

# Historic Carriage Factory Transformed Into Affordable Housing

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Published 12/04 2014 06:38PM Updated 12/05 2014 06:23PM



Sally Kohen and Sarah Youngblood were desperate for a change.

"We've been through one bad apartment to the next," said Sarah, who is Sally's daughter.

Rats and poor maintenance were just two of a long list of issues. Sally's wheelchair only made it harder, as she couldn't get around the apartment without her daughter, but all of that has changed thanks to Carriage Factory Apartments. What used to be a historical landmark from the 1900's, eventually became a dump, and a biohazard.

That is until non-profits and government groups partnered to revamp it.

"I think this is so important to the neighborhood," said DePaul President Mark Fuller. "It was a revitalization of a key component. You know it was an environmentally disastrous area. The building was falling down."

Now it's a 71 unit modern affordable housing building. "It's safe and it's clean, and the apartments, you don't feel like you're living in some low-income place," Sally said.

More than half of Rochester renters spend over 30 percent of their income on rent. That means residents often face tough choices on things as simple as laundry.

"Six dollars for a load of laundry, when you're living on, just barely over what your rent was, how are you supposed to do that?" Sally inquired.

But at the new Carriage Factory Apartments, all the rules are different. Because residents are on a budget, free amenities like WiFi and laundry help them focus on what matters most.

"The security guards, they come out, they get me and they take me up to my room, and they come out and get me when I have to go and get Sarah from work," Sally said.

They will also have on-site mental health and social services, permanent staff from DePaul and other non-profits, to give residents full-time support.

Sally says all of this investment in affordable housing, sends a clear message to families in need. "That we matter. That we don't have to live in rat-infested dumps."

It's transformation they can see - and feel.

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