have to ask for it.”

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

This work would not be possible without support from our volunteers. From our groups who serve food at Jimmy Heath House, to the individuals who share their specialized expertise, our volunteers provide invaluable support. On behalf of all of us at Over-the-Rhine Community Housing, thank you!

The Eastern Hills Friends Group
Elder High School
Cathleen Fagan
Fifth Third Bank
Future Leaders of Over-the-Rhine
Greater Potter’s Temple
Andrea Harrison
Christine Lottman
The Mayerson Service-Learning Program

Miami University Center for Community Engagement in Over-the-Rhine
Moeller High School
The Notre Dame Father’s Group
Chaplain Bea Oldach
OTRCH Board of Trustees
Madeline Perry
Power Inspires Progress
Purcell High School
Starbucks

UC College of Medicine ROSE Program
UC College of Medicine Physicians and Society Group
Tom Waner
St. Xavier High School
X-CHANGE



Fifth Third Bank’s Audit Division helped move a low-income elderly tenant into her new apartment at OTRCH.



NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CINCINNATI OH
PERMIT NO. 4652

Over-the-Rhine Community Housing
114 West 14th Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202
513-381-1171
www.otrch.org

JOIN US!

Over-the-Rhine Community Housing (OTRCH) is a non-profit community development organization that provides a wide spectrum of affordable and supportive housing options with life-changing programs to help low-income residents grow and flourish. For almost four decades, OTRCH has never wavered from our commitment to:

- build a sustainable, diverse neighborhood that values and benefits low-income residents
- create an inclusive community in this evolving historic district, and
- advocate on behalf of all our residents.

Please join us in making OTR a diverse, inclusive neighborhood:

- Visit www.otrch.org to learn more about us, sign up for emails and newsletters, or make a secure donation.
- Contact us to see how your skills and interests align with our mission, or set up a time to tour our properties.
- Register OTRCH as your charity of choice with Kroger Community Rewards and AmazonSmile.
- Like us on Facebook

