



**CREATIVE
HOUSING**
**CREATIVE
RENOVATIONS**



Since 1992

Happy Holidays

from Creative Housing/Creative Renovations

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Patrick Rafter
 President/CEO

www.creativehousing.org



Wishing you a season of gladness,

A season of cheer,

And to top it all off-

A Wonderful year!



Saying *Goodbye* to Pat Rafter...

Forty years ago, a young college student took a job in a state institution on what was then called a “back ward”. That young man likely didn’t understand the impact that taking that job would have on his future and the futures of so many others. At that time, many state operated institutions had a reputation for appalling conditions in conjunction with the cruel treatment and sub-standard care. The journey of progress in the field of developmental disabilities (DD) has been long and difficult, and one that is still evolving today. That young college man has grown to serve as a role model and pioneer in the movement and progression of the DD field. That man is Patrick Rafter, CEO of Creative Housing|Creative Renovations.

Mr. Rafter, who many of you know as Pat, has enjoyed a long and accomplished career in the DD field. Over 25 years ago at the inception of Creative Housing, Pat had no idea what a revolutionary program Creative Housing would become. Pat has spent his career with Creative Housing developing a nationally-recognized program that moves away from a facility-based approach and embraces a person-centered model. He has led Creative Housing to become one of the nation’s largest networks, serving over 1800 people, and created a nationwide model for building an affordable housing network for people with developmental disabilities. Pat still credits his experience working in that state institution as a continual motivation throughout his career.

In a few short months Pat will be retiring from Creative Housing|Creative Renovations. Pat says that he is most looking forward to “Taking 6 months off and then finding something else to do”. When discussing what he will miss the most, he says, “The people. The tenants. Visiting our properties after people have moved into neighborhoods and seeing them live lives as part of the community”. His face lights up as

he tells stories of CH tenants and the successes he has seen over the years. Looking forward, Pat talks about being excited for the future of Creative Housing. He has an enormous amount of pride in his trusted staff. He conveys that the staff of Creative Housing have built this organization into what it has become, and he has a lot of faith in the great minds and great people working here. People, he says, who will continue to lead Creative Housing to success through continued dedication and constant innovation. Regarding the future of Creative Housing, Pat says he hopes to see further collaboration and partnerships with providers, further fostering of independence and inclusion, and continued growth in the numbers of people we serve. Pat believes the greatest opportunities for Creative Housing rests with the growth of the Creative Renovations side of the organization. He believes assisting people in making renovations to their own homes will allow and promote true community integration.

As Pat finishes out his final few months at Creative Housing, we would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his years of service and leadership. If you happen to see Pat out and about as he is doing inspections and visiting properties, be sure to give him a handshake or a smile and your best wishes!



From the Desk of The Rent Subsidy Department... Residents of Hamilton Crossing

Helen and Ella were roommates for many years in a Creative Housing owned property. Now, Helen and Ella are neighbors. Both ladies wanted to be more independent and were each offered their own apartments at Hamilton Crossing through our Rent Subsidy Program. Hamilton Crossing, located in Whitehall, is a newly built community for folks aged 55 years and over. Helen and Ella have been enjoying the independence that they each now feel in their new homes. They are enjoying their separate residences and the sense of community that they feel Hamilton Crossing offers. This sense of community is enhanced by the activities and events scheduled and coordinated there. Helen and Ella have been busy forming new friendships with their neighbors, while still maintaining their long-standing friendship, through regular get-togethers that includes their weekly Bible study. Helen and Ella were most excited to be able to enjoy their first Thanksgiving at their new residences together.



Helen R.



Ella Mae J.

From Creative Renovations... The Benefits of a Bath lift

Love taking a bath on those cold snowy days but afraid you won't be able to get out when you are finished? Bath lifts are a quick simple way to soak those achy muscles or just relax without the concern of becoming trapped. The light-weight compact size of a bath lift allows it to fit most any tub and permits it to be easily removed and stored when not in use. Just charge the battery on the remote and lower yourself into the tub- you do not need to try to navigate the tub from a standing position. You can simply sit on the edge of the bathtub, slide your legs over the side of the tub and then slide over onto the lift seat. When you are finished, push the remote again to be raised up out of the tub. You can enjoy your warm relaxing bath without stress or worry!



Pictured is a Drive Medical Bellavita Bath Lift. Bath lifts can cost anywhere between \$400-\$2000

Did You know?...

Creative Renovations has worked on 826 accessibility renovations so far in 2018! Creative Renovations does interior and exterior modifications, including ramps, stair lifts, bathrooms, alarms systems and bath lifts.

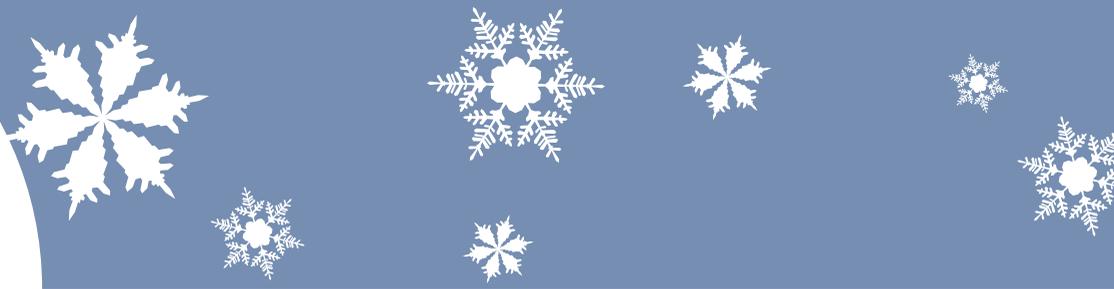


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Stay Connected!

There are always new and exciting things going on at Creative Housing|Creative Renovations. Do you want to be the first to know what is going on with our homes and services? Check out our website at www.creativehousing.org and subscribe to our newsletter, or send your information to frontdesk@creativehousing.org. Be sure to include your full contact information and whether or not you are a tenant, family member, guardian or provider.



New Faces at *Creative Housing*

We would like to introduce you to the newest members of the Creative Housing team. If you see them in the office or out in the field, please be sure to say hello and welcome them to the Creative Housing family.



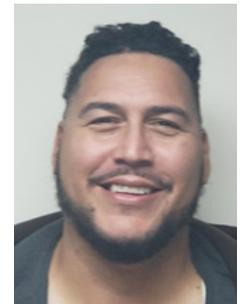
Joe Meeker
Field Tech



Shannon Wreede
Residential
Services and
Projects Assistant



Jennifer Young
Residential Projects
Administrative
Support



Chris Adams
Field Tech

Maintenance Call *Reminders*

Emergency Repairs: Emergency repairs will be responded to the same day as called into our office at 614.418.7725. During non-business hours, an answering service will contact our on-call representatives for emergencies. PLEASE DO NOT CALL AFTER HOURS WITH NON-EMERGENCY REQUESTS. ONLY EMERGENCIES WILL BE SERVICED AFTER REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS OR ON HOLIDAYS.

Non-Emergency Repairs can be reported 24/7 electronically:

Visit our website: www.creativehousing.org and select "SERVICE REQUEST" on the top menu.

OR email us any time of day at maintenance@creativehousing.org.

Both of these methods are great ways to include photos to help describe any issue you are reporting.

Did You know?...

By the end of November, the Creative Housing Maintenance Team had completed 4950 work orders!.



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Snow Removal

Creative Housing removes snow/ice only at apartment sites with 3 or more units when there is an accumulation of 2" or more. If you live in a single family home or duplex, please remember to shovel walks and drives at your home.



Approved salt mixes for CH Properties:

Blue Heat
Halite
Subzero Solid Ice Melt
Happy Paws Ice Melt
(pet friendly)

*Please note that rock salt is prohibited as it is damaging to concrete and lawns

www.creativehousing.org

Preventing Falls and Winter Safety

With winter weather coming, staying safe and warm can be a challenge. Here are some helpful hints:

- Wear non-skid slippers: They will help keep your feet warm and are practical for fall prevention.
- Wear winter boots with rubber soles: Investing in a waterproof pair of boots, with non-slip rubber soles, can be lifesaving.
- Use welcome mats or trays: A wet floor is a slippery floor, use a mat or tray to absorb moisture and protect flooring.
- Use handrails: The ground can be unpredictably slick during the winter months, using handrails is one simple way to help prevent falls.
- Dress properly for the temperatures: Hats, coats and gloves may be necessary to protect you from frigid temperatures.
- Ensure walkways are clear of ice and snow: Using an approved salt mix during light snow falls will help melt the snow so you will have less to shovel.

Holiday safety Tips

Decorations: Choose those made with flame-resistant, flame retardant, and non-combustible materials.

Holiday Lighting: Inspect new and used lighting. Replaced damaged bulbs before using them. Do not use frayed or damaged wiring.

Trees: Use artificial trees to avoid live tree hazards. Please remember we do not allow extension cords.

Traveling Away from Home? Ask a neighbor to keep an eye on your house. Put timers on different lights throughout the interior and exterior of the house. Have newspapers, mail and deliveries held or picked up by someone you trust.



Dear Friends of Creative Housing:

Over 25 years ago, the need for community housing became apparent when the state began moving individuals out of institutions. After conversations with Steve Pleasnick, Jed Morison and Ben Hale, Patrick Rafter founded Creative Housing in 1991 to provide safe and affordable community housing for persons with developmental disabilities.

The first home was purchased on February 26, 1992. With the support of Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities and leadership and vision of Patrick Rafter and his board of trustees, Creative Housing has grown to own and manage 549 community home settings. Creative Housing serves 964 residents and supports 618 tenants through a private market rent subsidy program.

Creative Housing has made positive impact on many individuals and families through housing options and accessibility renovations. Private home settings have been renovated for accessibility so an individual can stay in their home as long as they want. Families can find comfort knowing that their loved ones living in a Creative Housing home will have a safe and affordable home they can call their own.

As a mother with a daughter residing in a Creative Housing home in the community in which she was raised, I can attest to the quality housing provided by Creative Housing. As the largest housing corporation serving a County Board of DD, Creative Housing is able to offer families a variety of options throughout Franklin County. In addition to providing affordable quality homes in safe neighborhoods, they provide quality maintenance and grounds services to their residents. This is why I offer my support for the Rafter Legacy Fund.

The founder of the organization, Patrick J. Rafter, will be retiring and we want to recognize his impact on our community. In honor of Patrick J. Rafter, the Rafter Legacy Fund is being created to support special causes to benefit those served by Creative Housing. Please consider making a tax deductible contribution to this fund by mailing a check payable to Creative Housing, Inc. to 2233 Citygate Dr., Columbus, OH 43219, noting the Rafter Legacy Fund on the memo line.

With Appreciation,

Peggy Martin, Parent
& Creative Housing Staff





Since 1992



Creative Housing, Inc.
2233 Citygate Dr.
Columbus, Ohio 43219



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Spread the word

If you know someone who would like to receive this newsletter or be added to our electronic mailing list, please let us know. Also, we welcome articles, advertisements and opinions by Creative Housing tenants. Send items for consideration to:

**Creative Housing, Inc.
2233 Citygate Dr., Columbus, Ohio 43219**

Building Beyond Accessibility.

INDEPENDENT. LIVING.

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