

About Council Gardens

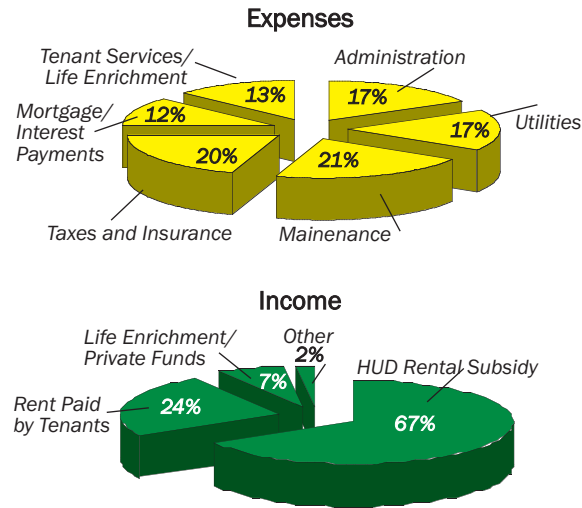
A Non-Profit/ Government Partnership Providing Quality Rental Units and Life Enrichment Programming for Senior Adults.

Since our founding in 1962 by the National Council of Jewish Women, Cleveland Section, Council Gardens has provided senior adults with the opportunity to maintain their independence. As a partner with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Council Gardens receives operating subsidies that allow quality housing at an affordable cost. Rentals are available for low and moderate income households in which at least one member is 62 years old. The income limit this year for a one person household is \$36,300; the income limit for a two person household is \$41,500.

Council Gardens features country living in the city. Our 122 apartment units located in one mid-rise and eight garden buildings are surrounded by manicured lawns and hedges, flower and vegetable gardens, patios, trees, a pet play area, and a fruit orchard. All buildings are connected by breezeways alive with plants year round. Adjacent to our 7.5 acre property in Cleveland Heights is a newly developed townhouse community.

The Council Gardens Urban Farm and resident gardening programs are in full bloom this year.

Through a collaborative effort of the residents and staff, we have developed a shared harvest project of organic fruit and vegetables grown by and for the residents.



Board Chair & Executive Director's Report

Council Gardens 2008-2009 fiscal year was one of both holding steady through difficult economic times, and of steadily advancing in programming areas.

While the Council Gardens Endowment Fund and the Friends Campaign showed a decline this year, we were able to secure support from private foundations that allowed us to expand our Life Enrichment Programs. Additionally, Council Gardens has become fluent in conservation. We invested in facility improvements to increase energy efficiency and decrease energy costs. Water saving devices have been put in all toilets, sinks, and bathtubs. New windows have been put in the Garden buildings. New boilers were installed in the administration building and high efficiency boilers and hot water tanks were installed in one of the four garden boiler rooms. Other conservation initiatives include recycling, use of rain barrels, and energy efficient lighting throughout the complex. Future plans include additional new boilers and hot water tanks, greenhouse windows, and new windows in the breezeways. Finally, efforts continue to refinance Council Gardens in order to obtain funds for overall property rehabilitation, and for support of our ongoing programming.

Aaron Bulloff, Chair, Board of Trustees
Barbara Mervine, Executive Director

Life Enrichment Activities

While government subsidies provide Council Gardens' core-operating support, private funds, raised through our Friends Campaign and through foundation grants, subsidize Social Events, Holiday Celebrations, Travel Experiences, Educational and Cultural Events on site and off, and Extensive Gardening Opportunities. Representatives from the board, the staff, and the tenants' association design and implement Life Enrichment and gardening programs.



Support for 2008-2009

Life Enrichment Programs came from:

Contributions to our Friends Campaign

National Council of Jewish Women,
Cleveland Section

The Madav IX Foundation

The Mt. Sinai Foundation

The McGregor Foundation

Council Gardens Staff

Barbara Mervine *Executive Director*
Renee Silversmith *Director of Social Services*
Jacqueline Feldman *Director of Development
and Community Relations*
Lois Cohen *Business Coordinator*
Reginald McKissick *Director of Maintenance*
Brian Ross *Assistant Director of Maintenance*
Eugene Temkin *Maintenance Technician*
Tanja Stewart *Housekeeping/ Maintenance*

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David Gross *Vice Chair*
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Gretta Ryan *Secretary*

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2008-2009 Annual Report



How do you begin?

The best way to begin your new life at Council Gardens is to call us at 216-382-8625. TTY 711 relay services for deaf/hard of hearing. We'll be happy to set up a time for you to stop by and see for yourself everything that Council Gardens has to offer.

You can also visit us online at
www.councilgardens.org



Council Gardens
A Tradition of
Independent Living for Older Adults