

VOICES OF

Energy and Housing Affordability

**ENERGY
EFFICIENCY
FOR ALL**

NAME:

Yvonne Ball, age 70*

OCCUPATION:

Employee at D.C.
General Hospital

RESIDENCE:

Channel Square
Apartments
Washington, D.C.
223 Apartments

AFFORDABILITY:

Section 8 Housing
Choice Vouchers



Yvonne Ball says it was “only by the grace of God” she and her four children were able to move into Channel Square Apartments, where the rent for her four-bedroom townhome was \$502.

“We moved out of Mayfield just before it started getting bad, just before the drug epidemic.”

Before moving to Channel Square, Yvonne lived in a D.C. neighborhood then-known as Mayfield. Not only was Mayfield facing a growing drug crisis at the time, but Yvonne was also on the brink of separation from her then-husband. She and her children needed to get out of Mayfield, but it was nearly impossible to find a new home she could afford on her salary alone.

When Yvonne found Channel Square, she knew it was the best option for her family. The area offered great convenience at an affordable rate. But even then, making rent was not easy. She had just gotten divorced and also had a newborn grandson. Thankfully, her supervisor at D.C. General Hospital allowed her to work overtime so that she could afford to stay.

Today, Yvonne has downsized from her four-bedroom townhome to a two-bedroom. She also serves as the Vice President of the Resident Board at Channel Square.

As a long-time resident, Yvonne has seen many changes at Channel Square, one of her favorites being the 2017 renovation, which addressed some of the major needs of the building such as the drafts from under doors, water-conserving dishwashers and new flooring; some units received new kitchen cabinets.

As for Yvonne’s children, they have all moved from home as successful teachers, doctors, entrepreneurs and activists. Today, Yvonne lives with her cat, but never forgets what a blessing it was to raise her children in this community.

I feel safe. I feel at peace.
Everything is convenient.
One of my favorite memories
here is raising children in an
atmosphere where I didn’t
have to worry.
