

“Welcome home, friends!”

-- Is the first line of the Market View Apartments brochure for new residents. Tabor's permanent, supportive housing program for individuals and families who are homeless and disabled, Market View boasts 8 newly-renovated, full apartments. Market View participates with the Section 8 program, so residents pay only 30% of their income on rent. The program's focus is self-sufficiency through community building and residents must be employed or volunteer 20 hours per week.

Shirley and her 3 children, ages 8, 4 and 2, were at the Water Street Rescue Mission and then Clare House. In the Tabor Shelter To Independent Living (STIL) program she heard about Market View Apartments opening and, having numerous health problems that qualified her as disabled, she was accepted. Shirley reports, “The best thing about Market View is the support, especially Jen, if you have problems and need to talk. And the other residents help out, so you're not going through anything alone.”

Erica was pregnant and fleeing an abusive relationship. Staying at Transitional Living Center (TLC), and suffering from severe bi-polar disability, she was referred to the Market View Apartments. “I was very lucky to get the last apartment available,” she says. What she likes best is “all the good opportunities for different things to do each week. I thank God every day that I got into this place.” She adds, “I had a really difficult life. If somebody out there is thinking they can't make it – just keep trying. Keep seeking help until you find it. That's what I did.”

Ricardo, dealing with mental health issues and recovering from multiple addictions, reveals, “I am happy in this place, my frame of mind, my neighbors. I'm blessed – the people in my life are really concerned about me.” Ricardo moved to Market View from TLC and now volunteers at TLC.

Geraldine has rheumatoid arthritis and bi-polar disorder. Living alone, she cares for her grandchildren while their parents are at work. Coming from the mission, rehab and later Clare House, she exclaims Market View is “wonderful for me. I can't say enough about the apartment – everybody gets along. I love it.”

Residents credit Jen Frank, Market View Coordinator, with helping them by being supportive and listening to them. Jen and Tabor believe that the chronically homeless lack a feeling of community, making it difficult for them to maintain stability. As she explains, “Residents supporting each other and investing in the community helps to create a support system where there was none. The residents talk to each other, make food for each other – if one person is not doing well, they all rally around to help keep the person on track.” Unlike other supportive housing programs, where the kitchen is shared, each Market View Apartment has its own kitchen, and residents sign a lease like any other rental tenant.

Recently, 8 Market View residents (adults and children) joined Jen in the *Race Against Racism* for the YWCA, completing the 3.1 mile course together. Residents

suggest activities as well as participate and were involved in the East King Improvement spring beautification, planting flower boxes and pots for the outside of their buildings.

Individual case management, building community within Market View and connecting with the larger community of East King Street and Lancaster City is the program's 3 pronged approach to empowering once homeless persons with disabilities to live as active and contributing members of the community.