



Rochesterians Engaging in Action with the Chronically Homeless

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REACH Advocacy is honored to be one of the five awardees of the RMAPI Participatory Budget Project. We were among twenty-two amazing proposals by organizations that seek to combat systemic poverty in our region. We thank the RMAPI team for inviting us to participate and for honoring our commitment to truly affordable housing. We were awarded \$50,000 to build our first Tiny Home.

REACH Advocacy seeks to change the narrative around homelessness to one of housing justice. From our experience of creating and running emergency housing for the past four winters for homeless men and women, we have become convinced that what we really face is a housing crisis that leaves too many people in our region as housing deprived persons.

The award we have received will help us to build the first tiny home in what we hope will be a Tiny Home Village. The homes in this village will be available to rent or rent-to-own for people with very limited income. We plan for a mixed population of people choosing to downsize, or long-term students as well as formerly homeless persons. The village will include support services for those who need assistance in dealing with addiction, mental, physical health conditions, and issues surrounding poverty.

As the village develops, we envision there being a village council to help govern the quality of life in the village. We envision a communal garden where neighbors assist one another in providing fresh vegetables. In the long run we hope to provide a model that can be replicated on other vacant lots in our city, and in our region.

The establishment of a tiny home village sets the next developmental stage for addressing the environmental and joblessness factors of urban poverty. REACH envisions manufacturing tiny homes in a state-of-the-art facility located in a reclaimed brownfield along the West Main Street commercial corridor. This factory will serve as a training center for young urban residents, returning veterans, and the difficult-to-hire. Practical application of construction skills creating affordable tiny homes will equip them to be job-ready at the end of their training.

We invite other members of the Rochester-Monroe County region to join us in our efforts to combat poverty driven by the current housing crisis. Please go to our website a reachadvocacy.org to learn more about REACH.