



WEST HOLLYWOOD  
COMMUNITY HOUSING CORPORATION  
COMMUNIQUE

ISSUE 7 | WINTER 2021



Opening  
Doors



# A Letter from the President



Dear Friends,

Thank you. Just by opening this newsletter, you are part of WHCHC's legacy.

This winter marks 35 years of serving our community. As many of you know, the City of West Hollywood was incorporated in 1984. The grassroots movement was spearheaded by a coalition of senior and LGBT+ residents driven to address the housing challenges of the day. One of the new City Council's first tasks was to create a community housing development organization.

And so, in December 1986, WHCHC was born. Of the community, for the community.

There is a reason we call our apartment buildings "communities." They are more than just walls and a roof. With each new home comes a key to a new life. Since day one, we have now opened 781 doors, creating the foundation for countless new beginnings. We've provided safe and stable housing for decades and we will continue as long as the need does. On the following pages, you'll be welcomed into the homes of residents who live vibrant lives, thanks to support like yours. You'll learn about our resident services programs, offered at every single one of our buildings, and how our residents benefit from this critical support. You'll read the stories of residents both new and old and everything in between, whether it is 5 months or 25 years.

Each new affordable housing project in development is a vision of hope for the future. As you turn the page, you'll learn about our six projects on the horizon, preparing to welcome new residents home. By 2025, over 442 brand new apartments will open, and even more lives will change.

That's where you come in. With your help and support, our legacy continues. New buildings are being developed across Southern California. From our roots in West Hollywood, to our hidden gem in Glendale, to our cluster of new homes in Los Angeles, to our growing regional location in Palm Springs, our mission advances with your help. You are a part of our legacy of keeping people stably housed, which makes you a part of the solution to homelessness.

Thank you & kind regards,

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Jesse".

**Jesse Slansky**  
President & CEO



# More Than Walls And A Roof



## STEAM Education at Home

RSCs were concerned about children falling behind after more than a year of remote learning. Using their network of resources, they connected with Jumpstart Academics & Arts, who brought an eight-week after-school STEAM program to Vermont Manzanita. Excited kids learned coding and how to operate two types of robots, Oli and Sphero. Big thanks to Creator/Director, Jamie Pappas, who also secured program funding from a private donor.



## Senior Citizen

For years, Señora Silvia wanted to become a U.S. citizen. It seemed like an impossible task, with loads of red tape and hurdle after hurdle. With guidance from her RSCs, Señora Silvia finally obtained her citizenship this past summer. She was joined at the ceremony by her son, Ivan, and RSCs Cheryl & Judy.

## The Season of Cheer

Our holiday festivities have begun! Laurel Norton residents enjoyed a boisterous violin concert, sunshine, goodie bags and cake.





# Resident Spotlight

## Independence and Community

Since day one, Nonna has been comfortable and at ease in her WHCHC apartment community. She loves relaxing inside while listening to music and walking outside to the West Hollywood shops in her neighborhood. Nonna considers it a blessing to have built lifelong friendships and be amongst neighbors that share the same culture.

Nonna moved from Moscow to Los Angeles in 2007. For years, she lived with her adult children. Her family and friends helped guide Nonna in adjusting to her new life, and though she was grateful, she knew she could thrive independently. Determined to take the next step in her life, Nonna sought other options in the West Hollywood area. She was delighted to be among those chosen for **Hayworth House** in 2012.

Today, Nonna enjoys the balance of her own independence and having a supportive community around her. From previously attending concerts with neighbors to currently receiving supplemental food deliveries to her door, Nonna feels secure through the enriching experiences at her apartment community, brought to life by her RSC Alla. In fact, Nonna and Alla have become so close that they even work on the community garden together!

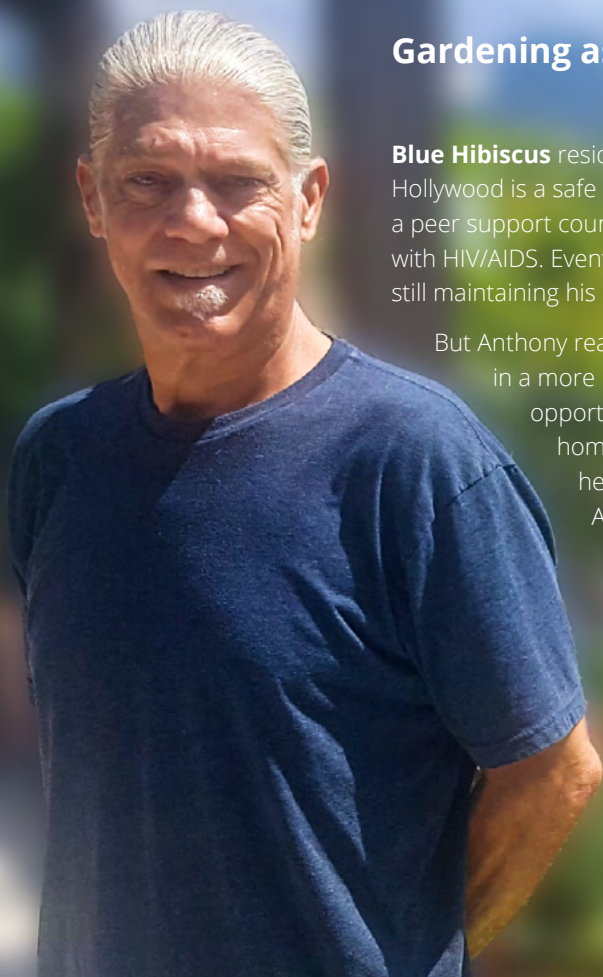


## Gardening as Therapy

**Blue Hibiscus** resident, Anthony, is a native Californian. For a young gay man, West Hollywood is a safe haven. During those years, and many more to come, he volunteered as a peer support counselor at Being Alive, a wellness focused organization for people living with HIV/AIDS. Eventually, Anthony needed a change and moved out to Ventura for a while, still maintaining his local connections and volunteerism.

But Anthony realized as an aging gay man, he would feel more comfortable living in a more LGBT-positive community. He kept his eyes open for affordable opportunities and applied where he could. As someone who was once nearly homeless, Anthony has a deep appreciation for affordable housing – which he has today at Blue Hibiscus. “Stable housing is so important,” says Anthony. “It really brings me peace of mind.”

Anthony was particularly excited about Seeds of Hope, a partner agency who brings free, fresh produce to residents and has created edible gardens at a number of WHCHC apartment communities. As the pandemic hit and activities at the buildings were paused, he knew that he needed to do something to help curtail his own isolation and look for an opportunity for creative expression. Using the garden as an outlet, Anthony collaborated with neighbors and Seeds of Hope to bring the garden to a whole new level of flourishing. “It’s given me so much joy in a time of stress and uncertainty,” he said.





## Dreams Come True

A long time wish for Mariana has been to live where she can be herself and thrive. Her new home at a WHCHC affordable apartment community is just that. "Feeling safe to be myself is the #1 priority," Mariana shared. "In West Hollywood, I not only feel safe, but also feel welcomed and loved." She was ecstatic to move into her new apartment this past summer, and has settled in to her space quickly.

Mariana's work as a Program Manager at the LA LGBT Center's Trans Wellness Center took her to West Hollywood often. She dreamed of the day she could live in the community she was serving. "As a service provider, I never asked for anything for myself, I am always advocating for others. But this time was for me and I am extremely thankful."

On a warm summer's day this past June, fate knocked on Mariana's door. She had the opportunity to live in her WHCHC apartment. She was so excited about the chance, she already had her application and eligibility documents ready to go: placed neatly in a folder titled "Dreams Come True." Mariana remembers being greeted by the building manager who handed the keys to her new home. "When you feel welcome, it means the world. I feel a big change in my life."

Today, housing stability gives Mariana peace of mind and brings motivation to her next step. "I am willing to work to make this city a better place for everyone," Mariana explained. "After a long journey, I feel like I have finally arrived."

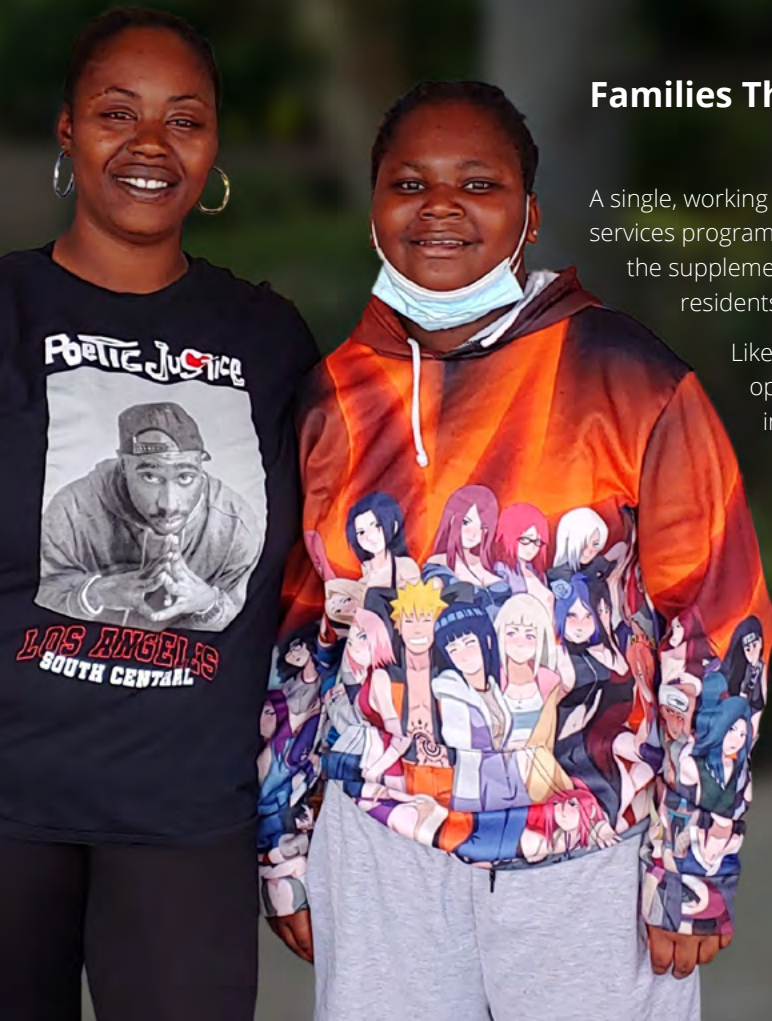


## Families Thrive Together

A single, working mother born and raised in Los Angeles, Kevinisha enjoys the resident services programs at her apartment community. One of her favorite programs is the supplemental meal deliveries that provide milk, fruit, and vegetables for all residents. "I love those programs," Kevinisha said. "They help us a lot."

Like mother, like son: Kevinisha loves that her son has educational opportunities, like robotics and coding, right at home. Her son takes part in the Resident Service Coordinator organized activity called "STOKED," which stands for "Success, Teamwork, Openness, Kudos, Energy, and Determination." During STOKED, the young residents at **Vermont Manzanita** learn all types of new lessons, from how to make a skateboard and balance on it to uplifting their peers in the "STOKED Circle." A motivating and encouraging time for all involved!

Together, over the past year of living at their WHCHC apartment community, Kevinisha and her son have participated in numerous resident services at home. The two have received goods, such as pajama pants and Thanksgiving gift cards, which have made all the difference in their holiday seasons. "We got to go to the store and pick exactly what we wanted for our Thanksgiving meal," Kevinisha explained. "What a feeling."





# Be A Part Of The Solution



Today, WHCHC houses over 1,185 residents in 702 units in 20 properties in 3 cities.  
Your generosity provides the supportive service programs  
that help our residents live healthy and vibrant lives.

## Help Prevent Homelessness

Visit our new website at [www.whchc.org](http://www.whchc.org) to donate.



Scan to donate.



# Watch What's Happening Now

## Berendo Sage

Under construction in the Koreatown/Pico-Union neighborhood of Los Angeles. 42 units for families, with half reserved for formerly homeless households. Scheduled for completion Summer 2022.



## Mariposa Lily

Under construction in the Koreatown/Pico-Union area. 41 units for families, with half reserved for formerly homeless households. Scheduled to be completed in Winter 2022.

## Aloe Palm Canyon

Planned to break ground in the City of Palm Springs in Fall 2022. 71 units for seniors, with 25 reserved for formerly homeless seniors. Planned for completion in Spring 2024.



## Miramar Gold

Scheduled to break ground in the Westlake North Neighborhood of Los Angeles in Winter 2022. 94 units, with half reserved for formerly homeless individuals and families. Scheduled to be completed in Winter 2024.

## Third Thyme

Scheduled to break ground in the Westlake North neighborhood of the City of Los Angeles in Spring 2023. 104 one-bedroom units for seniors. Scheduled for completion in Spring 2025.





**West Hollywood  
Community Housing Corporation**

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## THANKS TO OUR 2020/2021 GRANTORS

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## OUR MISSION

Building homes and  
providing services  
that move community members  
from insecurity to stability.

Visit our new website at [www.whchc.org](http://www.whchc.org).

WHCHC does not discriminate based on race, color, religion, disability, familial status, national origin, sexual orientation, or any other arbitrary basis.

