



community development partnership

Creating opportunities for people to live, work, and thrive on the Lower Cape

Finding Community on the Outer Cape

“I feel like I fit here, my family loves to visit. I feel very fortunate to live on the Outer Cape.”

-Michael Anderson, CDP Resident, Eastham

At the Community Development Partnership (CDP), we believe everyone should have the opportunity to make a life on the Lower and Outer Cape. Unfortunately, the rising cost of housing and the lack of affordable and market-rate rentals have led to a major gap between those who want to live here and those who can afford to live here.

The CDP manages over 100 affordable and community housing units that provide safe, secure, and affordable housing for 188 people, including 54 children. One of our residents is Michael Anderson, who lives in Eastham.

Michael grew up in Western Massachusetts and has fond memories of visiting the Outer Cape with friends and family in his twenties. “Mostly we would camp out in Wellfleet or Truro, and occasionally, when we had the money, we would rent a room,” he recalls. Michael would return from time to time to the Outer Cape on business and in 2015, after spending two years living in Rhode Island, Michael knew he wanted to find a way to move to the Cape. “Rhode Island was nice, but it just wasn’t for me,” he recalls. Michael knew it was the right time to make the move. He was retiring but was not at the point in his life where he was looking for an active or assisted living facility, so he started searching for affordable housing on Cape Cod. He came across a few rentals before he learned about the CDP.

After connecting with the CDP’s Property Management department and filling out an application, he had the opportunity to tour multiple properties. He was able to move into one of the CDP’s rentals just off Brackett Road in Eastham. “It really was the perfect fit,” he says, “it’s in a nice neighborhood and there is a nice community of people here.”

Michael also likes the location of the apartment and the proximity to stores, the National Seashore, and the CDP offices. “Before the pandemic, it was nice to be able to go in and chat for a few minutes when I brought over my rent check,” he recalls.

Michael has involved himself in the community and become an amateur Cape Cod historian. He works and volunteers at the National Seashore, which gives him ample opportunity to learn more about the Cape. “I wish



The CDP managed apartment in Eastham

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they would have taught some of this stuff in school, I would have been more interested, or maybe I just appreciate it now that I'm older," he jokes.

Michael has now lived in Eastham for over seven years and has no plans to leave. "I feel like I fit here, my family loves to visit," he says, "I feel very fortunate to live on the Outer Cape." The CDP is proud to be able to help residents like Michael live on the Outer Cape.

Providing affordable and community housing rentals is just one strategy that the CDP uses to address the housing crisis on the Lower and Outer Cape. To learn about all our housing programs, go to <https://capecdp.org/affordable-housing>.