

## Blog Post: Making Waves in 2021

In 2021, we had to continue to adjust to a new way of life and take action to make a positive difference in our communities. The pandemic has caused turbulence, but we maintained a focus on keeping our residents stably housed. As we reconnected with one another, we created a positive force for ripples of change.

I'm proud of the Rocky Mountain Communities team for the way we collaborated through another difficult year of the pandemic and how we continue to support our residents and communities today. Through precarious currents, 2021 was a year of constant flux, new experiences and resiliency. Below are some of the highlights from the last year:

- After several months of working remotely, we were thrilled to be back in-person together as a team to meet at our Arroyo Village property (with some joining us virtually) for our first All-Staff Meeting since the emergence of COVID-19.
- We kicked off the year and positioned ourselves for growth by [hiring two new executives](#), naming Mark Marshall as Vice President of Real Estate, and Denise Gomez as the Director of Development, Equity and Engagement, upon hire, and she has since transitioned to Vice President of Strategic Impact and Integration. The addition of these key roles to the executive team, and the promotion of Brandi Lindbom to Vice President of Property Management, provide us with the capacity to meet both current and future needs.
- We celebrated the [ground-breaking of The Commons](#), which will provide more housing options to homeless and low-income residents in Colorado Springs. The 50-unit complex is currently under construction and set to begin leasing in fall 2022. We are currently working on the approval of phase two of The Commons, which will offer at least 65 new units of affordable housing.
- I served as a subject matter expert on affordable housing topics by participating in podcasts and writing articles including:
  - [Is a House a Home?](#) (The Delores Project: Welcome Home Podcast)
  - [Building With Heart](#) (The Holistic Housing Podcast)
  - [We must work together to close the digital divide](#) (*The Grand Junction Sentinel*, Op Ed)
  - Denver's Arroyo Village community earns ULI Inclusive nod (*Colorado Real Estate Journal*, Bylined Article in print)
- Tracy Gargaro, who was our COO and CFO for nearly nine years, retired. We have missed Tracy's dry wit and keen business sense – he helped accomplish many things during his tenure at RMC and we wish him all the best in retirement!
- We launched a Resident Profile Series featuring residents from different properties and sharing their stories. Read more about some of the residents we have featured:
  - [Nicole Bush from Townview](#)



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- [Shari Stratton from Arroyo Village](#)
- [Onalee Goss from Grand Manor](#)
- [Jesse Lopez from Mountain Terrace](#)
- Our Arroyo Village property earned the [Urban Land Institute of Colorado \(ULI Colorado\) Impact Award](#) for the Inclusive category. We are so grateful for the acknowledgment and support of this project and are proud to offer a continuum of care for people experiencing housing instability.

We are proud of the accomplishments we achieved over the last year but know there is always more work to do. We look forward to continuing to support our residents and working as a team to provide stable housing options for our communities!

Best,

Dontae Latson  
CEO of Rocky Mountain Communities