2019 YEAR IN REVIEW

As we reflect upon the previous year’s work, I want to take this opportunity to again thank each of you for your on-going support to the mission of The Renaissance Collaborative, Inc. In 2019, we continued our award-winning supportive housing model, outperforming the goals set at the beginning of the 2019 year. We especially want to acknowledge the impressive work of the team in making the organic garden a community space. The Bronzeville Green team, residents, and staff pulled together to transform the garden into an oasis for the community reception of the Solar Flower that was donated by Mohawk Industries as a way of reducing the carbon footprint. This space later became a therapeutic center for residents who continued to maintain its beauty. Later, the team, including the board and Advance Committee pulled together to make the Fall Founder’s Day Event a success, raising the highest net revenue in our history. The Board, staff and other supporters worked with us to make the “Giving Tuesday” event a success also. Working in various social media outlets we were able to get a van donated and raise funds to purchase another used vehicle this Spring.

In the coming year, we will continue our impactful work, by the successful completion of the RAD2 status for Renaissance Apartments, developing an Intergenerational housing model with H.O.M.E., and developing a workforce training center designed to support current residents of the community to get the skills required for them to become employed and remain in Bronzeville. I’m looking forward to working with you to make each of these goals a reality.

Sincerely,

Patricia Abrams
Executive Director

BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

This year, our objective has been to advocate for a comprehensive approach to building healthy communities. We kicked off the year with our Friendraiser breakfast, featuring a panel of experts from various fields discussing how the promotion of equity in each sector (including housing, employment, healthcare, food, education, and more) contributes to healthier communities overall.
Overall, Supportive Services at the Renaissance Apartments met and/or exceed all stated goals. Here are just a few of the primary results for 2019:

- **TRC COMMUNITY GARDEN**
  We had an incredible harvest this year from the organic garden at The Renaissance Apartments. The garden began with therapeutic intent so residents could reap some of the mental health benefits of gardening. Dozens of resident volunteers and Bronzeville Green trainees contributed this year and those residents have described themselves as a family, contributing what skills they have toward a common goal.
**SENIOR VILLAGE**

**2019 KEY OUTCOMES**

- 98% occupancy
- 98% participation in community events

**SUMMER FEST**

Senior Village hosts over a dozen events each month, including exercise classes, educational seminars, and holiday gatherings. One of the most memorable this year was the “Fun in the Sun” event where senior residents and their families danced, ate, and played games (including musical chairs).

**BRONZEVILLE GREEN ORGANIC LANDSCAPING**

**2019 KEY OUTCOMES**

- 12.5% lower annual recidivism than the state of Illinois
- 41% of workers demonstrated improved reliability

**GIVING TUESDAY**

We’re prepared for the snow removal season thanks to the generous support we received for our Bronzeville Green trainees on Giving Tuesday. We received one donated truck which has allowed us to hire three new workers for this Winter. We’re holding the remaining funds we raised to purchase another used truck for the Spring landscaping season.
COMMUNITY EVENTS

SOLAR FLOWER COMMUNITY RECEPTION
On August 15th, TRC held a community reception to celebrate the permanent operation of our SmartFlower, a solar panel array that follows the sun throughout the day. Sylvia Ewing from Elevate Energy and Cory Foster from ComEd spoke with attendees about environmental sustainability efforts and the partnership that made the TRC Solar Flower project possible.

“BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES” DINNER
In October, we presented our Bridge Builder Award to Providence Bank & Trust for their commitment to continuing the mission of the acquired Urban Partnership Bank through its Stewardship Program. The Cornerstone Award went to Clarence Wood for his human rights work and history of support for TRC.

APPRECIATION

TRC HONORS RESIDENT SUCCESSES
We gave out 35 awards this year to Renaissance Apartments residents who made remarkable strides toward achieving self-sufficiency. The highest award, the Abrams Apple Award, went to Sean White. Sean was recently hired full-time as a custodian after training in TRC’s janitorial and landscaping programs.

STAFF APPRECIATION
The work of the agency would not be possible without the work of each of the staff. The Board and I owe each of them a deep gratitude of appreciation. As I always say to them, we are a team, and there is no “I” in team, so thank you team for all you do to help achieve the mission of the agency.
UPCOMING INITIATIVES

RAD2: PRESERVING AFFORDABILITY FOR 15+ YEARS
We are currently applying for RAD conversion through the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for The Renaissance Apartments, which would allow us to both renovate the building and guarantee the affordability of our apartments for at least 15 years.

INTERGENERATIONAL HOUSING
In partnership with Housing Opportunities & Maintenance for the Elderly (HOME), we are working to create a scalable model for intergenerational housing projects, beginning with the addition of an intergenerational building in our Senior Village.

BRONZEVILLE WORKS
We are developing a first-of-its-kind workforce development center committed to promoting environmental sustainability. In addition to preparing community members who face barriers to employment for careers in the emerging Green Economy, the building will also be net-zero energy, meaning all energy used will be created on-site.

HELP US MAKE THIS FUTURE POSSIBLE: JOIN OUR BOARD!
We are currently accepting applications for the Board of Directors. Due to our big plans for 2020, professionals with legal, construction, or finance expertise are strongly encouraged to apply. Visit www.trcwabash.org for the Board Info Kit and application.