

12/14/20 – A Look Back at our Successes in 2020

What do we say about 2020 that hasn't been said already? It was a year of upending the norm, throwing curveballs, and living through something none of us has lived through before... a pandemic. But we came together, supported each other, and most importantly, our communities stayed strong.

I'm proud of the Rocky Mountain Communities team for the way we navigated through the early months of the pandemic and how we continue to support our communities today. Through all the ups and downs, 2020 was a year of great change, shifts, and positive outcomes. Below are just some of the ways we persevered over the last year:

- We were proud to be one of the first organizations to implement an **eviction moratorium** at the onset of the pandemic alongside **Hope Communities** and in conjunction with the **East Colfax Community Collective**. We were proud to be one of the first organizations to implement an **eviction moratorium** at the onset of the pandemic alongside **Hope Communities** and in conjunction with the **East Colfax Community Collective**.
- We created the RMC Relief Fund, collecting **donations** from our board, staff and friends. These funds will be distributed to our residents who are in need of extra monetary support to purchase basic items like groceries, winter clothes and paying bills.
- We pivoted our grants outreach to focus on securing funding to pay for gaps that have become apparent due to the pandemic. For example, we received a grant from **NeighborWorks America** for an assessment with a focus on Wi-Fi access for residents. The grant funds three key areas at Garden Court – our largest property with 300 units – in Denver. Through the grant, we are getting closer to providing low-cost Wi-Fi to residents through a pilot program.
- As an organization rooted in resident services – where we offer free services to benefit our residents – we embraced alternative modalities of delivering programs through a safe “pandemic lens.” The programs we created and implemented through this new lens will serve as a platform and model for programs down the road. For example:
 1. A foot clinic was hosted for our elderly community at Meeker Commons in Greeley.

2. The youth coordinator at Garden Court worked on creating a curriculum for kids to stay socially distanced while building community.
 3. While we couldn't hold a traditional Halloween party, we distributed candy in a socially-distanced way to residents at Mountain Terrace in Westminster.
 4. At our newest property, Arroyo Village, which opened in March 2019 in West Denver, we hosted a socially distanced concert called Village Fest. The event was a concert collaboration between Rocky Mountain Communities and non-profit [Youth on Record](#), that brought Flobots, The Reminders and other special musical guests to the community.
- Our Arroyo Village community was one of just six properties across the U.S. to earn the [prestigious 2020 Jack Kemp Excellence in Affordable and Workforce Housing Award](#) through [The Urban Land Institute](#) (ULI) Terwilliger Center for Housing. Arroyo Village is a first-of-its-kind project in Colorado, that provides a continuum of care for people experiencing housing instability including a 60-bed homeless shelter through The Delores Project, 35 one-bedroom apartments for permanent supportive housing and 95 affordable apartments.
 - We re-launched our [Rocky Mountain Communities Facebook page](#) and created Facebook groups for residents to connect with us and each other at several of our properties.
 - We finished improvement projects and renovations at Garden Court. Upgrades and repairs were made to plumbing, mechanicals, kitchens, and bathrooms including updating individual apartments with new kitchen countertops, flooring, kitchen appliances, bathroom vanities, mirrors and medicine cabinets, and painting exterior staircases. An old swimming pool that was no longer in use has been turned into a soccer field, satisfying requests from many resident families to have more open space for kids to play. Renovations totaled \$3.6 million.
 - We just recently completed \$2.6 million of major renovations at Grand Manor, a 112-unit community in Grand Junction. Updates were made to kitchens, bathrooms, flooring, plumbing, and we resurfaced the parking lot, among others.
 - We launched a three-year strategic plan to guide the organization successfully into the future. We are proud that we have not had to change course or our plans even through the pandemic.

