

NAME:

Sharon Kay Parker

RESIDENCE:

Mountainview Tower
Apartments

Cumberland, MD
114 Homes

AFFORDABILITY:

- 100% Project-Based
Section 8 Senior Housing
- 60% AMI Income-
Restricted, Low-Income
Housing Tax Credits

*Last updated in 2019

VOICES
OUT LOUD

Sharon Kay



The drugs got so bad [on my street]... the druggies would come to my door, take my food...

Sharon Kay Parker was born in Baltimore, Maryland. When she was 2 years old, her family moved to Cumberland and she's lived there

ever since. Growing up, she shares her life was tough. Sharon explained that she and her family lived in and out poverty, with many ups and downs. Over her life, she held various jobs to keep her head above water – 26 in total. When the time came for her to retire, Sharon confesses she had nowhere to turn. As someone living with schizophrenia, she said knew she needed a safe and stable home. Thankfully, through the State Health Department, she was connected to housing resources.

Today, Sharon has been a resident of Mountainview Apartments, a senior affordable community, since 2014. She reflects on her previous homes when she was barely getting by, and living in dangerous parts of town, where there were drug dealers up and down her street – when she didn't have any other options because she couldn't afford any other place in town.

Now, at Mountainview, everything is the complete opposite. Sharon shares that the biggest part of her life now is the community of people around her. Many have lived in Cumberland for most of their life and have been through similar struggles as Sharon.

"The management staff help out to set you up, and manage any issue for residents," Sharon explains. She continues to share that the managers will also frequently connect residents with community resources, when there's an issue that's too large or complex for them to handle.

They [the other residents] were down to earth, [they] had gone through the same things I had, and they were very sweet.