

## We celebrate the partnerships we have with many volunteer groups.

Here are a few of the critical volunteer partnerships from 2006:

### Miami University

The first urban semester in Over-the-Rhine proved a success many times over. The twelve students in the program completed a three-bedroom unit in addition to their academic studies and volunteering in the neighborhood. Miami has over 500 hours logged in the Saturday Volunteer Program since August, the largest amount for any group.



Elder

### Elder High School

Students, faculty, and alumni rehabbed a vacant housing unit for a formerly homeless resident to occupy.

### Moeller High School

Students, faculty, and alumni renovated a vacant building on Republic Street. A formerly homeless woman and her mother now occupy the building.



Moeller

### Ursuline Academy

Students organized a Holiday Dinner for OTRCH staff, residents, and board members in December. Several students volunteer regularly with Saturday Morning Volunteer Program.

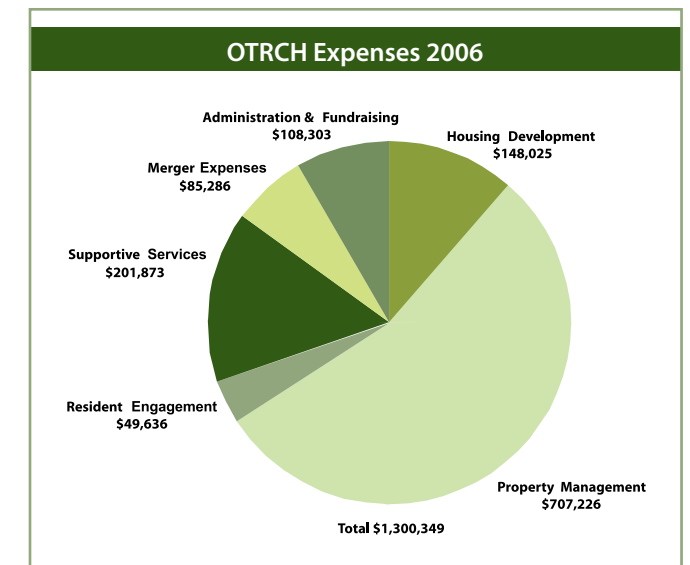
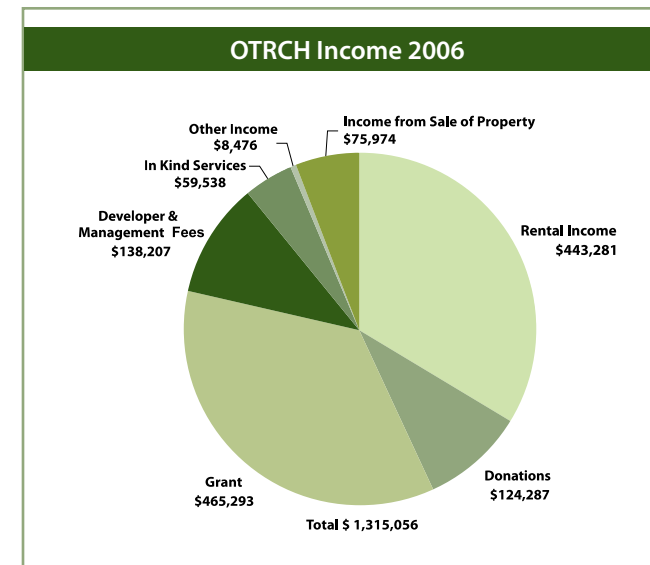
### Bob Knueven, Howard Smay, and crew

Dedicated volunteers who give a lot of themselves to do renovation work in Over-the-Rhine. They assisted us in bringing online 5 affordable housing units in 2006.

### OTR Community

Together, we celebrated the life of buddy gray in November, as we reached the 10th anniversary of his passing in 1996.

*We are also thankful to the many groups that come out for the Saturday Volunteer Program each week. Since August, volunteers have logged over 1800 hours of work. These groups include Amelia High School, St. Andrew Parish, St. Peter and Paul Parish, St. Xavier High School, University of Cincinnati, Walnut Hills High School, Xavier University, and Chaminade-Julienne High School of Dayton.*



\*Unaudited figures for fiscal year ending December 31, 2006

“We ended the year in strong financial condition thanks to support from people like you and divestiture of some of our assets.”

We experienced a net increase of **\$14,707.00** in our cash balance by years end and we now manage over 11 million dollars in assets!”

We are grateful to the following organizations that provided major support for our Operations and Merger in 2006.

- |                                      |   |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>SC Ministry Foundation</b>        | <b>Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing</b>                               | <b>U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development</b> |
| <b>PNC Bank</b>                      | <b>Drop Inn Center Shelterhouse</b>                                       | <b>Ohio Department of Development</b>                   |
| <b>Greater Cincinnati Foundation</b> | <b>Spirit of America</b>  | <b>Ohio Housing Finance Agency</b>                      |
| <b>Christ Church Cathedral</b>       | <b>Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) of Greater Cincinnati</b> | <b>City of Cincinnati</b>                               |
| <b>Helen Steiner Rice Foundation</b> |   | <b>Manuel D. and Rhoda Mayerson Foundation</b>          |

### Our Mission

Over-the-Rhine Community Housing is a nonprofit organization that works to build and sustain a diverse neighborhood that values and benefits low income residents.

We focus on developing and managing resident centered affordable housing in an effort to promote inclusive community.

### Thoughts from the students of Miami University's inaugural Over-the-Rhine Residency Program.

Why have I found life in an area many say is dying? ...I looked past my nose and into the eyes of residents and found something. I don't know if I can explain it, but whatever it is has changed my path, the path I had planned out before I experienced OTR.”

-Britni Rex

“Living, studying, and working in Over-the-Rhine for a semester...allowed me to develop a political understanding and passion for equality. I studied and became involved in the trials of the homeless and their fight for affordable housing and an adequate minimum wage. ...I discovered my true personality and values.”

-Rachel Rhodebeck

“Our classroom knowledge supplemented our real-world learning, which for me took the form of community service with OTRCH. I am a better person because of all this. I am more compassionate and more understanding...I know what needs to be done, and now I have no problem doing it.”

-Chris DeLuca

Reflections

### Ways to Give:



Donate to OTRCH by sending monetary contributions

directly to our office or online through Pledge Connect. We are a 501(c)3 organization, so your contributions are tax deductible.



As a member of Community Shares of Greater Cincinnati, you can donate to Over-the-Rhine Community Housing at your workplace. If there is no Community Shares campaign at your workplace, call John at 513-475-0475 to learn how to get one.

What if Over-the-Rhine Community Housing earned a penny every time you searched the Internet? Well, now we can! GoodSearch.com is a new search engine that donates half its revenue (about a penny per search) to the charities its users designate. You use it just as you would any search engine, and it's powered by Yahoo!, so you get great results.



Just go to [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and be sure to enter Over-the-Rhine Community Housing as the charity you want to support. Just 500 of us searching four times a day will raise about \$7300 in a year without anyone spending a dime! Be sure to spread the word!



**Valuing Affordable Housing: The Prevailing Need**

We continue to provide quality low income housing through the generous donations of supporters and sponsors in the community and beyond.

**Fifty-nine thousand households, or 43% of the City of Cincinnati's total number of households, cannot afford a two-bedroom market rate apartment because their combined yearly income is less than \$25,000.**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau & National Low Income Housing Coalition

Affordable housing is a relative term. According to U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, a person should spend no more than 30 percent of their income on housing. To our residents, who make \$10,000 (or less) per year, affordable housing means paying no more than \$250 per month. The Fair Market Rent in Hamilton County for a one-bedroom housing unit is \$506. Many of our residents could afford no more than half this expense! The average monthly rent for one of our one-bedroom units is \$263. To us, this is affordable housing! Your donations help make it possible for low-income families and individuals to afford a home that is safe and well managed, a dream that is still unattainable for too many Cincinnatians. We appreciate your support in our efforts to make a good home a reality for residents of OTR.



**Letter from the Director**

I had a conversation the other night with a friend where we discussed our relationships and how we have a love/hate relationship with people. Sometimes people can drive us mad with demands and ugliness and hate and violence. At the same time we rarely find joy while in solitude and nothing touches us more deeply than an act of humanity. We learned that we need people. Relationships with people make life rich and full and keep us healthy. People, with all our quirks and imperfections, bring us joy and lighten our load by sharing a burden.

At OTR Community Housing we need people too and this first Annual Report will highlight some of those people who made 2006 a successful and productive year. 2006 was a milestone year for us. It was a year of change and growth that we successfully navigated because of the rich diversity and commitment that makes up our staff, volunteers, residents, board and supporters. Throughout the text of this year in review letter the word "we" is frequently used. Included in "we" is you, our friends, volunteers and supporters. We celebrate our successes in 2006 that lay the foundation for our work in 2007 and beyond.

In 2006:

We successfully merged two organizations rich in history and commitment to community and justice. We reconstituted our board, amended our by-laws, developed and adopted a new mission statement, developed five year goals and went through a re-organization.

We ended the year in strong financial condition thanks to support from people like you and divestiture of some of our assets. We experienced a net increase of \$14,707.00 in our cash balance by years end and managed over 11 million dollars in assets.

We completed Community Views, a 12 unit mixed income development that incorporates the successful Renter Equity program developed and managed by Cornerstone Community Loan Fund.

We maintained our relationships with the volunteers who grew to love ReSTOC over the years and were willing to maintain their commitment to our new merged organization.

Moeller High School completed the renovation of 1404 Republic St. and Ms. Liz and her mother moved in to their new home. Elder High School completed renovation of 1532 Elm St.

We hosted Miami University's first Residency semester in Over-the-Rhine. The program was a huge success and will continue in the Fall 2007 Semester.

We completed pre-development work for 3 exciting projects including a mix of housing types and affordability. We plan to expand our development efforts to include home ownership with our City Home and Mulberry Vistas projects. We continue to value rental housing as well and we completed extensive pre-development work that will allow us to improve some of our aging affordable rental units in North Rhine.

2006 was a very productive year! We hope you enjoy this first annual report for Over-the-Rhine Community Housing. Thanks for your support and friendship, and for all the joy and smiles. We look forward to sharing more hard work, laughter, and celebration in 2007!

Sincerely,

**Mary Burke**  
Executive Director

**Letter from the President**

If you've driven through Over-the-Rhine recently I'm sure you've noticed the changes. The community is in transition. I can't imagine a more opportune time for the emergence of Over-the-Rhine Community Housing. Our newly formed organization is the best hope for affordable housing in the neighborhood. The combined, resources, enthusiasm, and creativity of ReSTOC and the Housing Network make us a force to be reckoned with. I haven't been this hopeful since first joining ReStoc's board over 25 years ago. It's a privilege to be part of this organization because we are constantly making things happen. 2007 holds numerous opportunities to influence the momentum of development in Over-the-Rhine. I believe we are up to the challenge.

Sincerely,

**Roger Auer**  
Board Chairperson



**"People like you help people like me go on."**  
*Si Kahn*

