

## Resident Profile Series: Hope Grows by Building Community

Ken Murphy knows Denver inside and out. In 1952, his parents moved two-year-old Murphy and the family from Wytheville, Virginia to Denver's Lincoln Park projects on the west side. For 68 years, Murphy has watched the city change and grow.

"It's evolved into a better city," says Murphy.

He explains that Denver used to be more segregated, but now he sees a significant difference. Murphy attended Denver East High School, which he says was "one of the most diverse in the state." And aside from the good weather, he says he loves Denver because of the people and what makes them unique.

In 2000, Murphy moved to Garden Court, the largest of Rocky Mountain Communities' properties. With 700 residents and situated in the East Colfax neighborhood of Denver, the diversity Murphy appreciates is a cornerstone of the property's makeup. Murphy says that people representing different cultures in his community is a good thing.

"In waves over the years, I've watched all different kinds of people come to Garden Court. I like that."

Murphy understands that housing communities change. He spent four years in maintenance at other large properties around Denver and another 11 at Garden Court. During that time, he lived on property and saw plenty of transitions. He says he has a soft spot for Garden Court.

"I like the area and the complex. I probably wouldn't move even if I could," says Murphy.

Murphy's investment in Garden Court runs deep. A few years ago, he and his wife Clorenda sat on a six-person committee which facilitated an event called Culture Fest. They raised support from area businesses like Party City and King Soopers, which helped fund the celebration that included multicultural dishes, donated by residents and local restaurants alike. The Denver East High School cheerleaders even came to entertain. Murphy beams as he recalls the turnout.

"It was a time to come out and get to know the neighbors and taste food from other countries. People even came from surrounding complexes."

Now, with COVID-19, building community is difficult.

Murphy explains that kids having to stay inside and people not being able to interact with their neighbors makes life harder. But he says all is not lost.

"I have hope for everybody: the community, the city and the world. It just takes a group of people to step in and provide hope."