Beverly Jean Borden was born and raised in Toledo, Ohio. Hailing from the North End of town, she worked for a CAP agency where she developed nutrition programs and worked closely with senior activities in three nearby counties: Coshocton, Holmes County, and Mount Vernon.

Beverly stayed with the CAP agency for 10 years, but then her family fell ill—first her parents, who still lived nearby in Toledo, then her sister living in North Carolina needed aid at home, and another sister who needed aid back in Cleveland. Eventually Beverly retired early to become their full-time caregiver. She later moved back to Ohio to aid another sister in Cleveland before eventually realizing that she too would need some help to get by.

Beverly had real fears that she would end up homeless after quitting her job—even more so when she no longer had to care for her family. She’d been out of the workforce for many years and wasn’t sure whether she’d be able to find a permanent home for herself. She feels lucky to have found herself living at the Renaissance Apartments in downtown Toledo and has been there since 2016. Living in federal housing has given her a feeling of security and independence because she feels strongly about not burdening anyone or having any family or friends give up their career to care for her in her old age.

Beverly sees the city of Toledo struggling, especially in the last few years, seeing one neighborhood that would have been fantastic fifteen years ago or twenty years ago that is impoverished today. She hopes that people can remain in the town that they still call home, in safe and stable homes.

When I came in here [to Renaissance Apartments], I absolutely fell in love. The people that live here, I swear it’s like we’re family.