



## community development partnership

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

### Harbor Hill Allows Local Pastry Chef to Stay in Town

**"If it wasn't for Harbor Hill, then I probably would have had to leave Provincetown."**

*—Laura Pessolano, Harbor Hill*

Laura Pessolano was living in Portland, Oregon working as a pastry chef for a small cruise line when she, like many others, became unemployed due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. In searching for a new position, she came across an opening at the Blue Monkey Café, a newly opened restaurant in Provincetown, MA. After meeting with the owners, they all knew she was a perfect fit and Laura was hired as their Executive Pastry Chef. Laura began planning her move in the fall of 2020. "Growing up in western Massachusetts, I would visit with friends and family," she recalls, "I was really excited to move back to a small town." Now, she needed to find a place to live.



When Laura arrived in Provincetown, she found a short-term rental for the winter, and moved into another apartment during summer. Skyrocketing housing costs and a lack of year-round rental units makes it increasingly difficult for workers to live on the Lower and Outer Cape but Laura was eager to find a year-round home. Laura, a homebody, found this housing insecurity difficult. "My home is very important to me, and it is hard to relax when you don't know where you will be able to stay," she says. Despite her housing challenges, she quickly fell in love with the café and Provincetown, and knew she wanted to stay.

In 2017, the Town of Provincetown's Year-Round Market Rate Rental Trust acquired Harbor Hill, a defunct time-share complex, and converted the 28 units into year-round market-rate rentals managed by the Community Development Partnership (CDP). Harbor Hill was perfect for people who make too much money for traditional affordable housing but are still unable to find a place to live.

Laura first learned about Harbor Hill from her employer and applied in January 2021, but there was an extensive waitlist. Fortunately, that September, right before Laura had to move out of her current apartment, a unit became available. "If it wasn't for Harbor Hill, I probably would have had to leave Provincetown." Laura had secured a year-round rental, but still faced challenges. She was worried whether she could afford the rent. Laura addressed her concerns to the owners of the café, and they reassured her that they were committed to helping her stay in Provincetown and at her job. "They have been very involved in helping all of their employees find housing," she notes.

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Laura is thankful she can remain in Provincetown. Despite living here for less than two years, she feels like a part of the community. “I’ve met so many great people,” she says, “I get up every day and step out on to my deck and feel so blessed to be here.”

The CDP is committed to making sure people like Laura can afford to live, work, and thrive on the Lower and Outer Cape. Across the region over 200 community members live in our affordable and market-rate rentals. To learn more about our affordable housing rentals and our advocacy work in the community, visit <https://capecdp.org/affordable-housing>.