



CREATIVE HOUSING CREATIVE RENOVATIONS



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CH | CR 2.0

It's been four months since Pat Rafter retired and I started my journey as CEO, serving the Creative Housing staff, Franklin County Board of DD and all of you. Although I've known and experienced it over my 12+ years with Creative Housing, I've never felt it as much as I have these past four months. "It" is the overwhelming supportive environment in which all of us reading this newsletter live. Thank you to everyone who has welcomed me, taken the time to get to know me, and has shown me such generosity and encouragement.

As we move forward as Creative Housing|Creative Renovations 2.0 (life after Pat Rafter), I'd like to take this opportunity to recognize our amazing CH|CR 2.0 family. We restructured for 2.0 and along with my new role, Eric G. Frentzel assumed the role of Facilities and Projects Director, Liz Dunham is now Facilities Maintenance Manager and Jennifer Sisouphanh takes care of our residents as Property Services Coordinator. This year, we have five teammates who will celebrate over 10 years with Creative Housing: Rosharon-28 years, Leonard-22 years, Christie-19 years, Eric-14 years and Kathy-13 years. Newest to our group are Penney, Jason, Joey, Chris, Shannon & Jen, who joined us within the last two years. Rounding us out are Randy, Traci, Katie, Jennifer, Joe, Liz and Orlando, who bridge the past to the future of Creative Housing.



Rent Subsidy: Traci Fowler, Penny Fowler, Katie Willis



Leasing/Accounting: Randy Miller, Jennifer Sisouphanh, Rosharon Cardell, Kathy Porter



Creative Renovations: Jen Young, Christie Stouffer



Residential Services: Eric Frentzel, Mason Lohr, Leonard Barron, Orlando Frost, Jason Sherman, Shannon Wreede, Chris Adams, Liz Dunham, Mitch Lohr, Joey Meeker, Joe Winings

John F. Kennedy said, "One person can make a difference, and everyone should try." I truly believe that what makes our CH|CR family and those in the field of developmental disabilities so special is our commitment to creating positive impact for those we serve. We get to work with the best clients and community partners out there, making a difference. And I feel honored to lead our group.

We anticipate a great summer ahead. Please enjoy the adventures ahead and remember to appreciate the little things... The best is yet to come!

Crittty Buenconsejo, CEO



CREATIVE HOUSING

CREATIVE RENOVATIONS

We want to hear from YOU!

We would love to hear from you and share your news. Please submit any news you would like to share (a pet photo, new home décor, anniversary story, vacation photo, or even roommates just hanging out) to maintenance@creativehousing.org. We will consider including it in our next newsletter!

Congratulations to Apache Way! They won the random gift card drawing for returning our home evaluation within 30 days. Submit yours now for a chance to win in the next drawing!



From the *Leasing Department...*

Receive a water bill at your house?

If you receive a City of Columbus water bill, please forward it to our office. For some reason or another, the billing address was changed to the service address. We have called the City of Columbus water department to have this corrected. This only affected our Creative Housing owned homes and only those homes served by The City of Columbus Water Department. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Jennifer Sisouphanh at 614-418-7725 x10.

As a reminder, if you notice leaking/running toilets or faucets, including outside hose bibs, please report it as soon as possible to our Maintenance department at maintenance@creativehousing.org or call **614-418-7725 x16**. Don't wait until we reach out to you regarding a high water bill. If you have new bushes planted and being watered, please let us know when you call.

Our goal is to keep costs down to continue to be able to offer affordable housing.

A Few Words from *Groundskeeping...*

A garden is a great idea. We usually recommend the first year or two you try doing a container garden. If a container garden works for a few years, then we can talk about a location and type of garden for the future.





Creative Housing is Partnering with MORPC



**CREATIVE
HOUSING**
**CREATIVE
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Creative Housing is happy to announce that we are once again partnering with the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) to help our tenants save money by making their home more energy efficient.

MORPC’s Weatherization program offers home energy efficiency and safety services at no cost to income-eligible residents to help keep them warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer, all while lowering energy bills.

These programs are available all year to Franklin County residents and contributes to sustaining affordable housing options for those we jointly serve.

These programs are provided at no-cost to income-eligible clients thanks to funding from Columbia Gas of Ohio’s WarmChoice program, Ohio Development Services Agency’s Home Weatherization Assistance Program and Electric Partnership Program, and AEP Ohio’s Community Assistance Program.

MORPC’s experienced professionals will perform home energy inspections and safety checks, as well as complete work in the home to improve safety and comfort. Based on eligibility, customers may receive the following services at no cost:

- Repair or replacement of furnaces and water heaters
- Attic and sidewall insulation
- Air sealing
- Replacement of refrigerators, freezers, and light bulbs with more efficient models

Savings from energy efficient improvements translate to income that can be used for other important needs including food, health care, or transportation. For nearly 30 years, MORPC has served nearly 20,000 households to make their homes safer, more energy efficient, and comfortable. For more information concerning the program, please visit their website at <http://www.morpc.org/program-service/home-energy-efficiency/>



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

We will initiate the process with MORPC. They may require additional information for which we would request from you. Once projects are approved, we’ll update you to coordinate services. They may require you or your guardian to fill out an application if you are not signed up with HEAP/PIPP yet.

We will hold two random drawings for prizes later this year based on household participants and providers who assist us with application information/documentation. Thanks for helping and good luck!



Since 1992

Happy Summer from the Private Rent Subsidy Department!

- ✓ Please remember to keep your doors/windows closed if you are going to run your air conditioner. (see details on page _ from the maintenance department).
- ✓ If your air conditioning is not working properly, please immediately contact your landlord.
- ✓ If your community has a pool, please make sure that you follow all of the rules including how many guests are allowed per apartment.
- ✓ Are you taking a vacation this summer? If so, it would be wise to let your rental office know. That way, they can keep an eye on your apartment.
- ✓ Have a Safe and Fun Summer!

Keep your home comfortable this summer!

The warmer temperatures outside can make your electric bill sky high. Here are a couple helpful tips to help keep your home comfortable, while keeping utility bills down.

- Choose a temperature that is agreeable to all tenants.
- If you leave for the day, increase the temperature by 1 to 3 degrees.
- Ensure all vents are open for maximum air flow.
- Turn the fan to the ON position and open bedroom and bathroom doors. This will help circulate the air, helping maintain a consistent temperature throughout the home.

Make sure windows and doors are in closed and locked position when running the air conditioning. Below are a few pictures to help illustrate how to ensure the window locks are properly engaged.



Example of improperly engaged lock: *The locking mechanism is in the fully locked position but not engaged. It is closed over top of the outer window lock receiver.*



Example of improperly engaged lock: *The locking mechanism is half-turned in the locking position, but not engaged with the other half of the window.*



Example of properly engaged lock: *The locking mechanism is fully engaged in the lock and there is a visible tight fit at the lock.*

From the Desks of our Rent Subsidy Dept...

The Creative Housing Rent Subsidy Program has been serving individuals for over 20 years. This program started with just a few and we now serve almost 650 individuals throughout Franklin County. We have also been able to establish, maintain and acquire new landlords throughout those years. This has given us the ability to continue and increase the number of people we serve each year. We are excited that we have 15 tenants from the first year that are still in our program. It is amazing to see how much the community has embraced our program. Instead of us always seeking new landlords, now they are seeking us. This wouldn't be possible without those who maintain and properly take care of their homes and apartments.

Lastly, please remember to take your fire extinguisher with you when you move locations. If you are no longer in the program, please return the fire extinguisher to Creative Housing.



Creative Renovations. . .

Since 2016, Creative Housing|Creative Renovations has been a proud sponsor of the Little Hercules Foundation's Duchenne Dash 5k and now 10K race. The Little Hercules Foundation raises awareness and money for research and development for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD). DMD "is a rare, progressive, muscle-wasting disease in which those diagnosed are unable to produce dystrophin, a protein essential for the repair and stability of muscle fiber" (<https://littleherculesfoundation.org/whats-dmd/>).

Join the Creative Housing|Creative Renovations team in 2020 to support the Little Hercules Foundation and help us make a difference. You can also donate and learn more about Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy on the Little Hercules Foundation website. <https://littleherculesfoundation.org>



Extensive Renovations May Not Always Be the Answer

Renovation costs are through the roof right now due to high demand and rising material costs. Did you know there are other ways to make your home safer that do not require you to renovate your home? Check out these cost-effective suggestions to see if any of these are potential solutions for you:

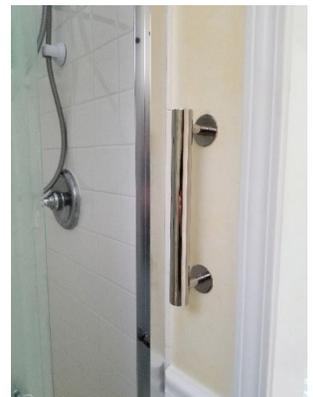
- Your bedroom is on the second floor? No problem! Try installing a second handrail or even having a professional install a stair lift.

If you are completely unable to navigate the stairs, maybe redesigning your dining room is a better option.

- Bathtub is difficult to get in or out of? No problem! Installing a grab bar just outside the tub area gives you something to hold onto when lifting your feet over the tub side. Add another grab bar inside the tub area so you always have something to hold for stability.

If you are still having trouble getting over the side of the tub safely, we can install a step-in shower with a small 3 ½" lip. This can help take the nervousness out of daily bathing.

- Have trouble getting up the steps onto the front porch? No problem! We can create more steps with a shorter rise to eliminate navigating huge steps. Example: You have 3 steps that are 8" high. We can create 4 steps that are only 6" high.
- Unable to navigate the stairs at all? Call us to see if a ramp is a better option. Don't forget that a ramp should be at 1/12 slope to ensure it is not too steep. For every inch you drop, you need a foot of ramp. If you have 3 steps that are 8" high, your elevation is 24". That means you need a 24' ramp. Don't forget the level landing at the door. You don't want to navigate the door on a slope.



If are interested in a renovation or just want to see what we can do, call Creative Housing|Creative Renovations. Our professionals can come out and see what solutions we can offer you! <https://accessibilityrenovations.org/>



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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 your information to frontdesk@creativehousing.org and we will sign you up – be sure to include whether or not you are a tenant, family member, guardian, provider or county board staff.

If you want to be in-the-know of renovation 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.



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If you would like to send us a message, email us!

frontdesk@creativehousing.org – for general or leasing inquiries

maintenance@creativehousing.org – for service requests or property maintenance
inquiries for Creative Housing homes

projects@creativehousing.org – for renovation inquiries

Changing Housing-Building Hope

Since 1992