



## *...Ardmore Chooses Summit Housing...*

Several months ago we received communication from the Ardmore Foundation suggesting a possible arrangement of Summit Housing taking care of all their housing needs for their clients.... Maybe we should back up a little.

The Ardmore Foundation is a well respected, well established foundation in Summit County which exists for the sole purpose of **helping special needs adults in many ways... from housing suited to their special needs to..... well, really most any need of their clients.** Ardmore offers a continuum of residential services, from congregate and shared living homes to meeting with individuals, one on one, anywhere from once to several times per month. We have always had the utmost respect for the way the people at the Ardmore Foundation operate so we were thrilled to hear they were considering Summit Housing to take over the client housing they were currently doing themselves. In fact, the Ardmore Foundation has designed and built many of their properties so their clients would have the best possible housing and home life.

Becky Susany and Yvette Diaz, the Executive Directors of the Ardmore Foundation and Ardmore Inc., respectively, shared some insight as to why the decision. First of all, Summit Housing has lowered rents twice in the past several years, a move the Ardmore Foundation was not really in a position to do. Yvette has had a long standing relationship with Summit Housing and has had good experiences with the several homes they lease from Summit Housing. From the maintenance responses to the quality of work and upgrades to our homes, we operate much like the Ardmore Foundation did with their properties. With the economies of scale Summit Housing enjoys, they just felt the need to review why they were still doing the housing piece if there was a group out there who could do it well and had the maintenance and upgrade pieces down to a science. That began the communications between the Ardmore Foundation and Summit Housing.

Summit Housing and the Ardmore Foundation have come to an agreement and we have purchased all of Ardmore Inc.'s client homes in mid September. A move that will free the people at Ardmore to spend their time developing their many other service programs that will help their clients most.

With the respect and reputation that Ardmore has in Summit County, we are thrilled they have chosen to trust Summit Housing for this very important part of their clients needs. We do not take it lightly. We will not let them down.

Our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all the people at Ardmore who worked hard on this very important decision. You clearly are always thinking of what is best for your clients. Thank you for trusting Summit Housing and we welcome all the Ardmore tenants to the Summit Housing family!

by Stan Debro, SHDC Board Member

## *...A New Beginning for Another Ohio County...*

In our last newsletter, we told you about the home Summit Housing just purchased in Marietta, Ohio. Not unlike years gone by in Summit County, the residents are wrestling with the unknown. (A home with special needs adults in their neighborhood).

Everyone can understand having concerns about something we don't quite fully understand..... like a first interested young man for my oldest daughter or my oldest sons first time behind the wheel of the family car. Frightening at first, but we help them walk through each step until..... Suddenly they are driving all by themselves.....on the road.....where they should be! Or we unexpectedly find ourselves actually liking the young man my daughter is seeing (much to my surprise!).

We all have experienced the shock of something new before we are ready for it. Well, that is exactly how it works with a new county when Summit Housing comes in with their forward thinking and client friendly housing ideas for a new community.

We have had a few objections to our neighborhood project because of the unknown, but the Summit Housing team educates the community in the best way we can. Spending time in community meetings, city council, with the Law Director, helping to draft an exception to city codes, all to help them understand and achieve a positive outcome in the end. By the time we are finished, we have hopefully educated a new community and expedited a positive outcome for the city. This brings our clients a new and exciting level of family and neighborhood, and sense of community they would not otherwise achieve.

Just like the unproductive behavior your teenager exhibits from time to time, with a little direction and a small dose of trial and error, we have an accomplished driver and a renewed sense of accomplishment for everyone involved. As of the September 17th Council meeting, they had a unanimous vote to approve a reasonable accommodation to allow the clients to move into their home. We now hope to see a more educated and better equipped city, ready to go forward, raising the bar for the housing expectations for their special needs adults.

If anyone experiences difficulties in a neighborhood or town they are working with, feel free to call Tom Jacobs for ideas on how to educate the public and local governments so they can serve our clients a little better. You can reach Tom at 330.634.8722.

If you have a story about resistance you may have experienced in the past, or a positive outcome you would like to share, please let us know.

by Stan Debro, SHDC Board Member