



## BEST PRACTICES in AFFORDABLE HOUSING



### HOMELESSNESS

## WHO

Virginia Beach Community Development Corporation (VBCDC) & Southeastern Virginia Housing Corporation (SVHC) - Cedar Grove Apartments

## WHERE



Virginia Beach

## HOW

Cedar Grove provides the first permanent supportive rental housing in the Hampton Roads region developed for disabled veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces. All of the residents earn under 50% of the area median income and pay no more than 30% of their gross income towards rent. Residents receive case management services through VBCDC and other local service providers such as the Hampton Veterans Medical Center.

VBCDC was awarded the Virginia Housing Award for Best Housing Development 2013 for the completed Cedar Grove development. The EarthCraft certified apartments feature a geothermal heating and cooling system that results in apartments that are 25% more energy efficient than the International Energy Conservation Code.

Veterans make up to 9.4% of Virginia's total homeless population. In Virginia Beach, veterans account for a staggering 23.6% of homeless adults. According to the National Housing Conference's Center for Housing Policy, Permanent Supportive Housing gives our most vulnerable veterans—many of whom have spent years bouncing from street to shelter and back again—the chance to reclaim their health and independence. Virginia has a severe shortage of permanent supportive housing; therefore the Cedar Grove Apartments are an important step towards ending homelessness in Virginia communities.

The Cedar Grove Apartments follow the Housing First approach, which says people must first meet their basic needs—stable housing—in order to address other needs such as health concerns and employment. Once Cedar Grove tenants secure housing, they can more effectively receive vital case management services from the Hampton Veterans Medical Center and VBCDC.

## WHAT

Cedar Grove Apartments are permanent supportive rental housing for low income homeless and/or disabled U.S. veterans.

Completed in September, 2013, the Cedar Grove Apartment development has 32 fully furnished units to serve homeless and/or disabled veterans. All 32 apartments are EarthCraft certified and universally designed, 16 units are fully accessible, and 3 units are sensory accessible. Case management and property management office space, a resident community lounge, a fitness room and a shared green space are also included.



Denette Smith, a U.S. Navy disabled veteran who was referred to VBCDC in summer 2013 by the Hampton VA Medical Center. She planted an organic garden in the shared green space at Cedar Grove, with cucumbers, strawberries, etc. that she is very excited about.