



AFFORDABLE HOUSING RESIDENT PROFILE

Edwin “Nash” Cherrington, II

Nash Cherrington is no stranger to hardship, but nothing in his upbeat, warm personality shows it. He enlisted in the army at 19 and was sent to Vietnam, where he served two tours of duty as a helicopter pilot. When he returned home, he was determined to complete his education and earned a bachelor’s degree in history in Miami, Florida, on the GI Bill. Nash went on to work for companies including Kodak and Xerox, in jobs that gave him the opportunity to live a good life in a variety of cities across the United States.

When he lost his wife in a car accident, Nash faced a new realm of challenges in his life, both personal and financial. His income went down, and finding housing he could afford became more difficult. He was homeless on two occasions, and it was at a shelter that he heard about Buckingham Village, an affordable housing complex in Arlington, Virginia.

Moving into Buckingham Village gave Nash an opportunity to get back on his feet. The garden-style apartment complex was safe, conveniently located, and within his budget—all features that he greatly appreciated. Nash knows his neighbors and speaks highly of the property management staff who have always been friendly and responsive to tenants’ needs. The complex is close to shopping and just a 10-minute walk to the Ballston Metro station, which means Nash can live without a car and significantly reduce his expenses now that he is retired. There is also a hospital only seven minutes away—a factor that made a big difference to Nash when he suffered a recent heart attack.

Nash has been very grateful for many things in his life, including the programs that helped him along the way. He credits the Veterans Administration with “saving him” when he needed medical care and support services, and he also values the opportunities Arlington County offers for those who need housing assistance. “I’ve been amazed at the receptiveness here when you are looking for affordable housing,” he notes, describing the attitudes of leasing agents and county staff who helped him find a place to live. “Here you don’t feel bad or with your head down—and that’s a really good feeling.”



Nash recognizes that finding affordable housing in the Washington Metropolitan Area is a real challenge for many. “A lot of people, if they don’t go through the county, they don’t know where to start,” he explains. “But what seems to be unique here is that you can find affordable apartments that are very nice...I’ve lived in places that were fancier or more expensive, but I didn’t like it as much.”

Arlington County is working with Paradigm Development Group to redevelop a section of Buckingham Village 3, and when the project is complete, Nash hopes to move into the new complex. In the meantime, he enjoys simple pleasures in life, like visiting the local library, going for runs, staying active in his church community, and treating himself to a nice meal in a restaurant once a month. Despite everything he’s been through, his positive outlook on life—plus a good dose of perseverance—has kept him moving forward even through difficult times

