

Dear Friends,

Over the years you've received lots of newsletters from Interfaith-RISE, and you may have heard of the programs Accompany Now (for unaccompanied minors) and Still Waters (for victims of trafficking), or been aware of programs serving re-entry clients and asylum-seekers. You may, too, have occasionally heard about a new affordable home for homeless NJ families having a grand opening in and around the Central Jersey area—and you heard it was somehow connected to the Reformed Church of Highland Park.

There is a non-profit that serves as a very large umbrella for many of the good things you hear about. **RCHP-Affordable Housing Corporation (RCHP-AHC) was born from an idea planted by a church member at the Reformed Church of Highland Park to consider coming up with housing solutions for foster youth who 'aged out' of the system.** The church's generous sharing of its building, and the fact that I, as one of the pastors, have led this effort—first as board president and now as CEO—has kept the connection strong between the church and non-profit.

We started with a goal of building 6 apartments. Now, we own and operate 26 buildings in 7 towns and we lease/sublease 230 apartments in 15 counties. Our housing program alone serves north of 2,000 people with permanent housing with proper supports.

RCHP-AHC is a totally separate non-profit from RCHP, but the roots of AHC run deep in a tradition that believes that all of the earth belongs to the Almighty, and our job is to be stewards in such a way that the good gifts of the world are distributed and shared with all. We want all people to access the things that create the base for beautiful, healthy lives.



At this moment in its life, RCHP-AHC is very large. 200 staff are engaged in serving a caseload of over 4500 people a year.

2500 of those clients and 100 of our staff are refugees or humanitarian parolees, coming through the state department, or crossing a border and being given eligibility to receive our services. Our clients come from Syria, Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of

Congo, Venezuela, Guatemala, El Salvador, Haiti, Ukraine, Chad...just to name a few of the locations.

1200 of those clients (and next year it will be more like 1750) are youth who crossed the border alone and are therefore classified as "unaccompanied minors. 40 staff (and it will soon be 50 staff) work on serving this population. Most are from Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador.

75 clients are victims of trafficking, with the vast majority being victims of labor trafficking. A team of 5 provides them with housing services and/or personalized services to meet their needs while they await legal adjustment on account of trafficking.



350 clients are asylum-seeking families, having come across the border with permission but with no access to traditional funding from the Office of Refugee Resettlement. A team of 3 mightily try to serve this group.

300 are very low-income long-time NJ residents, who now live in 26 homes that we own with reduced rents and/or voucher

subsidies. A team of 4 oversees the development and client needs of these populations.

100 others are re-entry clients, served by a team of 4. We place people in housing where they want to live, and we support them with rent and resources and links to other helpful groups.

100 others are clients who have been referred, overtime, from partner agencies, and we've found we can house them.

All of the clients mentioned above benefit from community health workers and nurses, lawyers, legal aids, a maintenance and housing set-up/donations collection team, volunteer assistants, a warehouse, an ELL program, an Employment program, Career Development Program, Health Program, Seniors Program, Youth Mentoring Program, a federal cash distribution program for refugees/asylees, a farm, a woodshop, a store and a restaurant, and, of course, basic case management.

We have offices in Vineland, Trenton, Hamilton, Neptune, Jersey City, New Brunswick and Highland Park.

I share this information just to give readers a sense of the size and scope of what is going on...but how RCHP-AHC matters to NJ is best seen through the personal stories of transformation.

We hope, once a quarter, to share a newsletter that tells stories. We hope you'll find, in reading these stories, encouragement and a call to volunteerism and participation.

Peace to you,

Rev. Seth Kaper-Dale
CEO, RCHP-AHC