



Building healthy neighborhoods by providing creative, affordable housing opportunities in Grand Rapids.

## **New Development Corporation**



- Housing Renovation and Sale
- Homebuyer Education
- Financial Education and Coaching
- GRHomeShare

## **New Development Corporation**

Only 266 single-family homes are currently for sale in the City of
Grand Rapids, regardless of price
1/5<sup>th</sup> of the market needed for a healthy housing environment.\*



\*"Market Rate Rent: 'a Problem That Needs to Be Solved'." *Grand Rapids Business Journal*. N.p., 1 Jan. 2016. Web. 17 Mar. 2017.

"Grand Rapids Real Estate Search." Grand Rapids Association of Realtors. GRAR, 11 Sept 2017. Web. 11 Sept. 2017.

## A Crisis in Real Estate

## 98% of all rental properties in Grand Rapids are occupied. Average rent in the City of Grand Rapids is \$966 per month.\*



\*"Market Rate Rent: 'a Problem That Needs to Be Solved'." Grand Rapids Business Journal. N.p., 1 Jan. 2016. Web. 17 Mar. 2017.

Francis, Derek. "Grand Rapids' Rental Vacancy Rates Lowest in Country." Fox17. N.p., 17 Mar. 2015. Web. 17 Mar. 2017.

## A Crisis in Rental Affordability

According to the 2015-16 U.S. Census, 7,254 Grand Rapids residents over the age of 65 live alone. Across the nation, this population is expected to double between 2010 and 2030.\*

\* Data Access and Dissemination Systems (DADS). "Grand Rapids, MI HOUSEHOLDS AND FAMILIES More Information 2015 American Community Survey 1- Year Estimates." *U.S. Census Bureau*. American Fact Finder, 2016. Web. Sept. 2016.

## **Rising Senior Population**







GRHomeShare is the result of collaboration between a diverse group of Grand Rapids organizations.

- Karen Leppek, AAAWM
- Ann Thomas, Advocates for Senior Issues
- Helen Lehman, New Development Corporation
- Lily Fossel, New Development Corporation
- Annette Vandenberg, West Grand Neighborhood Organization
- Ada Mbuno, West Grand Neighborhood Organization
- Margaret Freund, Ask Margaret
- Disability Advocates of Kent County
- Jayme Vosovic, MSW

## **GRHomeShare** Collaborators

The GRHomeShare model is based on existing and thriving home share programs in Ann Arbor, New York, and Vermont.



New York Foundation for Senior Citizens



#### A Proven Method...

Home-sharing was a popular way to stretch a family budget, secure extra household help or childcare, or maintain the expenses of a large home during and after both World Wars and the Great Depression. Many of our senior participants home-shared in their childhood or later in life.

#### ...Based on an Old Idea

GRHomeShare serves housing "seekers" in search of affordable shared homes with existing live-in homeowners ("providers") searching for companionship, security, or support for the physical and financial maintenance of their home.

#### Who will GRHomeShare serve?

GRHomeShare is open to seekers and providers of any income level. At least one member of every match must be 55 or older.



#### Who does GRHomeShare serve?

#### **Application Process**



#### **Guided Match**



#### Maintenance and Assessment

## How does the program work?

#### Seeker Application – Phase 1

This application allows the GRHomeShare to verify your eligibility for the program. The GRHomeShare welcomes applicants with a variety of backgrounds and experiences, and seeks to facilitate safe, healthy, and affordable housing matches. The consideration of this application by GRHomeShare staff requires the payment of a \$25 application fee. See "Applicant Processing Fees" for more information. Once completed:

Please mail application materials (completed) to: New Development Corporation 205 Carrier Street NE Grand Rapids, MI 49505 Please scan and email application materials (completed) to: info@newdevelopmentcorp.org

Name (First, Last):			Application Date:		
Street Address (Physical):			City:	State:	Zip Code:
Mailing Address (if different from above):			City:	State:	Zip Code:
Home Phone Number:	Cell Phone Number:		Email Address:		
() - Date of Birth:	( ) - Age: Sex	v. Mari	tal Status:		
	Age: Se	x: Man	tal Status:		
Number of People Seeking Housing Together: Relationship			to Seeker:		
How did you hear about GRHo	meShare:				
Do You Live in the Grand Rapids City Limits: Housing Needed From			Housing	Needed Until:	
		1 1	1	1	

## **Application Process**

#### **Phase I Application – Eligibility**

- Background Check
- Credit Check
- Property Check
- Personal References

#### **Phase II Interview/Home Visit – Compatibility**

- Personal Preferences
- Lifestyle
- Needs

## **Application Process**

To ensure the sustainability of the program, GRHomeShare applicants pay a \$25.00 application fee as well as an income-based match fee in exchange for a successful match. Both fees cover up to two matches within a year of application. Some discretionary funds are available to support program costs for low-income applicants.

#### **Client Costs**

Matches are made based on complementary needs and compatible lifestyles.

- All matches are guided by trained social workers.
- Each match must be jointly approved by both parties.
- Meeting and creation of a living agreement is guided by GRHomeShare staff.
- GRHomeShare requires use of a month-to-month lease for the first 3 months of home sharing.

## **Guided Matching Process**

#### Living with a new housemate can be an adjustment.

We offer mediation with an MSW to address and assuage any challenges that arise as seekers and providers settle into their home share experience.



## Mediation

# How do we grow and improve as a program?

All clients participate in regular surveys, as well as joint and individual interviews to monitor and support the success of each match. Client data is also gathered to track the program's effects on health, comfort, community engagement, financial status, and access to community resources.

### **Data Assessment and Guidance**

#### **GR HOME** SHARE

## **Expected Outputs and Outcomes**

#### **Client Benefits**

- Affordable housing options in an unaffordable market
- Aging in place GRHomeShare facilitates financial and maintenance support for senior homeowners.
- Comfort and Security
- Cross-generational understanding
- Increased Community Engagement



Share your home. Share your help. Share your life.

#### **Community Benefits**

- Creative housing solutions in an increasingly untenable housing market
- Mitigating the systemic cost of long-term care
- Preservation of homeownership
- Community engagement



Share your home. Share your help. Share your life.

- Finding a good match takes time. Be ready for a slow start!
- **Trust** is paramount for all participants.
- **Clarity of service** helps to avoid confusion and liability. Know your limitations.
- Referral partnerships and targeted marketing:
  - CALL Program
  - Neighborhood Associations

- Local Bulletins
- Social Media
- Churches

#### Best Practices and Bumps in the Road Share your home. Share your help. Share your life.

### Be a Supporter. Be a Partner.

Join us in bringing affordable housing to those who need it most. Let us know who else should hear about GRHomeShare, or contact us directly to donate, request an application, ask questions, or refer friends. <u>info@newdevelopmentcorp.org</u> 616.361.7500



Share your home. Share your help. Share your life.

## Thank you.



Share your home. Share your help. Share your life.