

# NEWS TO FRIENDS OF Accessible Space, Inc.



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*From left: Jackie Ingram, Community Outreach Officer, Wells Fargo; Guy Purnell, Resident; Commissioner Marilyn Kirkpatrick, District B, Clark County, Nevada; Dan Billmark, ASI's Director of Real Estate Development; Cindy Williams, Vice President, Idaho Nevada CFDI; Sharath Chandra, Deputy Administrator, Nevada Housing Division; and Mike Pawlak, Director, Clark County Social Service*

## BONNIE LANE APARTMENTS OPEN HOUSE AND DEDICATION CEREMONY

**PLEASE sign-up for our e-mail newsletter by going to [www.accessiblespace.org](http://www.accessiblespace.org) and clicking on "join our e-mail list" at the top of the screen.**

The mission of **ACCESSIBLE SPACE, INC. (ASI)** is to provide accessible, affordable, assisted/supportive and independent living opportunities for persons with physical disabilities and/or brain injuries, as well as seniors.

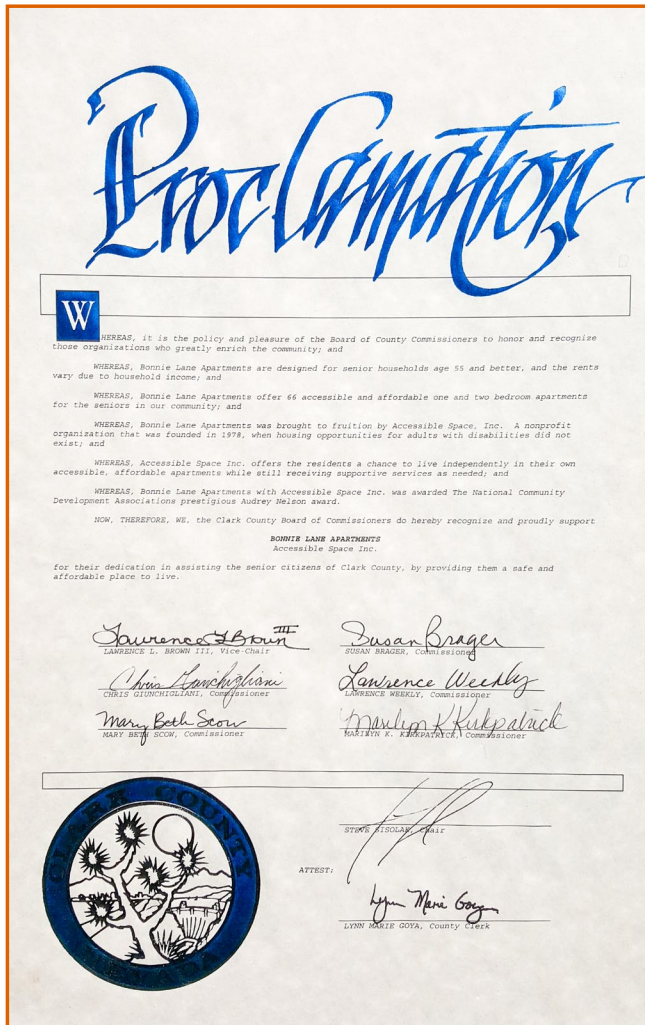
**"Housing with Care"®**

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On April 1, 2016 an Open House and Dedication Ceremony was held at **Bonnie Lane Apartments** in **Las Vegas, Nevada**. This 66 unit accessible, affordable apartment building was completed on June 23, 2015.

Ken Berry, Accessible Space, Inc.'s (ASI) Director of Property Management, served as Master of Ceremonies. Ken welcomed guest speakers Jackie Ingram, Community Outreach Officer at Wells Fargo; Guy Purnell, Resident of Bonnie Lane Apartments; Commissioner Marilyn Kirkpatrick, District B, Clark



County, Nevada; Cindy Williams, Vice President, Idaho Nevada CDFI; Sharath Chandra, Deputy Administrator, Nevada Housing Division; and Dan Billmark, ASI's Director of Real Estate Development.

During the ceremony Dan Billmark displayed the National Community Development Association's (NCD) Audrey Nelson Award presented to Bonnie Lane Apartments. Commissioner Kirkpatrick also presented a Clark County Proclamation for Bonnie Lane Apartments to Dan Billmark.

Following the ceremony refreshments were served and building tours were given.

Bonnie Lane Apartments began construction on April 23, 2014. Bonnie Lane Apartments received Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) from the Nevada Housing Division. Bonnie Lane Apartments is an independent living senior housing community for adults 55 and older including the frail elderly with physical disabilities. Of the total 66 units, 14 resident units are fully wheelchair accessible.

ASI would like to thank Clark County Community Resources Management for their commitment of HOME Program funds; the Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco's Affordable Housing Program with assistance from Mississippi Valley Life Insurance/U.S. Bank and Wells Fargo; and the Nevada Housing Division. A special thank you is also extended to our LIHTC consultants, Eric Novak and Dr. Hilary Lopez of Praxis Consulting Group, LLC.

Ten percent of Bonnie Lane Apartment's electrical consumption is offset through photo voltaic solar cells installed on carport rooftops.



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Bonnie Lane Apartments is located on the west side of Bonnie Lane and across the street from the Bob Price Community Center and the Cora Coleman Senior Center. The site is on East Lake Mead Boulevard with access to transportation on this major street. In addition, Bonnie Lane Apartments is near social services, shopping, pharmacies, restaurants, banks, churches and a library. Bonnie Lane Apartments includes a solar system that provides approximately 10% of the total energy demand for all common areas of the building.

Bonnie Lane Apartments joins 18 other accessible, affordable ASI buildings in the Las Vegas Metropolitan Area in addition to The Loux Center which is home to ASI's Nevada Community Enrichment Program (NCEP).

## BONNIE LANE APARTMENTS RECEIVES NCDA AUDREY NELSON AWARD

Clark County, Nevada, ASI's longstanding development partner, received the prestigious National Community Development Association's (NCDA) Audrey Nelson Award for Bonnie Lane Apartments in Las Vegas, Nevada. A video was created by Jacob LaRow, Clark County Nevada's Grant Coordinator, highlighting Bonnie Lane Apartments. The video was used as part of the acceptance presentation in Washington, D.C. on February 2, 2016. The video can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0v8TIP5oH8&feature=youtu.be>

Audrey Nelson, the first Deputy Executive Secretary of the NCDA, grew up in an inner city Chicago neighborhood, a target for the Local Model Cities Program. According to the NCDA website, "her intense commitment to her neighborhood, her local program efforts, and her drive to serve low-income people" is the reason the award carries her namesake. The Audrey Nelson award honors communities that "exemplify outstanding achievement in service to neighborhoods and their lower-income residents

through their innovative and exemplary use of CDBG and HOME funds."

ASI's Bonnie Lane Apartments, a 66 unit affordable apartment community, is now fully occupied, and one resident, Guy Purnell, who's featured in the video, is extremely happy about his new home. "The staff go above and beyond to make sure that we are comfortable," said Mr. Purnell. Not only does Bonnie Lane Apartments have great staff, as Mr. Purnell notes, it's also in an ideal location. Bonnie Lane Apartments is across the street from the Cora Coleman Senior Center and Bob Price Community Center, and is also connected to walking trails. The building includes 14 wheelchair accessible apartments with wheel-in showers, touch-activated faucets, power-assist entry doors and other adaptive features to meet the needs of adults or seniors who may use a wheelchair. There are full-size shuffle board courts outside, an exercise room, computer lab and an accessible community room with an entertainment center and kitchen for residents to enjoy. In an effort to improve energy efficiency, 10 percent of Bonnie Lane Apartment's electrical consumption is offset through photo voltaic solar cells installed on carport rooftops.





Those attending the check presentation were (from left): Denise Kunz, ASI's Regional Housing Representative; Dawn LaBonte, Community Affairs Manager, Wells Fargo; Emerlinda Castillejo, Vice President of Community Affairs, Wells Fargo; Kirk Clausen, Regional President, Wells Fargo; Shelle Sponseller, ASI's Nevada Supportive Housing Services Administrator; Dora Jacobson-Bauer, ASI's Housing Portfolio Administrator; Darius Toston, Regional Diverse Segments Manager, Wells Fargo. Photographer: Kristina Palmer, ASI's Assistant Site Supervisor.

## CHECK PRESENTATION HELD FOR PATRIOT PLACE IN LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

In September 2015 Accessible Space, Inc. (ASI) was awarded \$55,000 in funding from the Wells Fargo Housing Foundation's (WFHF) Priority Markets Grant (PMG). This WFHF grant was awarded for enhanced features at Patriot Place (ASI Veterans Supportive Housing) in Las Vegas, Nevada which broke ground on May 25, 2016. The grant application was submitted on April 30, 2015 prior to the submission and subsequent award of Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) funds for the development.

ASI staff worked with Nancy Hamilton, Vice President/Community Development Officer for Nevada Community Relations, Wells Fargo Bank on the PMG application. Ms. Hamilton recommended the grant to the WFHF; Ms. Hamilton has been a huge advocate of ASI and has supported funding efforts like this for over fifteen years. On February 23, 2016 Accessible Space, Inc. (ASI) officially received the

\$55,000 check from Wells Fargo Grant for Patriot Place, and celebrated with a short ceremony. Pictured above are those who were in attendance.

Patriot Place will be a 50 unit (including one manager unit) LIHTC-funded, accessible, affordable and supportive housing community for homeless veterans and veterans with disabilities. It will be located on the west side of Pecos Road just south of Flamingo Road in unincorporated Clark County, Nevada (Las Vegas). The wood frame, three story apartment community will include 41 one-bedroom and 9 two-bedroom units with washers and dryers in each unit.

## SAVE THE DATE

### 6th Annual Mission Support Luncheon

Wednesday, September 28, 2016  
from Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Town and Country Club  
300 Mississippi River Blvd. N.,  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55104

## THE HARRY & JEANETTE WEINBERG HALE KUHA'O OPEN HOUSE AND REDEDICATION

On February 25, 2016 an Open House and Rededication Ceremony was held at The Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Hale Kuha'o (Hale Kuha'o) in Waipahu, Hawaii.

Roxanne Bolden, ASI's Hale Kuha'o Site Liaison, served as Master of Ceremonies. A traditional Hawaiian blessing was given by Kumu Hinaleimoana Wong-Kalu. Barbara Yamashita, Deputy Director, City and County of Honolulu, Department of Community Services spoke on behalf of the Mayor. Ann Yoshida, former Independent Living Waipahu (ILW), Inc. Board of Directors President spoke next (ILW is the legal entity for Hale Kuha'o). Stephen Vander Schaaf, ASI's President/CEO spoke and introduced Nestor Garcia, former ILW, Inc. Board of Directors' Treasurer.

Also in attendance were Thomas Lum, Aloha Independent Living Hawaii (AILH) employee; Marisa Olmeda-Macias, ASI's Regional Housing Manager; Dan Billmark, ASI's Director of Real Estate Development; and many building residents and guests.

Hale Kuha'o is a 24 unit accessible, affordable apartment building which opened in 2000. In 2012 Hale Kuha'o was awarded funds from the City and County of Honolulu for plumbing renovations and repair to the bathrooms. The first stage of renovations began in May 2014 and were completed in June 2015. The plumbing renovations were completed two to five units at a time so as not to displace too many residents.

Hale Kuha'o received a substantial award from The Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Foundation to conclude the first phase of improvements and implement the second phase which consisted of the installation of a replacement emergency call system/alert alarm for resident safety; installation of automatic door openers; replacement of resident air conditioning units; and painting/decorating in the common areas.



*Ann Yoshida, former ILW, Inc. Board of Directors President*



*Nestor Garcia, former ILW, Inc. Board of Directors' Treasurer*



*Stephen Vander Schaaf, ASI's President/CEO*



*A traditional Hawaiian blessing was given by Kumu Hinaleimoana Wong-Kalu.*

## ASI NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Since the Fall 2015 issue of **News to Friends of Accessible Space, Inc.**, one 100% accessible, affordable building is nearing completion in Great Falls, Montana and another ASI development is recently under construction in Las Vegas, Nevada.

**Voyageur Apartments** is scheduled to complete construction on June 15, 2016. Voyageur Apartments joins three other ASI buildings in Great Falls, Montana: The Portage, Southwinds Estates and Meadowlark Apartments.

Voyageur Apartments received LIHTC funds from the Montana Division of Housing. Voyageur Apartments is an independent living senior housing community for adults 55 and older. Of the total 38 units, eight (8) resident units have been designed to be fully wheelchair accessible.

ASI would like to thank the City of Great Falls for their commitment of HOME Program funds; the Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago's Affordable Housing Program with assistance from Bremer Bank and Banker's Bank; and the Montana Division of Housing. A special thank you is also extended to our LIHTC consultants, Eileen Piekarz of Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC); and Eric Novak and Dr. Hilary Lopez of Praxis Consulting Group, LLC.

Voyageur Apartments is located on the west side of Division Road, north of 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW in Great Falls, Montana. The site is located less than 60 yards north of Great Falls Medical Clinic Northwest, and is adjacent to ASI's Meadowlark Apartments on the west. ASI currently has a total of 11 accessible, affordable ASI buildings in Montana.

On May 25, 2016 **Patriot Place (ASI Veterans Supportive Housing Development)** in **Las Vegas, Nevada** began construction. Patriot Place was awarded Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) from the Nevada Division of Housing. Patriot Place is a 50 unit accessible, affordable rental development for veterans, homeless veterans and veterans with physical disabilities. Of the total 50 units, 25 (50%) resident units have been designed to be fully wheelchair accessible.

Patriot Place will give preference for all of the units to qualifying veterans households. In addition 20% of the units are designated for homeless veterans.

Accessible Space, Inc. (ASI) would like to thank Clark County Community Resources Management for their commitment of HOME Program funds; the Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco's Affordable Housing Program with assistance from Wells Fargo; Wells Fargo Housing Foundation's Priority Markets Grant; and the Nevada Housing Division. A special thank you is also extended to our LIHTC consultants, Eric Novak and Dr. Hilary Lopez of Praxis Consulting Group, LLC.

Patriot Place will be located at 4245 S. Pecos Road, Las Vegas, Nevada (just south of Flamingo Road). The

*Voyageur Apartments is scheduled to complete construction on June 15, 2016. Voyageur Apartments joins three other ASI buildings in Great Falls, Montana: The Portage, Southwinds Estates and Meadowlark Apartments.*



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site will be near social services, shopping, pharmacies, restaurants, banks, churches and a library.

In October 2015 the Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority (SNRHA) Board of Commissioners unanimously approved 13 VASH (Veteran's Administration Supportive Housing) Vouchers and 36 Section 8 Project-Based Housing Choice Vouchers. The award of these vouchers will greatly assist Patriot Place's low and very low-income residents by providing needed rental assistance.

Patriot Place joins 18 other accessible, affordable ASI buildings in the Las Vegas Metropolitan Area in addition to The Loux Center which is home of ASI's Nevada Community Enrichment Program (NCEP).

The opening of Patriot Place is projected to be in late July 2017.

**Anyone interested in receiving information on ASI's newest developments should contact ASI's Property Management Department at (800) 466-7722. Your call will be directed to the appropriate Property Manager.**

In 2012 **Ovation Development Corporation of Las Vegas, Nevada** requested ASI serve as the nonprofit partner for four of its developments.

**Tempo Senior Apartments** (Russell Senior Apartments Phase I) at the intersection of Russell Avenue and Hollywood Boulevard in Las Vegas opened on April 14, 2014. Tempo Senior Apartments has 101 one- and two-bedroom units.

**Ensemble Senior Apartments** (Agate Avenue Apartments Phase I) at the intersection of West Agate Avenue near South Las Vegas Blvd. in Las Vegas began construction on February 18, 2014. This first phase has 182 one- and two-bedroom units. Ensemble Senior Apartments completed construction on June 15, 2015.

**Tempo Senior Duet Apartments** (Russell Senior Apartments Phase II) began construction on April 6, 2015. This second phase will have 75 one- and two-bedroom units of affordable housing for seniors age 55 and better. Tempo Duet Senior Apartments received Clark County HOME Program funds and was awarded Nevada LIHTC funds. Tempo Senior Duet Apartments opened on March 21, 2016.

**Ensemble Senior Duet Apartments** (Agate Avenue Apartments Phase II) will have 195 one- and two-bedroom units of affordable housing for seniors age 55 and better. Ensemble Senior Duet Apartments received funding from Nevada in 4% Bond funds; Clark County HOME Program funds; and Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco Affordable Housing Program funds with the assistance of Bank of America. Construction began on May 25, 2015 and Ensemble Senior Duet Apartments is scheduled for completion in June 2016.

**If you are interested in receiving information on these Ovation developments please contact Ovation Development Property Management at (702) 904-1756 (Ensemble Senior and Ensemble Senior Duet Apartments) or (702) 990-2771 (Tempo Senior and Tempo Senior Duet Apartments).**

*Tempo Senior Duet Apartments (Russell Senior Apartments Phase II)*



To apply for housing online, click on the housing link at the top of this page: <http://www.accessiblespace.org/>

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS TO ASI BUILDINGS

Accessible Space, Inc. (ASI) staff has been busy with rehabilitation and energy upgrade projects over the past six months. Improvements to these existing ASI properties helps prolong the life of these HUD subsidized, accessible, affordable apartment buildings.

Renovations to **Casa Norte in Las Vegas, Nevada** were completed on April 27, 2016. The project began on October 16, 2015. The building's capital improvements were fully funded by Clark County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. Improvements include rehabilitation and a building addition that accommodates a new office and three new residential units; replacement of aging and code deficient mechanical and electrical systems; a bathroom rehabilitation and expansion; new energy efficient windows; and a wheelchair accessible sidewalk from rear exit to the front drive. The office was removed from the existing living room; previously combined resident units were expanded back to their original single resident use size; common use



*Renovations at The Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Hale Kuha'o included new paint in the community room (above) and extensive plumbing repair in the resident bathrooms.*

areas regained wheelchair accessible circulation; and an existing resident unit was converted back to its previous recreation/common use purpose. The capital improvements also improved the overall energy efficiency of the building.

This Spring **Quarry Heights Apartments in St. Cloud, Minnesota** began renovations to maintain this 22 year old, 24 unit accessible, affordable building. In Spring 2015 the front of the building was re-sided. The remaining capital improvements include siding replacement; a new roof; painting of fascia and soffits; parking lot resurfacing; a replacement card reader for the main entrance; and an automatic door opener for the laundry room. These improvements are being funded primarily through donations from the Otto Bremer Trust and the Wiggins Foundation.

**The Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Hale Kuha'o in Waipahu, Hawaii** is a 24 unit accessible, affordable apartment building which opened in 2000. Hale Kuha'o was awarded funds from the City and County of Honolulu for plumbing renovations and repair to the bathrooms. The first stage of renovations began in May 2014 and were completed in June 2015. Plumbing renovations were completed two to five units at a time so as not to displace too many residents. Hale Kuha'o received a substantial award from The Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Foundation to implement the second phase of improvements which consisted of the installation of a replacement emergency call system/alert alarm for resident safety; installation of automatic door openers; replacement of resident air conditioning units; and painting/decorating in the common areas.

Work has begun on **Pesch Place in Golden Valley, Minnesota**. Rehabilitation funds were provided through the City of Golden Valley/Hennepin County



*Interior and exterior improvements at Casa Norte.*

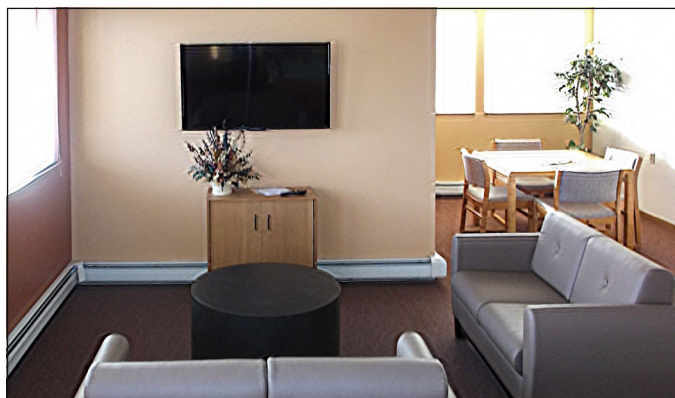


CDBG Consolidated Pool. Pesch Place is five units of accessible, affordable housing for adults with physical disabilities. The building is within an easy roll/walk of Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute (formerly Courage Center). Originally constructed by Courage Center, Pesch Place was acquired by ASI in 1993. Work to be completed includes bathroom renovations, replacement of floor coverings in common areas, replacement of retaining wall and replacement of accessible path to lower level.

Pesch Place is named for Michael Pesch. In 1975, Michael Pesch broke his neck in a drought-shallow lake in northern Minnesota and, as a result, was paralyzed for the rest of his life. Following a time at Courage Center, Michael was ready to move on, but his options were too limited, so with the support of his friends, Steve Wiggins, Charles Berg and Stephen Vander Schaaf, Michael became a force behind accessible, affordable housing for people with mobility impairments which was the catalyst for ASI.

**Galaxy Apartments in Rapid City, South Dakota** recently renewed its community room furnishings. This 20 unit accessible, affordable apartment building opened in August 1999.

**Winston Courts Apartments in Hibbing, Minnesota** recently received approval from St. Louis County to proceed with further renovations to this 18 unit accessible, affordable building which opened in June 1989. Renovations will be completed using funds from a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) by St. Louis County Community Development, as well as funds from the HUD reserve for replacement account for the building. The building also received funds from St. Louis County in 2012 to improve the common areas of the building. Current renovations include new carpeting, vinyl flooring and appliances in the resident units.



*Galaxy Apartments in Rapid City, South Dakota recently added a new flat screen TV and furniture.*

## OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT ASI

### EMPLOYER MATCHING GIFTS

Many employers sponsor matching gift programs and will match any charitable contributions made by their employees.

If your company is eligible, request a matching gift form from your employer, and send it completed and signed with your gift. Accessible Space, Inc. will do the rest.

The impact of your gift to our mission may be doubled or possibly tripled! Some companies match gifts made by retirees and/or spouses, as well.

### HONOR A LOVED ONE OR SPECIAL FRIEND

Pay tribute or honor a special person's birthday, anniversary, or other special occasion, with a Memorial or Honorarium gift to Accessible Space, Inc.

Your name as the donor and the person being honored, will be acknowledged in the newsletter.

### SPONSOR, HOST, OR ATTEND

"Let's Open Some Doors" Luncheon  
Wednesday, September 28, 2016

**To learn how you can get involved, contact Jacque Rooney, ASI's Fund Development Associate,**

1-800-466-7722 or 651-645-7271, ext. 252

email to [jrooney@accessiblespace.org](mailto:jrooney@accessiblespace.org)



## ASI PARATRANSIT OFFICES MOVE

Pictured above are Paratransit staff in front of their new offices at the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada's (RTC SNV) Mobility Training Center. From left: Pamela Smith, RTC ADA Paratransit Administrative Assistant; Melissa Brown, MOTR/L, RTC ADA Paratransit Evaluator; Pamela Kobus, LPTA, RTC ADA Paratransit Evaluator; Anne Chairsell, OTR/L RTC ADA NCEP Paratransit Program Manager; Shelley Colvin, LPTA, RTC ADA Paratransit Evaluator and Jerry Kappeler, Director of the Nevada Community Enrichment Program (NCEP). Not pictured: Joah Johnson, RN, BS, RTC Paratransit Evaluator.

For the last 11 years, ASI's Paratransit Services were located at The Loux Center on the Charleston Campus of the College of Southern Nevada. The Loux Center is also the home of ASI's Nevada Community Enrichment Program (NCEP). In February 2016, ASI's Paratransit Services moved to the Mobility Training Center on the campus of the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada.



*The Mobility Training Center is designed to replicate a real world setting.*





*Above: Stephen Vander Schaaf, ASI's President/CEO and Mary Lindgren at her retirement party in 2012. Below: Mark Hamel, ASI's Board Chair with Mary.*



## MARY LINDGREN

Mary will always be a part of ASI's core soul as she gave her all to our "housing with care" mission and on every level (Resident Manager/Site Supervisor, Transportation Coordinator, board member, resident, etc.). As Kay Knutson, her good friend, fellow resident and Vice Chair of ASI's Board of Directors, said, "From the first day ASI's door opened in September 1980 and during the years previous when ASI was still a concept, Mary spent countless hours, officially and unofficially, tirelessly working to improve the lives of ASI residents, as well as motivating staff to achieve

their full potential." Steve Wiggins, ASI's Founder and current board member, shared the following: "Mary was a strong and determined woman, blessed with grace and consideration for others. She had a big role influencing the concepts behind ASI."

We were blessed to have Mary as a guiding steward for the last 40 years, and it was my good fortune to share much of that journey with her as a co-worker, fellow bibliophile and most important, dear friend. We'll miss her comforting voice and calming goodwill as we move forward with ASI's mission to honor her legacy.

~Stephen Vander Schaaf (Shep)  
ASI's President/CEO

## BOB GREGORY'S REFLECTIONS ON MARY LINDGREN

(BOB IS A RESIDENT AT 28<sup>TH</sup> STREET HOUSE)

I met Mary in Perfect Squares, a wheelchair square dancing group in the seventies. I didn't understand why Mary was complaining about stuff. The Perfect Squares went to national square dancing conventions like Milwaukee, and Memphis, Tennessee. Every June there was the state square dance convention, which was in a different town each year. My first square dancing convention was in Mankato. Well, we danced in front of the Governor though no one knew and after we were done Governor Perpich invited the group to the Governor's Mansion and that was a thrill. I was living at ASI's Selby Avenue House in Saint Paul. One day the supervisor said there is an opening at 28<sup>th</sup> Street House and the office would like to know if anyone is interested in moving there? I always wanted to live in Minneapolis I said, "Yes, I would like to move there." Mary was the supervisor, she ran the house how she and Kay (Knutson) wanted it. Mary was the glue that held 28<sup>th</sup> Street House together. ASI had a van service; Mary was in charge of scheduling it. 28<sup>th</sup> Street took two trips to Duluth, one to the Black Hills. Sometimes we went to Red Lobster for dinner. One year in October four residents and a PCA took Shep to Perkin's at 5:30 AM for his birthday.

In the 31 years she served as Site Supervisor, if Mary ever had trouble finding staff, she somehow

always managed to fill to the shifts. One of the unique problems was one day a car came through Bob's room. It was icy that day and the driver lost control of the car. My room was the living room until ASI fixed the wall. Mary was also a librarian at Courage Center and Camp Courage in the summer. Mary loved going into the woods at camp to read. Camp had a special meaning to lots of people. Most people couldn't wait to go to camp. Mary didn't like the cold or snow; I liked to tease her about snow. I used to say more snow, and she would say, "Bob I will put your head in a snow bank."

Of course, Mary and Kay were always talking about food. Food was one of their favorite subjects to talk about.

Mary had an operation about five years ago; it took almost everything out of her. She retired, and "Mr. Computer" became her new friend.

The second Sunday, when Mary was in the hospital after her heart attack, that day when the weather was so nice, I went to visit her. She was all hooked up and I don't think Mary even knew I was there. But, now I am so glad I went, because when you live with someone for 31 years you tend to consider them like you would family. I really hope ASI does something very special in Mary's honor because she loved working and living for the organization. Now, she is at home with the Lord.



## RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT: GUY PURNELL

Guy Purnell is a resident of Bonnie Lane Apartments in Las Vegas, Nevada. Guy moved into the building in July 2015.

When asked about his favorite features at Bonnie

Lane Apartments, Guy responded that he really likes the large bathrooms. He also appreciates the computer lab which includes printers. He spent a lot of time in the lab before he got his own computer. "It's really nice, really something to see," he said, "very handy for people who don't have computers."

One of the activities many of the residents enjoy is referred to as "Wal-Mart Day." Transportation provided by building's Service Coordinator includes a trip to the local Wal-Mart for shopping. Bonnie Lane Apartments also has a very nice exercise room with several machines.

When asked about special event or activities, Guy said, "The best one was the Open House Ceremony at Bonnie Lane Apartments. Each speaker brought something to the table in terms of what made ASI a success in Nevada. There was a special Christmas dinner and party in December. Building staff involved the residents in decorating the tree by asking each resident to bring an ornament. The residents brought food or beverages to a Christmas dinner, and everyone's family was invited." Guy was visiting his family for Thanksgiving so he didn't participate but he heard the Thanksgiving potluck feast was great.

Guy particularly wanted to mention Esmeralda who is the onsite building manager for Cornerstone, the property management company for Bonnie Lane Apartments. "Esmeralda has a very magnetic personality, she's very approachable. She goes to whatever length necessary to benefit the residents. She's very responsive and concerned about residents with health issues." Guy himself is very independent, but he knew the units with accessible amenities help people remain independent. He mentioned the lower kitchen cabinets and grab bars in the bathrooms as being great features. He also said each resident has an emergency call pendant, which comes in handy for a lot of people.

Guy is a native of Los Angeles and moved to Atlanta in the 1980s. He retired a couple of years ago and wanted to be near family, but not live in Los Angeles. He is close enough to visit often, only a four and a half hour drive away.

Guy enjoys playing ping pong and spending time on the computer. He was featured in a video produced by Clark County, Nevada Community Resources Management which highlighted Bonnie Lane Apartments. After watching the video, friends asked if they could apply to live in an Accessible Space, Inc. (ASI) building in California.

## E-NEWSLETTERS

If you're interested in receiving the ASI's e-newsletter, please visit our website, [www.accessiblespace.org](http://www.accessiblespace.org) and click the "join our e-mail list" option at the top of the screen.



## RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT, GORDON DELACERNA

Aloha, my name is Gordon Ke-keiki-koa-ikaika-o-kalani DelaCerna and I was blessed to be accepted as the very first tenant here in The Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Hale Kuha'o (Hale Kuha'o) apartment complex back in the year 2000.

Given to me by my great-grandfather Peter Kau when I was born, my middle name means, "the strong warrior-child of heaven." It was part of our tradition to give a name to each family member that he or she would best emulate as they got older. As I grew up the understanding and meaning of my middle name as I believed it to be became a bit more apparent especially the idea of being strong. Some of us tend to idolize those in our families that are strong especially when we ourselves feel that we are not. The examples I looked towards in my family were my older brother and my father who was of course the Superman of my world.

As I got older I did what I thought helped me get stronger physically as well as healthier like eating right and staying in shape. So I became an athlete playing football and lifting weights as many young people start off doing. It was not until the unfortunate incident where I incurred my debilitating injury that the meaning of my name became clearer to me than ever. Being at the wrong place at the wrong time caused for me to fall about 25 feet to the ground after being unknowingly attacked on a wooden balcony eventually injuring my spinal cord at the fourth and fifth cervical vertebrae. It was definitely a blow to my whole thought process of what I thought I understood about the name given to me by my grandfather. Though it left me a paraplegic paralyzed from my collarbone down to my legs, over the next months and years afterwards I realized that the strength I was meant to find and

develop was that strength deep within myself that was more spiritual, emotional and mental.

Ultimately with the help of others and a solid reclining electric motorized wheelchair I was able to return to my studies in college and also participate in the community by teaching at church and sharing my experiences at some of the high schools. One of the greatest things that occurred to facilitate that process was when they decided to develop and build this wonderful structure of Hale Kuha'o where I am able to live as independently as I choose. Though I have and rely on great nurse aides that assist me in the mornings and evenings, I can come and go as I choose with the help of the incredible city bus system as well as the Handi Van service.

I probably could not put into enough words how grateful I am for all the effort that was given to bring about this apartment building where those of us of varying levels of disabilities old or young could exercise our right to choose in this great country of ours and especially in our great state of Hawaii how to live independently and to the best of our ability try to fulfill those goals and ambitions that we all desire. Franklin D. Roosevelt, the 32<sup>nd</sup> president of the United States once said, "We have always held to the hope, the belief, the conviction that there is a better life, a better world, beyond the horizon." It is my hope that we all continue to put forth our best effort in whatever way or means possible to make this life and world better beyond the horizon. Mahalo nui loa.

## ASI PROPERTY MANAGEMENT REACHES NEW OCCUPANCY RECORD

On May 1, 2016 ASI's Property Management Department reached a new occupancy rate: 96.95% in its subsidized units or a vacancy rate of 3.05%.

In a memo to the ASI Board of Directors and ASI staff, Stephen Vander Schaaf, ASI's President/CEO said, "Thanks to the Property Management team for working so hard to maximize the occupancy of the 2,506 units managed by ASI in its 119 buildings in 22 states. It truly is the definition of our "housing with care" mission."

## MARP AND ASI HOST 11<sup>TH</sup> BINGO NIGHT

On April 16, 2016 the residents of the New Beginnings for Brain Injury (NBBI) and Shared Living Programs participated in the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Bingo Night. The Minnesota Association of Rehabilitation Providers (MARP) and ASI hosted the event for over 30 residents. There were 4 volunteers from MARP plus ASI staff. MARP provides pizza and beverages as well as cash prizes that are given.

MARP is an organization of case managers and counselors working with adults with injuries and disabilities. The event was held at Neill High Rise in Saint Paul, Minnesota. ASI appreciates MARP's interest in our residents and staff. Plans are already in the works for next year's event.



*MARP and ASI hosted the 2009 Bingo Event.*

## IN MEMORIAM

ASI is saddened by the passing of 27 residents over the past six months. We will miss our friends and the spirit they brought to ASI.

<b>Alvina Berscheid</b>	4/10/1923-5/1/2016
David F. Day Apartments, Sartell, Minnesota	
<b>John Caldwell</b>	1/6/1947-4/11/2016
George & Lois Brown Estates, Henderson, Nevada	
<b>Medford Cole</b>	6/6/1962-3/21/2016
Blackbird Apartments, Kansas City, Kansas	
<b>Nina Diericks</b>	1/18/1930-4/1/2016
Maple Trail Apartments, Owatonna, Minnesota	
<b>Thomas Hanson</b>	12/7/1966-1/25/2016
Camden House, Minneapolis Minnesota	
<b>Billy Hilton</b>	7/26/1932-4/11/2016
The Portage, Great Falls, Montana	
<b>Julie Hudella</b>	4/4/1966-1/4/2016
Quarry Heights Apartments, St. Cloud, Minnesota	
<b>Barbara Huisenga</b>	7/17/1953-4/27/2016
Hope Village Apartments, Sartell, Minnesota	
<b>David Ikola</b>	5/25/1973-2/17/2016
Winston Courts Apartments, Hibbing, Minnesota	
<b>Jean Ingemansen</b>	9/10/1926-1/20/2016
Pheasant Run Apartments, Brookings, South Dakota	
<b>Ida Jackson</b>	6/23/1949-2/15/2016
Cloverdale Estates, Little Rock, Arkansas	
<b>Jerry Johnson</b>	1/25/1946-2/22/2016
Northland Apartments, Fargo, North Dakota	

<b>Lyle Kercher</b>	7/12/1948-2/22/2016
Southwinds Estates, Great Falls, Montana	
<b>Gregory Knutson</b>	10/30/1951-4/9/2016
Linden Place Apartments, Grand Forks, North Dakota	
<b>Pamela Kulbacki</b>	1/27/1960-12/31/2015
Mojave Cedar Apartments, Las Vegas, Nevada	
<b>Thomas Laselva</b>	9/30/1945-12/13/2015
Dina Titus Estates, Las Vegas, Nevada	
<b>Mary Lindgren</b>	1/30/1942-3/15/2016
28 <sup>th</sup> Street House, Minneapolis, Minnesota	
<b>Jason Lyons</b>	6/27/1969-1/8/2016
Pine Grove Apartments, Duluth, Minnesota	
<b>Wendy Martinez</b>	2/7/1957-2/23/2016
Major Avenue Apartments, Henderson, Nevada	
<b>Mary Munson</b>	9/25/1948-4/18/2016
Neill Hi-Rise, Saint Paul, Minnesota	
<b>Mark Olson</b>	4/21/1958-3/13/2016
Redruth Valley Apartments, Duluth, Minnesota	
<b>Sarah Robertson</b>	8/13/1946-3/17/2016
Pecan Hills Apartments, Austin, Texas	
<b>Karen Schultz</b>	3/16/1942-3/22/2016
Pasque Meadow Apartments, Sioux Falls, South Dakota	
<b>Michael Searcy</b>	10/1/1966-5/3/2016
Mounds View Gables, Mounds View, Minnesota	
<b>Mary Vanoss</b>	12/6/1946-3/4/2016
Arlington Gardens Apartments, Saint Paul, Minnesota	
<b>Michael Weatherly</b>	2/21/1960-2/14/2016
Bostrom Terrace Apartments, Rochester, Minnesota	
<b>Charles Zayas</b>	7/29/1951-2/29/2016
John Chambers Apartments, Las Vegas, Nevada	

**A “FUN” RAISING EVENT TO BENEFIT ACCESSIBLE SPACE, INC.**

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# *a* **TASTE** *for* **SPACE**



Wednesday, June 8, 2016, 4 -7 pm  
**Boom Island Brewing Company**  
 2014 Washington Ave. N., Minneapolis

**Admittance is free!**  
**Everyone is welcome!**

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- BUCKET RAFFLES and PAY-TO-PLAY games for AMAZING PRIZES.
  - Louisiana Purchase is on-site with their ragin' Cajun cuisine.
- Have fun and support amazing spaces at Accessible Space, Inc.  
 Boom Room entrance and parking in back.  
 Additional street parking.

Accessible Space, Inc. provides accessible, affordable “housing with care” to people with brain injury, spinal cord injury and other physical disabilities and to seniors. 2550 University Avenue West, Suite 330N, St. Paul, MN 55114 651-645-7271 [accessiblespace.org](http://accessiblespace.org)

To apply for housing online, click on the housing link at the top of this page: <http://www.accessiblespace.org/>

## SPECIAL THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT OF ASI

Accessible Space, Inc. (ASI) continues to experience success in its fundraising activities across the United States. Buildings open for several years have benefited from funding awards in the last six months.

In February 2016 the **Otto Bremer Trust** (formerly the Otto Bremer Foundation) awarded funds for capital improvements at Quarry Heights Apartments in St. Cloud, Minnesota.

In March 2016 **St. Louis County, Minnesota Community Development** awarded Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for continued renovations at Winston Court Apartments in Hibbing, Minnesota.

In April 2016 the **FM Area Foundation** awarded a Basic Human Needs Grant in support of Northland Apartments in Fargo, North Dakota.

**For a complete listing of our generous donors, please visit Funding Focus at:**  
**<http://www.accessiblespace.org/pages/giving/>**



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"Housing with Care"®

