Another way to support Twin Pines Housing Trust


It has been quite the year for Twin Pines! There have been some challenging and triumphant moments. Between the flooding of the brand new Rivermere Housing complex and the exciting news that the VT Supreme Court has ruled in our favor for the Grange Hill development, Twin Pines has continually embraced each moment and pushed forward. We are also excited to announce that we have 3 new homeowners in our homeownership portfolio and are hoping to continue to add more homeownership opportunities to our community through potential sites we are currently investigating to place Irene Cottages and energy efficient mobile homes.

On July 1st and 2nd, severe rainstorms caused the newly built Rivermere apartments to flood, less than one week after its ribbon cutting ceremony. 17 families and over 40 residents were displaced from their recently moved into homes. Many of their belongings were damaged and destroyed. Some of the units received extensive damage. Twin Pines Housing Trust worked with local agencies, non-profits and volunteers to find temporary housing for residents that were forced to evacuate. Having just moved in to brand new, affordable Twin Pines housing, their lives were unavoidably disrupted. Thanks to the work and donations of time, money or items, they were able to return to their homes far more quickly than any might have first imagined.

None of us will forget the chaos of the first few days, or the sense of common purpose and satisfaction of a job well done. The change from two feet of mud into cleaned, dry rooms stripped and ready for repair, all in a matter of days, was simply amazing!

I’m happy to report that we have completely reconstructed the apartment complex and are working with the City of Lebanon to complete surrounding site work to ensure the area has proper drainage systems installed (on the property and above) to prevent any future flooding incidents.

Luckily for Rivermere and Twin Pines both of the initial funders of the project (NH Housing Finance Authority and the NH Community Development Finance Authority) stepped up and provided a total of $420,000 of emergency funds. Between FEMA support and Twin Pines fundraising we expect to be able to cover the remainder of the costs. We hope you will attend the second ribbon cutting we will hold when this is all behind us and we can celebrate how strong communities are created by many caring individuals like you!
Through careful and thorough planning, TPHT is confident that the scope of work will address all capital needs. These units are often rented to very-low income households with portable rental assistance. With an investment of public funds, this major project will result in updated, renovated and energy-efficient buildings. We have also projected those items that will not last the full 20 years and have scheduled funding for their replacement.

Joel will be buying this model unit at the end of its demonstration period. Through a subsidy from the Vermont energy incentive program and through a generous discount provided by Real Goods Solar, Joel will be receiving a free PV solar system, which will essentially enable him to live cost-free for heating and electricity. That would be a savings of $200 each month in heating and electricity costs, which is currently how much he pays for his mobile home.

Joel counts being alive as a blessing and his family as a blessing. And now his new house will be a blessing.