



Dear Friend:

In October, we received more than 1500 applications for the 96 apartments that will be available at Oxford Plaza next year. Even though the cost of housing has long been a serious barrier to self-sufficiency for low income families in the Bay Area, the need is greater than ever. Children, seniors, working families at the lowest end of the economic spectrum need help and it won't come from over extended government programs. It will come from people like you who dig deep to help those most in need.

Keeping housing costs affordable (and predictable) is an important element of stability in the lives of seniors and other low income families. RCD has developed almost 1500 units of high quality rental housing ~ in downtown, uptown, the suburbs, established neighborhoods, and all over the East Bay. Over the course of 25 years we've watched thousands of low-income residents survive tough times because they have affordable housing.

In the year ahead we will be celebrating 25 years of building affordable homes for people like Kattye, a wonderful Board Member who brings a lifetime of experience and energy to support affordable housing. For a time, we'll have five projects under construction at once. Early in the year, we'll complete the 177 units of Oxford Plaza and Fox Courts while construction continues at Shinsei Gardens, The Arbors, and Los Medanos Village. There will be hundreds of new residents to help settle into the buildings – with referrals and coordination of services in their new neighborhood. We will also be adding youth programs at four more sites this year, using community spaces to ensure that kids have a safe place to learn and grow after school.

This helps people stay in housing! Please be as generous as you can and make a gift today. Affordable homes and resident services have ended the cycle of homelessness for many families – it's a powerful combination that works.

We value your care and concern for our residents and our community. There will be opportunities throughout our 25th year to make a difference and we are grateful to have your support as we continue to create affordable housing for those with the fewest options.

With best wishes,

Stuart Stoller
Chair, Board of Directors

Dan Sawislak
Executive Director

P.S. Donors at \$250 and above are recognized as Community Builders Circle members and will receive a 25th anniversary cap and invitations to special events throughout the year!

"I don't know what I'd do without this place. I have allergies and the layout here, with my apartment opening onto an outdoor hallway, really helps. My friends can't believe this is affordable housing – it's so nice. We need a lot more of it, with so many people hardly able to make it through every month. I hope you can help."

Kattye Giles, RCD Board Member, Resident, and Volunteer at Margaret Breland Homes & Mable Howard Apartments