

## **Blog Post: 2023 was a year of progress and expansion for Rocky Mountain Communities**

In 2023, Rocky Mountain Communities furthered its mission by growing its resident services capabilities and programs and working with partners to open a new affordable housing community in Colorado Springs and a new shelter in Denver. RMC's team continued to showcase passion and dedication to support residents. Below are some notable highlights from the past year:

- Opened The Commons in Colorado Springs with non-profit Homeward Pikes Peak. The Commons, which opened in April, is a 50-unit Permanent Supportive Housing community for Veterans, families and individuals seeking stable housing. The community is for individuals and families experiencing unstable housing and who are in-need of clinical services. Sixteen percent of the units are reserved for Veterans.
- The leadership team experienced some changes including Mark Marshall taking the reins as CEO and President, following the departure of Dontae Latson. RMC hired Amritpal Byrd as Vice President of Property Management and Jessica Patterson as Vice President of Finance.
- Closed on the acquisition of the former DoubleTree Hotel in Denver's Central Park neighborhood in November. RMC is leasing the former hotel to the City and County of Denver in support of Mayor Mike Johnston's House1000 initiative to bring people indoors and close encampments. The building includes approximately 300 rooms, a commercial kitchen, a laundry facility, and an emergency shelter.
- Secured funding from CHFA to conduct a \$43 million redevelopment of Gateway Village in Fort Morgan to add 24 new units, conduct a complete gut rehab on the property across the 96 existing units, add a new management office, new community room, new amenities, and more.
- Staff went through a trauma-informed training series held by Paragon Behavioral Health and Advocates for Recovery. RMC will be moving to a trauma-informed approach to resident services. Employees were trained on verbal de-escalation. In addition, the VP of Resident Services became a certified verbal de-escalation, trauma-informed trainer from the Crisis Prevention Institute and now trains all RMC staff.
- Received a \$30K grant from NeighborWorks to conduct energy assessments at properties.
- Received a \$168K grant from Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment for resident programs and services.
- Received a \$1.8 million grant from Paragon Behavioral Health and Advocates for Recovery to hire seven employees who will be peer specialists based at RMC properties. The first peer specialist will begin in early 2024.
- Hosted a variety of events at properties including VillageFest, Halloween door decorating contests, distributing toys for Christmas to kids and families, hosted a Holiday Market at Arroyo Village, worked with VOA to offer Thanksgiving and Christmas food boxes to residents, and many other events.

The momentum that the RMC team facilitated in 2023 will continue into 2024 and beyond. The organization continues to be poised for growth to contribute to housing solutions for Colorado residents. We look forward to continuing to support our residents and providing stable housing options for our communities!

To learn about RMC's work and how the organization supports residents, follow us on [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) for real time updates.