



AFFORDABLE HOUSING RESIDENT PROFILE

Bill Brown

Before he retired at age 67, Bill Brown was a radiation therapist, treating cancer patients at Georgetown University Hospital and in suburban Montgomery County. With a daughter and twin grandsons in the area, he wanted to stay near his family in his retirement years. But like many residents in the Washington metropolitan region—especially seniors living on limited incomes—Brown knew that finding affordable housing would be a challenge.

After living in Arlington County for several years, Brown moved to Florida for a brief time. His daughter kept her eyes open for opportunities for him to move back to the Mid-Atlantic region, and when she heard about the development of Hunter's Park, she watched the project closely.

Hunter's Park was a unique endeavor led by AHC Inc., an affordable housing developer in Northern Virginia. AHC Inc. saw a great need for more housing for seniors living on moderate to very low incomes in the region, but making this available in an area with escalating property values was not easy. With a creative mix of financing from investors, local government resources, and federal tax credits, AHC Inc. helped transform a declining strip mall into Hunter's Park, a modern mixed use property with 74 units of affordable housing for seniors.

The property was completed in January 2005. Brown moved back from Florida a few months later and applied for a unit at Hunter's Park. The process was a little more complex than a typical rental application—Brown had to provide information on his income and assets to verify that he qualified for the property's federal tax credits—but Brown said it was well worth it. He found Hunter's Park to be

“a million times better” than other places he had lived. The property was quiet and clean, and offered amenities like a great room with a fire place, an outdoor patio, covered parking, a nearby grocery store, and the Cherrydale nursing center right across the street. Brown's one-bedroom apartment gets sun all day long.

Brown also appreciates the sense of community he finds at Hunter's Park. Because it is a senior-only building, many of the residents live alone, but Brown knows his neighbors and they help watch out for each other. Brown and two other residents also meet regularly with AHC Inc. representatives to organize activities and events to keep residents active and engaged in the community.

Best of all, Brown is now only six miles away from his daughter and her family. Hunter's Park has not only enabled him to live a more affordable life, but also enhanced his quality of life—a much-deserved opportunity for someone who worked to improve the health of area residents for so many years.

