

The Rutland Housing Authority
Annual Report to the Citizens of the City of Rutland
2017-2018

The Rutland Housing Authority (RHA) was created over 57 years ago to address “a shortage of safe or sanitary dwelling accommodations in the City of Rutland available to persons of low income at rentals they can afford” (City of Rutland, Board of Alderman, Resolution dated May 22, 1963). Funded under the programs of the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development, RHA built and managed three properties, two for the elderly and non-elderly disabled at Templewood Court and Sheldon Towers (134 units) and one for families at the old Forest Park site (75 units) for a total of 209 apartments.

In 2018 RHA, in partnership with Housing Vermont, completed the third and final phase of the Forest Park Redevelopment and Neighborhood Renewal Initiative. This ten-year effort utilized a variety of private, local, state and federal funding to develop the brand new, 78-unit mixed income Hickory Street community, complete with new infrastructure, roadways, a community center and neighborhood gardens. What was once a tired, insulated, inefficient “project” is now a vibrant neighborhood that has had a profound impact on Rutland’s Southwest section and the city at large. In total the development resulted in a \$22-million-dollar infusion to the area’s economy. We are grateful to the many organizations and individuals that played a role in this impressive accomplishment.

In total RHA’s housing options provide high quality affordable housing to more than 430 families, including many with children, elders and people with disabilities.

The RHA also administers 219 Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers which enable very low-income families to secure high quality rental units from local landlords. Six of the 78 new units at Hickory Street include Project-Based Vouchers designed to assist families that are homeless or at-risk of homelessness with wrap-around services. By the end of 2018 our programs will provide affordable housing to over 485 families including many with children, elders and people with disabilities.

The RHA is evaluated annually by the Department of Housing and Urban Development and has once again been rated as a High Performer (highest rating) under HUD’s assessment systems for both the Public Housing and the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher programs.

Recognized for its commitment to secure enriched housing the RHA provides resident service coordination at its housing sites. Additionally, we serve as the Designated Regional Housing Organization for the Support and Services at Home (SASH) Program. This interagency system for care management assists Medicare-eligible participants with healthy aging-in-place. Services are provided at a number of housing sites and communities throughout the county. Over 415 individuals benefit from these services which have proven to increase quality of life while decreasing Medicare costs. Local partners include Rutland Regional Medical Center, Southwestern Vermont Council on

Aging, VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region, Rutland Mental Health Services, National Church Residences, and the Housing Trust of Rutland County.

We would like to express our appreciation for the support that the Authority has received from all City Departments, the Rutland Redevelopment Authority and the many agencies that have partnered with us to provide affordable, service-enriched, safe and high quality housing to the citizens of Rutland.

As always we welcome your comments or suggestions. Please contact the Rutland Housing Authority at 775-2926, or to learn more about our programs and services, check us out at www.rhvt.org.

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