



## **Council Gardens Annual Update June 2011**

### **From the Board Chair - Debbie Hoffmann**

I just completed my first year as Chair of the Board of Directors of Council Gardens. Council Gardens is an incredible place to live. Our tenants live independently, while enjoying holiday celebrations, educational and cultural experiences and extensive gardening opportunities. Visit Council Gardens and you might see tenants exercising, learning English as a second language, watching a movie or working in the gardens. Talk to our tenants and hear why they love living at Council Gardens. Once you visit you'll be a fan, just like me.

I want to congratulate our entire staff for a fantastic year. Executive Director Barbara Mervine and the staff have worked tirelessly to complete the Green Retrofit Grant on schedule so that Council Gardens will benefit from additional funds.

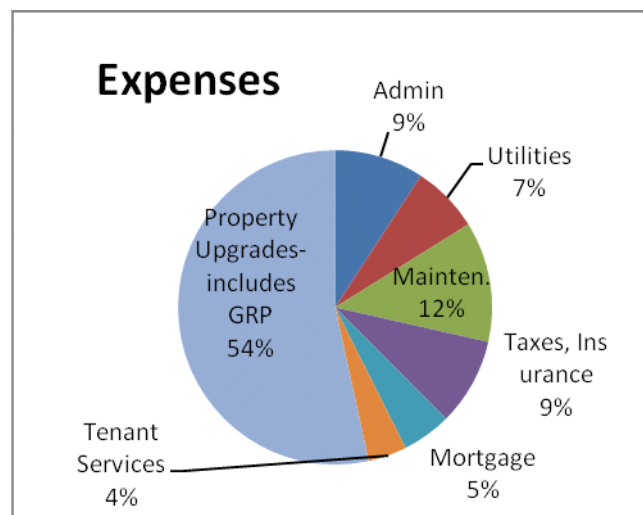
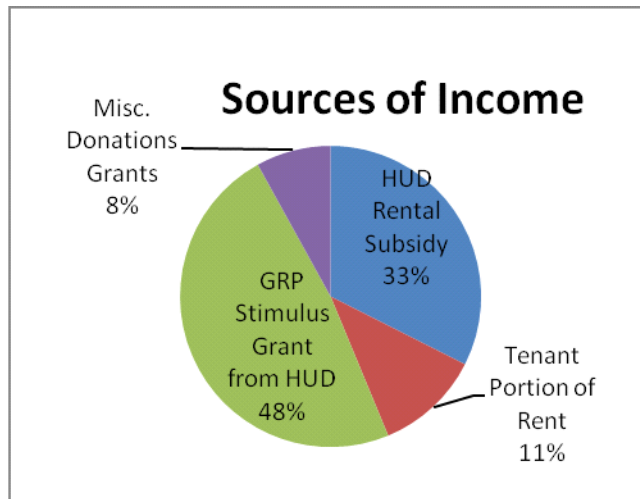
I also want to thank the 2010-2011 Board for being such an integral part of Council Gardens. Their participation and financial support are essential to ensure that Council Gardens continues to be "the place to live" for those who want to remain active, have fun, and laugh and learn.

### **About Council Gardens**

Since our founding in 1962 by the National Council of Jewish Women, Cleveland Section, Council Gardens has provided senior adults with quality housing and life enrichment programming. 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 and for mobility impaired adults under 62. For 2011 the income limit 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, benches, a pet play area, and a fruit orchard. All buildings are connected by glass-enclosed breezeways alive with plants year round. Adjacent to our 7.5 acre property in Cleveland Heights is a newly developed townhouse community and the Cleveland Heights fire station.

Council Gardens' urban farm and resident gardening programs are in full bloom again this year. Through a collaborative effort of the residents and staff, we have developed a shared harvest project of organic fruit, vegetables, and berries grown by and for the residents. Gardens are blooming inside as well as outside with garden murals decorating our walls.



## Green Retrofit Program Grant - Completed

Council Gardens is exceptionally pleased to announce the completion of our \$1.8 million *face-lift* funded by Stimulus Dollars through HUD's Green Retrofit Program. These funds allowed us to update our buildings using environmentally friendly *green* materials and to replace usable but older equipment in order to save energy. Specifically, we replaced the midrise roof and air handler; entrance doors; hallway and breezeway flooring; unit kitchens; older refrigerators and air conditioners; interior light fixtures in the corridors, garages, units, and breezeways; exterior light fixtures; boilers, hot water tanks, heating tubes, and thermostats in the garden buildings; windows in the midrise units and in the breezeways; and toilets and vanities.

With grant funds we purchased recycling containers for each unit and began a large scale recycling program complete with staff and tenant training. We instituted Integrated Pest Management (IPM), an environmentally sensitive approach to pest management, that significantly reduces the use of pesticides while at the same time manages pest populations at an acceptable level. We changed our cleaning products and now have five stations throughout the complex that distribute only *green* products.

Council Gardens – green inside and out with new equipment, products, procedures, organic gardens, and landscapes on the walls. Come see for yourself.

## 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 garden programs.

## Support for Life Enrichment Programs

Contributions to our Friends Campaign  
National Council of Jewish Women, Cleveland Section  
The Mt. Sinai Foundation  
JFC Family Foundations

## Council Gardens Staff

Barbara Mervine, Executive Director  
Stephanie Berkowitz, Social Services Coordinator  
Marina Markovich, Bi-lingual Coordinator  
Jacqueline Feldman, Director of Development/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  
Spencer Caress, *Green* Coordinator

## 2010-2011 Board of Trustees

Debbie Hoffmann – Chair	Shirley Frankel
Gretta Ryan – Vice Chair	Marilyn Goldfein
Becky Chesler – Vice Chair	Bernice Harel
Aurelia Pelsmajer – Treasurer	Michele Kaminsky
David Gross – Assis. Treasurer	Bell Likover
Sally Leon – Secretary	Julio Pelsmajer
Aaron Bulloff – Past Chair	Maude Shafron
Janet Aach	Louise Sternberg
Mike Armin	Lewis Sternberg
Arnie Berger	Tom Turner
Barbara Epstein	Hyla Winston
Ilya Farber	Chaya Wolf

## Mission Statement

*The mission of Council Gardens is to provide high quality affordable housing and a full array of supportive and life enrichment services, so that our low to moderate income elderly residents are able to age in place in the community with comfort, dignity and a strong sense of personal worth.*

