Emory Moore was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan. Growing up in the city, he has seen the good times and the bad times, but for the most part, he describes them as good times. But around him, he also saw the need for affordable housing in his community, and the positive outcomes for people both young and old who had access to affordable housing.

When Emory was working, he could afford enough, however when he retired, he was confronted with a new reality. He could no longer afford the essentials on his fixed income, and now also had to take care of his body as he aged. Emory was not alone in experiencing these changes, many of his senior peers were also experiencing the same.

Emory was lucky to find an oasis in a Detroit neighborhood—Oak Village Square. It was a nice, affordable place to retire, and he moved in September of 2011. Today he has access to amenities and a resident service coordinator to help him when he needs it, as well as his friends and fellow residents.

Emory is also the president of the resident council and focuses on what they can do as a collective to keep a healthy community both inside and outside of their building. He has spoken with federal lawmakers in Washington, D.C. and was motivated by that experience. There he learned that the more involved that you become in your community, the more your community becomes your community. Emory took that idea home with him back to Detroit and pushed for change in the community. Most recently, he worked with city government to repair the sidewalks and remove blight from the neighborhood.

Emory talks of a thriving community that he hopes to build: one that does not just focus on building businesses but one that also recognizes that housing and jobs are important for community development and sustainability as well. He’s excited for the ‘comeback’ of Detroit and looks forward to the impact he can make on his community.

“I’m in the stage of my life, that I have something in place to be better. Somewhere that I can feel comfortable. Somewhere that I can call home. Somewhere that I can be at peace.”