

Senior Matters

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 - ▶ Executive Cert. In Home Modification - U.C.Davis
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Cleveland, Ohio



▶ We're way cooler than
you think

Housing focused

- In existence for over 45 years
- Very diverse community
- Funding
 - ▶ City
 - ▶ Foundations
 - ▶ Grants
 - ▶ Donors

Patterns Emerged

- **Many of the victims hardest hit by the housing crisis, were seniors**
 - ▶ Uptick in Financial Housing Counseling
 - ▶ Foreclosure counseling
 - ▶ As the crisis subsided...

Code Enforcement



- ▶ Deferred Maintenance

- ▶ Housing court

- ▶ Unsafe conditions and injury

- ▶ Many seniors falling through the cracks

The desire to age in place

- ▶ All seniors desire to age in place
- ▶ Older homes not designed for aging in place
- ▶ Limited understanding of what aging in place is
- ▶ Limited options, limited space
- ▶ Cost of out of home care is growing exponentially

What did we do?

- Senior repair program
- Senior home assessments
- Grant programs
 - FHLB
 - City Home maintenance grants
 - CDBG
 - VA/Medicaid
- Loan programs
- Housing court liaison
- Events

Why do it?

- ▶ Selfish reasons
- ▶ Sustainability
- ▶ Seniors need a hand not a handout
- ▶ Support the city's efforts
- ▶ Everyone has to live somewhere
- ▶ Anchors

Anchors

- ▶ Weight
- ▶ Albatross Very negative connotation
- ▶ A new approach to looking at that problem
- ▶ Holding it down
- ▶ Stabilizing factor
- ▶ Anchoring what?

Tricks to dealing with seniors

- ▶ Cookies
- ▶ Trust
- ▶ Acknowledge the person not the status
- ▶ Patience
- ▶ Family Involvement

Barriers to dealing with seniors

- ▶ Trust
- ▶ Embarrassment
- ▶ Family Involvement
- ▶ Pride

A seniors perspective

- ▶ Seniors place more trust into institutions
- ▶ “You owe me!”

The city's perspective

- ▶ My houses
- ▶ Constant struggle to attract new working residents to the tax base.
- ▶ Those that need the most pay the least

An investment in the future

- Maintaining the housing stock
- Keeping the city vibrant
- People will always get older