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Life Gets Rosier for CHA Seniors

Home Depot Volunteers Donate Flora and Landscaping Services to Lakeview Senior Building

CHICAGO – It all started with an earnest letter to a local Home Depot store and snowballed into a much bigger project. All the residents of Hattie Callner Senior Apartments wanted were a few potted flowers to enhance the foliage surrounding their apartment building.

What they got was a two-day effort to landscape the entire grounds of Hattie Callner and restore the senior community’s once glorious rose garden.

“This is a wonderful,” said Caroline Moody, 72, the Local Advisory Council president of the building. “I’ve received a lot of happy feedback from residents who look forward to enjoying the garden this summer and beyond.”

The building was once known in the Lakeview neighborhood for its sprawling rose garden, inviting landscaping and courtyard that is still frequently mistaken for a public park. The garden and landscaping is the newest upgrade to Hattie Callner, which has undergone rehabilitation under CHA’s Plan for Transformation in recent years.

As part of Team Depot, Home Depot’s volunteer program that engages with surrounding communities, 20 employees from across Chicago spent two days installing the garden. On the first day, volunteers performed mostly hard labor to prepare the soil for planting. On the second day, building residents joined the volunteers in planting the flowers and beautifying the grounds around the building.

“Home Depot’s core values center on giving back to the communities in which we do business,” said Gina Renzaglia, Home Depot’s project coordinator. “Volunteers are happy to donate their free time and resources to projects like this that benefit not only the seniors living at Hattie Callner, but also the neighborhood as a whole.”

The garden restoration project concluded Older Americans Month for CHA, who ran a month-long leasing and activity campaign including two open house celebrations.

During the campaign, CHA promoted its stock of fully rehabilitated senior units in handsome, well-maintained buildings in a variety of neighborhoods

throughout Chicago. Rent is guaranteed to be no more than 30 percent of the leaseholder's adjusted income.

Building common areas have been updated with new meeting, dining and laundry rooms, while updated kitchens and bathrooms, new floors and mechanical systems grace the rehabbed apartments.

For a limited time, seniors 62 or older still interested in an affordable housing community can call 1-866-NEW-CHA-1 or visit www.thecha.org/seniors for more information about lease incentives, including one month free rent.

“We are striving to provide multiple opportunities for seniors to tap into the benefits of Chicago's rich and rewarding quality of life,” said CHA Chief Executive Officer Lewis Jordan. “We are creating a better place for seniors to live.”

The Authority aims to provide seniors with an environment where they can spend their golden years with ample access to a variety of social services. Senior residents gain access to these services through CHA's blended management program which links seniors to programs offered by the different departments of the City of Chicago and community partners.

For more information about Hattie Callner Apartments or other senior services, contact Donna Dixon, Director of Senior Supportive Services, at (312) 913-7400.

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