



Improving Lives Through Accessible, Affordable Housing

From Executive Director Eric Huffman

November | December 2018

Dear Friends,

Happy Holidays! I hope everyone had a relaxing and safe Thanksgiving this year! I wanted to thank everyone who donated and supported Over The Rainbow in 2018, we are so very thankful for all of you!

After a long month of elections and start of the holidays, I wanted to share some 'wins' for housing, OTR, and those we serve.

Housing for the Win

This year's mid-term elections were about much more than political parties. Many local and state victories on ballot initiatives to address housing mean new affordable homes for the people most in need. This election proved that housing is a winning campaign issue, and one that voters understand and increasingly show up to vote for and one that causes policymakers and parties at all levels to act.

In many of this year's mid-year election campaigns, affordable housing was high on the agenda. From expanding housing choice vouchers to increasing funding for the National Housing Trust, all of these issues are now headed to Washington.

So what does this mean for OTR?

To put it simply, it means more opportunities to build.

Expanding housing choice vouchers and increasing funding will allow more new projects to be approved. This allows OTR to continue to expand throughout Illinois to increase the number of units we have and the number of residents we serve.

With bi-partisan policymakers and elected officials on the side of housing, OTR can quickly gain community and legislature support in various cities and towns and expand out reach beyond Northern Illinois.



Midtown Crossing Resident, Bob, taking advantage of the barrier-free features of his unit



*Kirwan Apartments, Waukegan, IL
Construction to begin 4/1/19*

Thank you!

Thank you for getting out and voting for policymakers that support affordable housing. Pictured below: Chris Krystyn (OTR Resident) with Alex Matthews (OTR Service Coordinator) at the polls earlier this month!

A special thank you to all our Service Coordinators helping our residents register to vote, finding their polling sites, and making sure the process is smooth and enjoyable!



A very special thank you for former President George H.W. Bush as he is laid to rest for all his hard work and service to individuals with disabilities. In 1990, President Bush championed and signed in the Americans with Disabilities Act, a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities. [Click here to see the memorable moment.](#)

Thank you for all your support in 2018! OTR could not be more excited for all the 'wins' for affordable housing!

Looking forward to what 2019 will bring! Happy Holidays from everyone at OTR to you and your loved ones!

Eric Huffman
OTR Executive Director

