



OTRCH

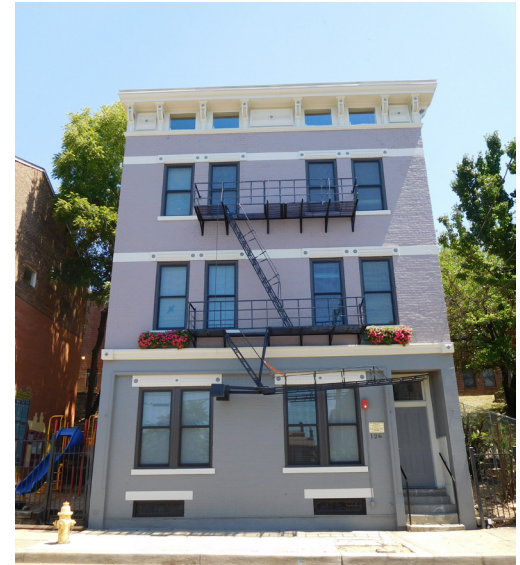
COMMUNITY HOUSING

Housing First. Community Always.

Deeply-Needed Affordable Housing Becoming Available

Making Progress on Morgan Apartments and Carrie's Place

Over-the-Rhine Community Housing is developing 91 new and rehabilitated units of affordable housing. 13 units of the Carrie's Place affordable housing development project are coming online this summer and 20 units of the Morgan Apartments project will come online this fall. Most of these units have been claimed before they've officially become available, which speaks to the deep need for affordable housing in our community.



"They provide help in all areas. It's the first time I've lived somewhere like that."
-Rebecca, OTRCH Resident

We spoke with Rebecca, an OTRCH resident who lived in a Carrie's Place unit before it was rehabilitated. She recently got to move back into her same unit and when we asked Rebecca how she enjoys it she told us "It was nice before, but now it's even better! I can call it home now. The new features are on point. I love the mirror and shower in the bathroom." Rebecca told us that she appreciates that OTRCH's staff treats everyone as an individual and not as a group. "They provide help in all areas. It's the first time I've lived somewhere like that."

In Hamilton County there is an estimated deficit of 40,000 housing units that are affordable and available to extremely low income households. Here at OTRCH, we're working to fill this gap with safe, high quality affordable housing units. There's a common misconception that "affordable" means "undesirable," but here at OTRCH we hold ourselves to a high standard. These units will include new interior finishes, appliances, fixtures, and central air conditioning and heating. Exterior rehabilitation includes but is not limited to new roofs, gutters and downspouts, new energy-efficient windows, and enhanced exterior lighting and site security features.

Over-the-Rhine
Community Housing
**Summer Newsletter
2018**

Zillow Group Addresses Housing Insecurity in Cincinnati

Announcing The Home Project Partnership

Zillow Group envisions a world where everyone—regardless of economic circumstance—has access to the resources that can help them find a place to call home. We share this vision here at Over-the-Rhine Community Housing, which is why we're thrilled to partner with Zillow Group through The Home Project!

Through The Home Project, Zillow Group's signature social impact program, their goal is to support individuals and families who are often just one paycheck, one medical event or one unexpected expense away from homelessness. Zillow Group is partnering with a local nonprofit in each city where they have offices, including Cincinnati.

As our nation experiences an escalating affordable housing crisis, we are grateful to have corporations like Zillow Group who step up to help communities solve these complex issues. They are pledging up to \$5 million in cash and in-kind contributions over the next five years to support vulnerable families nationwide.

Zillow Group recently renovated their Cincinnati headquarters at Longworth Hall. At the ribbon-cutting celebration on June 26, they presented a generous \$25,000 check to support OTRCH's mission. Zillow Group also organized an employee donation drive where their 160+ employees donated buckets full of essential household supplies for new residents.

Thank you, Zillow Group, for all that you do to support people who are experiencing housing insecurity and are vulnerable to falling into homelessness. We're so excited to see where this partnership will take us!



Cynthia, our Leasing Manager, is pictured above with a new resident moving into her first apartment ever! We provide essential household supplies upon move-in that can be replenished with food stamps. Thank you, Zillow for donating these much-needed items!



Harper Celebrates 10 Years with OTRCH!

Harper Andrews recently celebrated his 10th anniversary as OTRCH's Groundskeeper! Harper's work goes beyond keeping our properties clean and beautiful. He told us about his experience here and said "this place gives me an opportunity to try to build myself up more." We asked Harper what he wants other people to know about OTRCH and he said "we help people find apartments and more - housing, clothing for their children, furniture - we help in a bunch of ways. If a resident is behind on rent, we can work out a repayment plan. We give people a lot of breaks. I can't think of another organization that would do that. It's an inspiration." Thank you, Harper, for inspiring us each day with your joyful presence!



OTRCH Partners with YMCA Camp Ernst

Camp Ernst is one of the highlights of the year for the youth we serve. Through our partnership with the YMCA, youth attend Camp Ernst at a discounted rate. Melanie age 12 and Damon age 7 are siblings who attended camp for the first time this summer.

“I had so much fun my first time at Camp Ernst! I got to try a lot of new things. I did the zip line and swam in a lake for the first time! We got to go swimming every day and I made so many new friends with the girls in my cabin. It felt really good to be at camp because I could get out and have fun.” -Melanie

Thanks to the generous support from the Greater Cincinnati Foundation, First Unitarian Church Carter Memorial Fund and Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing, we sent 32 children to camp this year!



A Legacy of Community-Based Justice Work:

Over-the-Rhine Community Housing Celebrates 40 Years

OTRCH was born 40 years ago in 1978. In 1978 Jerry Springer was our Mayor. In the United State the average income was \$17,000; average rent was \$260; and the price for a gallon of gas was \$.63.



In Over-the-Rhine a group of community residents organized to form Race Street Tenant Cooperative (ReSTOC). ReSTOC was created by residents in response to homelessness and to the use of federal housing dollars being funneled to the neighborhood but landing in the hands of for-profit owners who didn't value community. The cooperative re-invested rent paid by tenants back into itself, allowing more renovations and better maintenance of occupied units. Tenants were not expected to pay more than 30% of their income on rent.

ReSTOC's goal was not to make money, but rather to provide as many units of quality affordable housing as possible.

The Over-the-Rhine Housing Network (OTRHN) was created and incorporated in 1988 by some of the same community members. Its goal was to revitalize the neighborhood through the development of quality affordable housing. OTRHN ensured that existing, low-wealth residents benefited from neighborhood revitalization initiatives. Its developments contributed to the local economy and infused the income tax base of the neighborhood.



In response to changing dynamics in the neighborhood ReSTOC and OTRHN merged in 2006 to create Over-the-Rhine Community Housing.

Over the past 40 years we have experienced great joy as well as moments of deep sadness and loss. Through all of it we trudged forward, never giving up on our vision of a neighborhood and a world that values all and provides Housing Now for All. Our roots are deep and we carry on.

As we celebrate 40 years of community work we have embarked on a capital campaign to renovate and build an addition to our Service Center at 114 W. 14th St., our original home.

Will you consider joining our campaign at the level that demonstrates your commitment to this community based justice work? Be a part of our movement to provide housing and community in Over-the-Rhine into the future for the next 40 years! [Click here](#) to give today!

“There are programs that can create dependence on systems, but you've built support systems creating interdependence within community. Within neighbors.”
-Clare Blankemeyer, Mayerson Foundation



Housing First. Community Always.

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11TH ANNUAL
CELEBRATING OUR BELOVED COMMUNITY

★ ★ ★ **OTR's Got Talent!** ★ ★ ★

Thursday, October 11, 2018 | 5:30-8 pm
Music Hall Ballroom | 1241 Elm Street

OTR Community Housing presents *Celebrating Our Beloved Community*: OTR's Got Talent! Join us for our 11th annual fundraising and awards dinner honoring the many varied voices that make up our beloved community.

We will celebrate the artistic talent that exists in our neighborhood and highlight how art has the ability to connect and strengthen our community in unique ways. Enjoy dinner provided by Jeff Thomas Catering and performances by community arts organizations like MUSE, SCPA's Meridian 8 a cappella ensemble, local poet/activist Siri Imani and Elementz. The recipients of the Building Our Beloved Community Award are Cincinnati Development Fund and Georgia Keith.

[CLICK HERE](#) to bid on outstanding works of art created by talented OTRCH residents at our Online Silent Auction! Proceeds will be split between OTRCH and the artist.

TICKETS available at otrch.org

Our Mission

We develop and manage resident-centered affordable housing to build inclusive community and benefit low-income residents.

Our Vision

Quality stable housing for all in a socially, racially and economically inclusive community

Our Values

Housing is a right and should be available to all.
All people deserve dignified housing. Housing must include the most vulnerable members of our community.
All relationships must be shaped by justice, community and inclusion. Neighborhood amenities and services are available for all members of our diverse community.
All persons are respected and valued.