



Rural Development • RHS • Multi-Family Housing

The Wright House At The Right Price

When a mobile home park in Shelburne, Vermont went up for sale, community leaders came together to ensure affordable housing would still exist downtown. After six years of hard work, affordable housing is accessible once again in Shelburne.

“Wright House is a little living machine,” said Bob Essman, a new tenant in Shelburne’s new affordable housing unit.

Wright House is one of five apartment buildings in the Harrington Village, an affordable housing community located in the heart of Shelburne. This building, encompassing 36 apartments, a community room, community kitchen, lounges on every floor, laundry facilities, beauty salon, tenant storage lockers, underground parking, computer station, garden beds for residents, gym and outdoor terrace and seating area, is now home to over 36 Vermont senior citizens and persons with disabilities.

In order to make this “little living machine” affordable, USDA Rural Development invested \$1,000,000 in permanent financing plus rental assistance. This low-interest direct loan will allow Cathedral Square Corporation to keep rent rates low, and Rural Development’s rental assistance will allow all tenants to live in their one-bedroom apartments for only 30% of their income regardless of rent rates.

USDA funding is making the dream of comfortable, convenient living possible for many Vermonters for years to come.

“I’m close to my family, I have space to display my art, everything is close— I don’t need anything else. This place is the perfect home,” said Essman who has already covered his new walls in original artwork. “We are all here— hopefully— after a life full of adventure, and now we’re all comfortable.”



Bob Essman, a former Art Director for People Magazine™ and Layout Artist for Life Magazine™, has one of the 36 new apartments for senior citizens and persons with disabilities in Wright House.

Obligation Amount: \$1,000,000 Direct Loan

Date of Obligation: September 22nd, 2011

Congressional District: Welch, District 1; Leahy, Sanders

Partners: Cathedral Square Corporation, Enterprise Community Investment Inc., Vermont Community Development Program, Vermont Housing Finance Agency, Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, Efficiency Vermont and VT Gas

Demographics: Senior citizens and persons with disabilities

Impact: Rural Development rental subsidies provide affordable, wellness-oriented, convenient-location housing to senior citizens and disabled Vermonters for only 30% of their income.