

**NAME:**  
Brusette Ohe

**OCCUPATION:**  
Small-Business Owner

**RESIDENCE:**  
**Over-the-Rhine  
Community Housing**  
Cincinnati, OH  
102 Buildings  
479 Homes

**AFFORDABILITY:**  
- Section 8 Tenant & Project-  
Based Rental Assistance  
- 60% AMI Income-Restricted,  
Low-Income Housing Tax  
Credits

\*Last updated in 2019

# VOICES OUT LOUD

## Brusette



**I don't even think [my old apartment] would be accessible for me anymore. Because the prices have gone up so drastically. I'd either be homeless or living in some bad situation.**

Brusette Ohe has a long history with her hometown of Cincinnati, Ohio. She has always loved Over-the-Rhine, a

downtown suburb, given her family history to the region. Her great grandparents came to Over-the-Rhine from Germany. Growing up, she moved around a lot – a self-described hippie – travelling to Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Utah, Idaho and California. It was her children that brought her back to Cincinnati, knowing that she wanted to raise them in a strong community and have a sense of connectivity in their lives.

Once her children grew and moved out, Brusette decided to downsize. She'd lost her small business, an herbal shop, during the financial crisis and had relied heavily on her friends and family to help support her to avoid being homeless and on the street with her children. She thought she'd found a great deal on Elm Street – however, it was owned by a slumlord. Unfortunately, Brusette's options were limited as she had a dog, and a limited social security check. She ended up living in dire circumstances for five years, unaware that she had any other options. Brusette shares that by the time she paid the rent, utilities and bought food, she generally had about 20 or 30 dollars left for the month to spend on other necessities.

One day, walking around her neighborhood, Brusette said she saw a sign for Over-the-Rhine Community Housing. The company focuses on restock apartments that are in disrepair, renovates them, and ensures that the new apartments serve lower-income residents of the community. Today, Brusette says she is grateful to live in a place where she feels secure. Now, she has a few extra dollars at the end of the month and doesn't have to pinch pennies or buy less groceries just to ensure she can cover her rent.

Brusette confesses that she feels for other seniors, knowing that the older you get the harder it is to move. With her children and their friends now in their 40's and 50's, they're starting to have their own aging issues.

**I can't believe I lived [in] a terrible, nasty apartment...all these years and didn't do this earlier! I can't sing praises about Over the Rhine Community Housing more.**