

NAME:
Julia Taylor

COMMUNITY:
Oak Village Square
Apartments
Detroit, MI
75 Homes

AFFORDABILITY:
- Section 202 PRAC Housing
for Elderly Persons and
Families

*Last updated in 2019

VOICES OUT LOUD

Julia TAYLOR



[Some] landlords, they don't want to fix up a place for you. But yet, they'll come first of the month when your rent's due... He wasn't honest about things, he was always going to do something, but he[d] never get it done.

Julia Taylor is originally from the Wayne County mountains of Pennsylvania and grew up in the mining country of Kentucky, West Virginia and Tennessee. Her family worked for a coal mining company and she was brought up with a "build up your life on your own" mindset. In the 1950's, the now 97-year-old, moved to Detroit, Michigan. Since then, she's always lived in the same neighborhoods close to her strong and tight-knit church community. Julia has been a member of the over-100-year-old church for around 50 years and she supports members of the community through food drives, backpacks for school-going children, and donating money and her time.

As the years went on, Julia moved from place to place. In her last home of 20 years, her landlord refused to repair the house but still expected her to pay the rent on time. He claimed he would fix things that broke, but never did, and so Julia had to patch things up on her own where she could. As a senior, Julia receives a limited fixed-income through her social security and pension. As the house she rented deteriorated to an unlivable state, her church community stepped in to help her out. Fellow church members searched the neighborhood for a clean and safe home for Julia, knowing that she wanted to live in the same community.

They found Julia a place at Oak Village Square Apartments in November 2017, and she has lived there ever since. As one of the oldest seniors in the community, Julia enjoys the company of fellow residents and the kind and helpful staff. She's most grateful for her church community, which she can still be a part of. In fact, some of her fellow church members are her neighbors at Oak Village Square. Julia is happy and comfortable in her new, clean and well-maintained home, and enjoys the hosted activities like Thanksgiving dinner and an annual resident picnic.

"I feel like I'm in my second heaven on earth."