

Housing Initiative Fund: A Blessing for So Many



In 2003, AIM leaders worked with former County Executive Duncan and the County Council to pass the Housing Initiative Fund (HIF) Resolution to create dedicated funding for affordable housing. Then Council Member Leggett was the first council member to agree with AIM, that there was a need for dedicated funding for affordable housing.

Since 2003, AIM has worked with the county to secure \$228 million for affordable housing. These funds have been used to build and refurbish over 5,000 units of affordable housing. Below are some of the stories that AIM leaders collected when they went door-to-door talking to county residents throughout the county who live in housing subsidized by HIF.

HIF is truly a blessing for so many...

For Veterans

Essex House , Takoma Park



Resident

“Essex House means Home to me. I have lived here 14 years. As a Vietnam POW, I especially love the green view out my window.”

Na'Tia R. Reid, 6815 Fairfax Road

“I wouldn't be able to afford housing without this program. I was injured in Iraq when serving my country and cannot work, I only collect disability.”

For Families

Essex House , Takoma Park



Resident

My wife and I live here with our four children. ***I'm very proud of my oldest son; he was recently put into Piney Branch Elementary School's Gifted and Talented program.*** It's been important to our family to have housing that we can afford and call home. I love Takoma Park; it reminds me of my old neighborhood in Ethiopia - people are very friendly *and open-minded.*”

Susan Kuehn, 5061 Bradley Blvd

“I moved to Bethesda with my husband and children in 1976. We raised our children here. In 1991, my husband and I were divorced. ***I experienced a great drop in income with 4 children to raise.*** It was with county help that we were able to stay in our "home" in Bethesda.

The kids didn't have to change schools and I could put food on the table. With the economy the way it is and people losing their jobs and homes, I would hate to see less of those government opportunities when more people are going to need them.”

For Seniors



Victory Terrace, Potomac



Ann Bahula

"I love living at Victory Terrace. My husband died unexpectedly and left me with 5 children, one of them was 5 years old. Since then, **it has been a struggle to meet financial responsibilities.** Living at Victory Terrace has been a dream for me."

Willow Manor, Silver Spring



Lynn Blood

"I am a retired school teacher. Like me, all of the other residents are on fixed incomes. We barely have enough left over to heat our apartments in the winter. **If it weren't for these affordable units, we wouldn't be able to live in Montgomery County** near our grandkids."

People on the Verge of Homelessness

Damascus Gardens, Damascus



Sherry Maness

"If it weren't for my subsidized apartment, I'd be homeless. **There is no where else in Montgomery County I could afford to live.**"

Miss G. Bethesda Cares

"I came to Bethesda Cares as a homeless woman at age 71. My sister and I had always worked as domestics and shared an apartment. When my sister died, **I used our meager savings to pay for the funeral.** Alone, I couldn't afford the apartment; so, not only did I lose my sister, but also my housing."

For Professionals

Tina Green, Chevy Chase Apartments

"When I moved from Georgia to go to law school, one of the things that I stuck out most to me was the high quality of education that my daughter was getting in the County Public Schools. Without the HOC subsidy, I wouldn't be able to afford to live in the Chevy Chase area where my daughter's middle school feeds into Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School. **Having housing assistance also allows me to do more pro bono law work than I would otherwise be doing.**"

Robert Chang, Bethesda Commons

"I have a small salary and I love living in this location. **I work at NIH so I did not take a private industry job because I enjoy contributing back to my country.**"