



## **Rockford Housing Authority: Reflecting on 2023 and Embracing a Vision for 2024**

As we bid farewell to 2023, I am delighted to reflect on the remarkable achievements and progress made by the Rockford Housing Authority and the dedicated efforts of our entire team. This year has been a testament to the resilience and adaptability of our organization, as we navigated through unprecedented challenges. The commitment to our mission of providing safe, affordable housing to the residents of Rockford has been unwavering, and I am proud to say that we have exceeded our goals in many aspects. One of the highlights of the year has been the successful implementation of innovative programs aimed at improving the quality of life for our residents. From community engagement initiatives to educational and vocational training programs, we have worked tirelessly to create a holistic support system that goes beyond just providing shelter.

Our commitment to sustainability has also been a focal point in 2023. The integration of eco-friendly practices into our housing projects not only aligns with global environmental goals but also contributes to cost savings, allowing us to redirect resources towards further enhancing the well-being of our community. I must commend the dedication of our staff, whose hard work and passion have been the driving force behind our accomplishments. Through their efforts, we have forged stronger partnerships with local businesses, government agencies, and non-profit organizations, fostering a collaborative environment that benefits everyone.

Looking ahead, I am optimistic about the future of the Rockford Housing Authority. As we continue to evolve and adapt to the changing needs of our community, I am confident that our organization will remain a beacon of progress and compassion. Together, we will build on the successes of 2023 and create an even brighter future for the residents we serve.

## **2024 Vision: A Commitment to Tangible and Impactful Housing Solutions**

As we stand on the threshold of a new year, the Rockford Housing Authority is embarking on a transformative journey, placing housing at the forefront of community dialogues and addressing the urgent needs of our residents. The critical housing challenges faced by our community demand not just attention but a resolute commitment to tangible, impactful, and achievable actions.

### **Addressing the Affordability Crisis**

Our foremost priority in 2024 is to confront the longstanding affordability crisis that has affected not only our community but communities across the nation. The soaring shelter costs have contributed to a pervasive inflationary burden, leaving families struggling to secure stable housing. Through comprehensive policy initiatives, we aim to implement measures that directly impact affordability, ensuring that housing remains within reach for all.

### **Building Trust Across Sectors**

To effect real change, collaboration is key. In the coming year, we will prioritize building trust across sectors—forging additional meaningful partnerships with local businesses, government entities, and non-profit organizations. By fostering a united front, we can amplify our impact, pooling resources and expertise to create housing solutions that are both innovative and sustainable.

### **Engaging the Community**

A cornerstone of our strategy in 2024 is to engage with our residents at the grassroots level. We recognize the importance of understanding their needs, concerns, and aspirations.

Through open dialogue, community forums, and proactive outreach, we aim to build a profound understanding of the challenges faced by our residents, ensuring that our initiatives are not just well-intentioned but precisely tailored to address their specific needs.

### **Ensuring Partnership Effectiveness**

Partnerships are only as strong as their effectiveness. We commit to ensuring that our collaborations are founded on good practice, transparency, and measurable outcomes. By rigorously evaluating the impact of our partnerships, we can continuously refine our strategies, ensuring that every initiative contributes meaningfully to the well-being of our community.

### **Serving Residents with the Highest Good**

At the core of our mission is a commitment to always serving our residents with the highest good. This means going beyond the provision of housing to address the broader needs of our community. Whether through educational programs, vocational training, or health and wellness initiatives, we will strive to uplift and empower our residents, fostering a sense of security and self-sufficiency.

### **Empowerment Through Communication**

Communication is the linchpin of a thriving community. We will continue to increase our efforts to keep residents informed, involved, and empowered. Regular updates, accessible information, and transparent communication channels will be prioritized to ensure that our community is an active participant in the decisions that impact their lives.

### **Empowerment Through Enablement**

True empowerment comes through enablement. In 2024, we will focus on providing the tools, resources, and opportunities that empower residents to shape their own destinies. Whether through skill-building programs, mentorship initiatives, or entrepreneurship support, our aim is to enable residents to break barriers and seize opportunities for personal and professional growth. As we embark on this mission in 2024, we do so with a deep sense of responsibility and a firm belief in the transformative power of housing. By aligning our actions with the tangible needs of our community, we strive to create a future where every resident has not just a place to live but the foundation for a thriving and fulfilling life. Together, let us build a community where housing is not just a necessity but a fundamental right that underpins the prosperity and well-being of all.

In closing, I express my gratitude to the entire Rockford community for their ongoing support. The journey ahead is filled with possibilities, and I am honored to lead an organization that is making a positive and lasting impact on the lives of so many. Here's to a year of meaningful change and progress.

***Laura Snyder CEO, Rockford Housing Authority***