

NAME:
Bill Marinelli

Occupation:
Veteran and Musician

RESIDENCE:
Paul Hazelton
Apartments

Saco, ME
66 Apartments

AFFORDABILITY:
- Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (Income Restricted)
- Section 202 Senior Housing

*Last updated in 2019

VOICES OUT LOUD

Bill Marinelli

You live without a roof over your head and you're out in the elements—and even though you're in a car, you're still in the elements...I don't know if I would have survived.

An inspiring musician who plays the piano, Bill had the opportunity to live all over the country, travelling and playing music. Over time, he served in the armed forces and later decided to settle down in Foxborough, MA in a small 1-bedroom bungalow. A new developer then bought the bungalow with the intent to tear it down and build

an apartment complex. Priced out of the area and left with little other options, Bill became homeless and began living in his car.

Bill recalls the bitter New England winters living in his car with two sleeping bags, one over the other, trying to stay warm for two and half years. Sometimes a friend would let him run an extension cord and put a little heater in the car, but more likely than not, that was not the case. Then in one Christmas Day, bright headlights of oncoming cars blinded him and Bill drove his car off the road. This car was written off and just like that, he had also lost his home.

He thanks his good friends for being there for him – telling him that no veteran should be homeless. They brought Bill to the York County shelter in Alfred, ME where he spent three months. Through the shelter he met Volunteers of America who were able to move him to a homeless shelter in Saco, Maine called the Hewitt House. After 18 months he moved to Paul Hazelton House, Bill's new permanent home. Bill was most excited to finally bring his upright piano out of storage and start playing again. Neighbors ask him to keep playing, as he most recently did for a 100th birthday party of a long-time resident.

It's amazing when you're on the other side of having a normal place to live. When [you've] seen the other side, it's different.

