

JUNE 2021

CREATIVE HOUSING CREATIVE RENOVATIONS

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

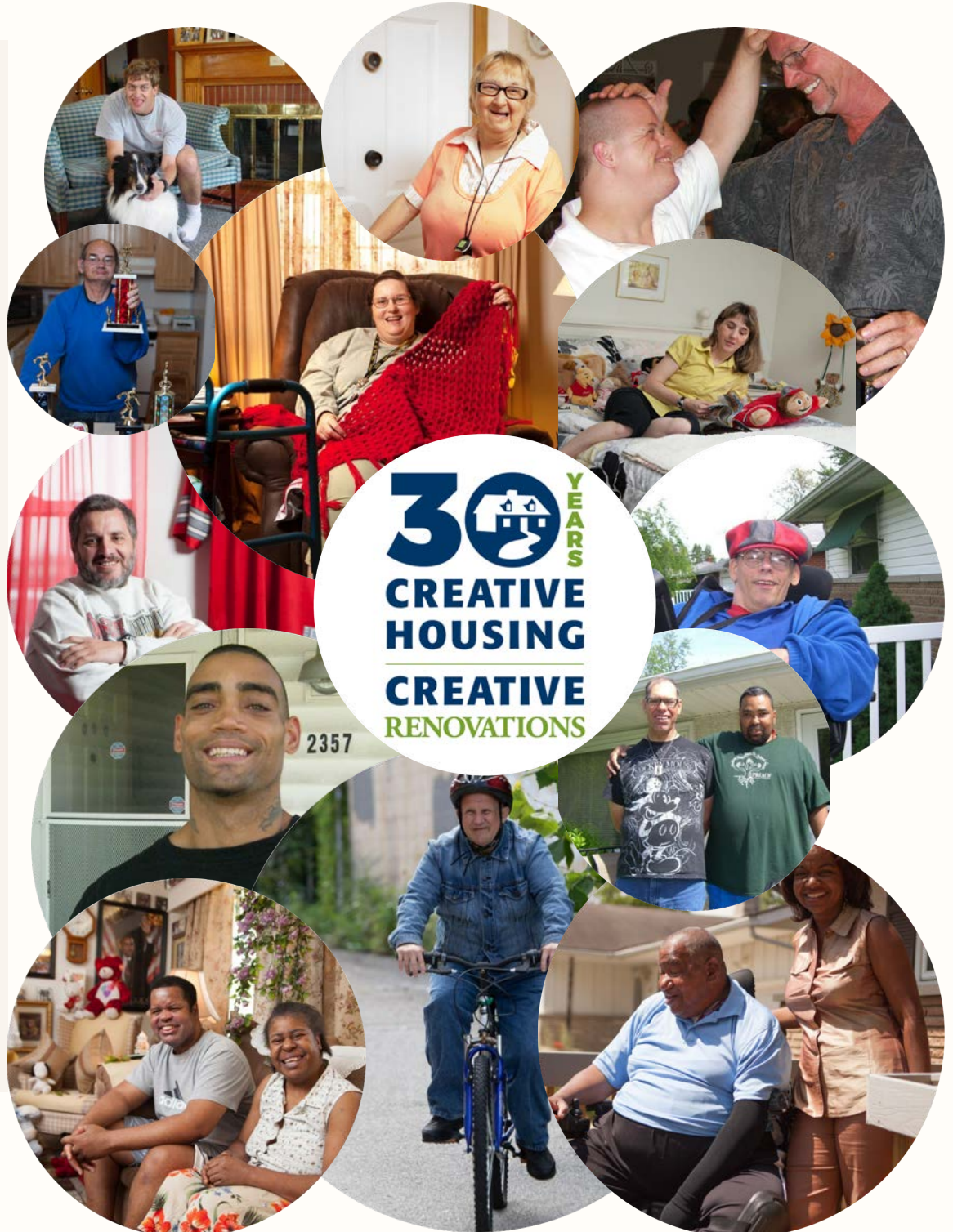
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A NOTE FROM CRITTY

Creative Housing|Creative Renovations is excited to be celebrating our 30th anniversary this year. So much has changed in the landscape of the intellectual and developmental disabilities field over the past 30 years and CH|CR is proud, happy and humbled to be a part of it. Along with private market housing partners, we currently support housing for over 1,600 community members in Franklin County. We also provide over 200 accessibility renovation and equipment services annually throughout Central Ohio.

Over the years, our housing portfolio of over 691,000 square feet has provided safe, accessible and affordable housing for people with disabilities. We have grown from owning and managing 22 single family homes in our initial year of operations to 265 single family homes, 104 duplex units, 165 apartment units, 6 respite locations and 1 day program setting. Sixty-eight of our apartment units are in 7 HUD 811 sites we developed from the ground up. We also partner with private market landlords to provide affordable housing in 250 apartment complexes throughout the community.

The focus of our 30th anniversary is to celebrate the incredible community by which we have been embraced for these many years. We continue to provide quality services with the support of community leaders and funding supporters. We continue to grow to meet changing demands with the insight provided by families, guardians and advocates. We benefit from solid relationships with direct support providers serving our residents.

Most of all, we want to celebrate our residents, private market rent subsidy clients and accessibility renovation and equipment clients. Our purpose is to serve you and we value the trust that you give us to provide you with the best service possible.

We share an amazing space in this community and want to thank everyone for the past 30 years as we look forward to the next 30 years!

Gratefully,
Crittty Buenconsejo
President|CEO



THEN AND NOW: WHAT HAS CHANGED SINCE 1991...

1991

President: George Bush
Cost of a Stamp: \$0.29
Cost of a gallon of gas: \$1.14
Cost of a gallon of milk: \$2.80
Cost of 10z box of cereal: \$1.99
Cost of a 2 liter of Pepsi: \$0.89
Minimum Wage: \$4.25

Entertainment:
Number 1 song of the year: (Everything I Do) I Do For You)- Bryan Adams

TV's most popular shows were 60 Minutes, Roseanne, and Murphy Brown

Most popular Baby Names: Michael Christopher, Matthew, Jessica, Ashley and Brittany

Fashion Trends: Crop Tops, Platform Shoes, Denim, Parachute Pants, and Windbreakers.



2021

President: Joe Biden
Cost of a Stamp: \$0.55
Cost of a gallon of gas: \$3.35
Cost of a gallon of milk: \$3.58
Cost of 10z box of cereal: \$2.79
Cost of a 2 liter of Pepsi: \$1.48
Minimum Wage: \$7.25

Entertainment:
Number 1 song of the year (so far): Drivers License- Olivia Rodrigo

TV's most popular shows: Underground Railroad, Halston, WandaVision

Most popular Baby Names: Noah, Liam Oliver, Olivia, Emma, Amelia

Fashion Trends: Crop Tops, Tie Dye, Sweat suits, Bike shorts. and Crocs



Know someone who enjoys the spotlight?

Creative Housing | Creative Renovations is partnering with DODD on a video project! DODD will be making short videos about living in the community and being more independent in your home. We are looking for two DSPs and two residents to be featured stars in the videos. If you want to show off your skills and talents, please email us at office@creativehousing.org.



PRIVATE MARKET RENT SUBSIDY



Creative Housing's Private Market Rent Subsidy program started over 25 years ago. We are happy to share that this will be a transformative year for the program as we modernize processes to be able to better serve our customers.

Traci & Katie are passing their PMRS program to "the next generation." For over 10 years, they have had great impact in the community, developing relationships with private landlords and accommodating FCBD's increasing demand for housing folks through their program. Their genuine affection for the folks they served showed through in the care they took to be supportive of them in many ways beyond finding apartments for them.

The program and Creative Housing would not be what they are today, had they not been such a big part of us. I hope all of you join me in wishing them the best on the next chapter of their lives.

Please contact us at privatemarketrent@creativehousing.org for any PMRS needs.

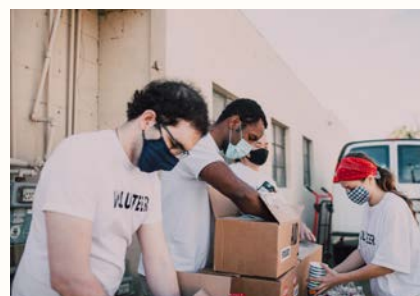
LEASING

The curb appeal and care for our community is very important. No one wants to come home to a yard or street littered with trash containers and debris scattered around. One way to keep your community looking beautiful is to pick up debris or trash around your home and put away your trash and recycle containers promptly after pickup, storing them out of view from the front of your home.

If your trash container is damaged and needs to be repaired or replaced, email us at leasing@creativehousing.org if you live in a Creative Housing home, or contact your leasing office if you receive rental assistance from us to live private market landlord settings.

Bulk items such as furniture, mattresses and box springs need to be scheduled ahead of time with the trash provider. Bulk items should not be placed on the curb until the day before your scheduled pickup. For those properties with dumpster, email leasing@creativehousing.org to schedule the bulk pick-up.

Items in good condition could be donated rather than discarded. They could be given to a friend, roommate, or charitable organization. Many local churches will also take donated items and give them to needy families. Another organization is Volunteers of America- they offer free pickup of usable clothes and household items. Their donation line is (800) 873-4505 or visit their website at www.voahin.org. You can donate your unused items and help others in need at the same time.



CREATIVE RENOVATIONS

Pros and Cons of Cameras and Alarms

Assistive Technology provides nimble outside-the-box solutions. We often visit families indicating they need a camera to know which way their child went when leaving the home. But what if you knew before they went out the door? What if you could anticipate their leaving before they reached the door? Alarms and motion sensors can let you know immediately compared to opening an app on your phone, rewinding the footage, then viewing the screen. By the time you do that, it's anyone's guess as to where they may be and how far they've gone.

After working with several families over the years, we found alarms may serve their needs better than cameras. On the other hand, some families find they only need one camera. Here is a brief list of the pros and cons of cameras and alarms.

(This is not based on scientific information, just based on real parent feedback)

Camera Pros

- If an individual is becoming more independent, cameras provide peace of mind for check-ins to see that they are safe
- If you are at work or out for dinner, you can check in with the 2 way talk option
- With battery-operated two-way talk portability, an individual can take the camera around the house with them, for their own piece of mind

Alarm Pros

- They can alert you instantaneously when a door or window is opened
- You can incorporate motion sensors to alert you before someone reaches the front door
- The sounders will wake you when the system is armed and someone opens the door or window

Camera Cons

- If you are using cameras to support elopement behaviors, the delay of phone alerts may put you several steps behind
- If an individual should never be left alone, a camera cannot replace in-person staff
- Depending on the brand, you may be limited to three cameras before technical issues present you with only a black screen

Alarm Cons

- Sounders can be loud and can disrupt everyone in the house and even your neighbors
- If the system is not armed/turned on, the system is useless
- Some systems require batteries to be replaced by a professional at least every couple of years



The right tools for the job are needed when trying to build an appropriate solution. We can help you identify what problem you are trying to solve. We can then propose solutions from which you can better select the appropriate tools for the job.

Contact us at projects@creativehousing.org for an onsite visit to determine which assistive technology tools may solve your problem best!



MAINTENANCE

Household innovations of the last 30 years



Laundry PODS: Where does it go?

While washing machines don't look very different than they did 30 years ago, the invention of laundry PODS has made life a little easier. Introduced in 2012, laundry pods are convenient, easy to use, and save the step of having to measure detergent. But are you using them correctly?

- Handle Pods with completely dry hands.
- Place pod directly in drum & never in dispenser drawer
- Add pod to washer before clothes and water.



Flushable Wipes: They aren't really flushable!

Wet naps and baby wipes have been around since the 1950s, but in the mid-2000's wet wipes gained popularity as an alternative to toilet paper.

Toilet paper is designed to disintegrate in our pipes and sewage systems, but wipes are not. They are typically made with synthetic materials, plastics or polyester, that won't break down. So even if they flush down your toilet, they end up clogging our sewers.



Swiffer sweeper: Is it better than a mop?

On some floors yes! In 1991 when we opened, a mop and bucket was the tried-and-true method of floor cleaning. These days we know better as a mop and bucket can damage some types of flooring. In 1999 Procter & Gamble introduced the Swiffer brand of cleaning products and they quickly became a must try product for daily flooring care.

In general, we recommend the following to maintain hard surface flooring:

- Clean up spills immediately no matter what the flooring type.
- Daily: Dust/sweep floors with a dry Swiffer product.
- Weekly:
 - Scrub flooring with a deck/hard bristle brush or microfiber pad.
 - Make sure to read cleaning product labels. Many Luxury Vinyl floors look like wood but are actually vinyl. Hardwood floor products should not be used on vinyl floors. Not sure what flooring you have? Contact the maintenance department and we will be happy to assist you.
 - Perform a final wipe down with a damp cloth or clean microfiber pad.



ADVANCED TIP: Use walk-off mats at doors & entrances to stop the dirt from entering at the door.

DISENFECTANTS: Read before you spray

COVID-19 has taught us a few things over the past several months. As helpful as disinfectants and cleaners have been, they should be used with caution only after reading the directions.

The photo to the right shows a standard front door lever handle. A cleaner and/or bleach product was sprayed directly onto the lever causing the interior mechanics to quickly corrode, and ultimately causing a lock when the key would no longer turn.

Consider using a disinfecting wipe for surfaces that can't be sprayed directly.



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Have a question about how to operate an appliance, how to clean a specific spot, or question about your house? Contact our maintenance department and we are happy to assist.
614.418.7725 x16 or maintenance@creativehousing.org

THE KEY TO ANY SUCCESSFUL ORGANIZATION IS ITS PEOPLE

30 years ago, our organization embarked on its mission to provide community housing for folks with developmental disabilities with only two employees. 15 years ago, we owned and managed 430 homes and apartment units, served over 900 individuals living in the community and completed 200 accessibility renovations annually... with just over 20 employees. Today, with 564 homes and apartment units, serving approximately 1,700 individuals in the community and completing approximately 300 annual renovations, our staffing level has held at 20 employees.

We have incorporated technologies to allow us to stay lean and maximize the use of our human capital. As our "product line" continues to grow, technology is allowing changes to our organizational structure to provide room for professional growth. Half of our staff average longevity of 16 years with Creative Housing|Creative Renovations. The other half, the "next generation" of CH|CR employees, have a longevity average of 2 years.

We are happy to recognize the career advancement of four of our employees. Leah Padolik, formerly our administrative assistant, is now our accounts payable associate. Shannon Wreede has moved from providing residential services support to being our lead projects associate. Jennifer Sisouphanh obtained her HUD Certified Occupancy Specialist certification and is expanding her leasing role as our property coordinator. Eric G. Frentzel increases his leadership role as our Chief Operating Officer.

We've truly enjoyed sharing the last 30 years working with be best of community partners serving so many extraordinary people. We hope you continue the journey with us for the next 30 years!





Creative Housing, Inc.
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Stay Connected!

No one likes being the last to know.... Check out our website www.creativehousing.org and subscribe to our newsletter or email frontdesk@creativehousing.org and we will sign you up – be sure to include if you are a tenant, family member, guardian, provider or county board staff.

If you want to be in-the-know of renovation, equipment and assistive technology happenings, visit our renovations website at www.accessibilityrenovations.org and subscribe to our newsletter or email your information to projects@creativehousing.org and we will sign you up – be sure to include whether or not you are an existing or potential client, tenant, family member, guardian, provider, or county board staff.

Contact Us

Phone: 614.418.7725

Email:

General inquiries - office@creativehousing.org

Creative Housing rental inquiries - leasing@creativehousing.org

Creative Housing maintenance - maintenance@creativehousing.org

Rent and payables - payables@creativehousing.org

Waiver and Private Pay Services - projects@creativehousing.org

Private Market Rent Subsidy Program - privatemarketrent@creativehousing.org



**CREATIVE
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