

An affordable home is a **BUILDING BLOCK**

ONE KEY TO MAINTAINING DIVERSE
AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Residents at the beautiful new 1701 MLK development in Oakland were home for the holidays, especially important because they have all recently been without a home. Just completed, there are 26 units. LifeLong Medical Care is providing comprehensive supportive services that include access to their nearby clinic for primary health care, mental health services, podiatry, and chronic disease screening and management.



RODNEY is happy to stand at the entrance to 1701 MLK with a notebook of his drawings in hand. He's found that homelessness is a worldwide plight so he uses art to draw attention to what it's like to be homeless. At age 60, his life story unfolds as an accomplished musician (he's called the Nat King Cole of the East Bay) and artist (he's presented President Bill Clinton with drawings), an Air Force Veteran, and a survivor. He spent 15 years living in shelters until he was forced out onto the streets for 75 days as he waited for his apartment at 1701 MLK. Welcome home, Rodney!

RONNELL took a break from toting boxes into his apartment to check out the community room at 1701 MLK. He came to stay with family in Oakland about a year ago and got a job at CVS. He found himself homeless when things didn't work out with his family. Opportunity knocked and he now has an apartment of his own and a career path with Wells Fargo, just a few blocks from home. Good luck, Ronnell!

 *Check out our Facebook page for more photos and updates!*

Here are some of the building blocks we've got in play.



Embark Apartments in Oakland

EMBARK APARTMENTS will be a vibrant residential development built on two vacant lots at 22nd and Martin Luther King Jr. Way in Oakland. We're planning approximately 65 new affordable apartments for Veterans and their families. The apartments will be above ground floor management offices and a large multipurpose community room, next to the parking garage. Here's the architectural design we're proposing in collaboration with SGPA Architecture + Planning.



Future residents can be sure we've considered strategies to reduce vehicle trips, excessive parking, and greenhouse gas emissions, while making transportation more affordable. Three properties recently received GreenTRIP Certification from TransForm: Ashland Place in San Leandro, Riviera Family Apartments near Walnut Creek BART, and Coliseum Place in Oakland. Check out the differences these strategies make in our report, Transit Oriented Development and Affordable Housing (<http://rcdhousing.org/transitsurvey>).



STARGELL COMMONS in Alameda is in construction! Thanks to our development team for getting the dirt moving: Housing Authority of the City of Alameda, HKIT Architects, Branagh, Inc., AV Architecture + Construction Management. Tax credit debt and equity and construction financing is provided by Wells Fargo Bank.

Resident Services Program keeps people in their homes

Recently, one of our senior residents was sharing her apartment with her son and his partner in violation of her lease. So that she wouldn't lose her apartment, the RCD Resident Services Manager met with staff from Center for Elders' Independence, Adult Protective Services, and The John Stewart Company (our property manager) to work out a solution. Because we knew that the son had been providing in-home care but could no longer do so due to his own medical issues, the team was able to direct him to supportive services for himself so that he wouldn't jeopardize his mother's home or become homeless himself.



At 1701 MLK, where residents are now formerly homeless, we offered a housewarming gift of kitchen basics when residents came in to meet for the first time with the LifeLong Medical services staff. Staff was able to assess services needs for individuals and for the community as a whole and residents really appreciated the new pots and pans, dishes, and utensils. Turns out there are quite a few people who will be using the computers to enroll in GED and community college courses!

With results like these, we are putting more resources into our Resident Services Program this year. We'll continue to focus on services that fall into these five categories:

- Housing stability
- Health and wellness
- Economic stability and employment
- Access to youth and adult education, and
- Social resident engagement and community development.

These are the building blocks that we know lead to strong families and healthy communities.



"What I appreciated the most from my recent internship with RCD's Resident Services Program was to see the unspoken side of housing development that rarely receives the attention it deserves. Providing services to individuals in sensitive life situations is a crucial role that can often determine whether or not the person will be back on the streets or be able to retain their housing unit."

– MATTS MADSEN, RCD INTERN,
AUGUST – NOVEMBER 2015

UPCOMING RCD EVENTS



Ashland Place Grand Opening

March 11, 2:30–4pm



**1701 MLK
Grand Opening**
during Affordable
Housing Week
May 19, 12–1pm

Sparkling Connections

Step Up to the Plate

June 6, 5:30, Bancroft Hotel
Contact us regarding sponsorship opportunities!

THANK YOU *to our wonderful donors for committing resources for more housing opportunity and stronger families.*

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Theresa E. Smith
Evelina Teng
Jennifer Ukei and Jonah Tristman
Joel and Lenore Wineberg
Marian Wolfe and Scott Scheffler
Elsie Wong

We'd also like to express our appreciation for recent grants that help create the building blocks of predevelopment: Bank of the West, Enterprise, The San Francisco Foundation, and US Bank.

Donations received 7/1/15 to 1/15/16



Yes, demand is skyrocketing for housing and services for families with income under 60% of the area median. **Yes,** many of our public partners face growing constraints on their capacity to fund affordable housing at the level of need in the community. **Yes,** there's a lot that we can do, even so, to lay down more of the building blocks for more homes, greater opportunity and equity.

With your help, 2016 will be a year of impact and outcomes for individual residents and whole communities. Thank you for all you do to build community and enrich lives!

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And you have our heartfelt appreciation. It's as easy as clicking at rcdhousing.org or mailing us a promissory note/check.

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Bank of the West, BBI Construction, Branagh, Inc., D&H Construction, J.H. Fitzmaurice, Nibbi Brothers General Contractors, the Northern California Carpenters Regional Council, Segue Construction, and Union Bank. **THANKS!**

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