

Speaker 1 ([00:00](#)):

Okay. We should be good to go now. Um, so I'm just going to start by asking you about, um, your experience with housing since childhood. Um, have you ever owned a home? Okay. Were your parents homeowners at any time during your childhood?

Speaker 2 ([00:15](#)):

Um, my mom is currently.

Speaker 1 ([00:17](#)):

Okay. Um, can you tell me a little about your experience with housing in the Chattanooga area?

Speaker 2 ([00:26](#)):

Oh, I haven't really noticed what's been in the last couple years that the prices have tremendously jaw. Um, when I first got out and was maintained, I was downtown in a small bedroom apartment, which rented the light crafty seat, same area, same apartment right now offered \$2,500 a month. So,

Speaker 1 ([00:52](#)):

Oh my goodness. And when was this? When did you first, when did you live there?

Speaker 2 ([00:58](#)):

It has been, my youngest son is 17. So it's been about 15 years ago.

Speaker 1 ([01:05](#)):

Wow. And that same apartment rinse for 2200 now. Well, when did you, um, first experience housing insecurity?

Speaker 2 ([01:21](#)):

I can't remember when I can't remember. It would be the changer. Yeah. Yeah. It's been awhile. Yeah.

Speaker 1 ([01:34](#)):

That you felt that yet? That you've been, so you've been experiencing housing instability for awhile. Yeah. What do you feel is the greatest barrier to securing stable housing in Chattanooga?

Speaker 2 ([01:47](#)):

Could you repeat that again?

Speaker 1 ([01:48](#)):

Yeah. What do you feel is the greatest failure to securing stable housing in Chattanooga?

Speaker 2 ([01:56](#)):

That I don't know. Um, I don't know because currently the apartment that I'm in now, um, it's so crazy when I first got here, it was seven 25 for all the labor in the apartment. I got it because of the convenience and degree. That was the cheapest thing that I could find that would be my price or in something that I will be able to afford on my own. Yeah. Now it's going up and it's like, everything is

going up in general except for the pain. So I'm still trying to figure out how they're managing these, how they're predicting the, the parties, the one up in, I'm just confused with everything. Me and my friends. We talked about this a lot because a lot of us struggle with housing. That's one of the main concerns that we'll deal with

Speaker 1 ([02:56](#)):

Your rent rising. Has that happened, uh, repeatedly at other places that you've lived you've lived or?

Speaker 2 ([03:05](#)):

Um, yes.

Speaker 1 ([03:07](#)):

Yeah. So, um, can you describe for me a little bit, some of the previous places that you've lived, um, like what were the neighborhoods like? Did you feel safe? Did you feel comfortable

Speaker 2 ([03:24](#)):

Where I'm at Navajo? I feel safe. I feel comfortable, but there's some things that need to be changed. Um, a baby apartment. I would get it, I guess I would say the same thing. Yeah. I felt safe. Um, I would try not to move. Don't worry. Why did he feel safe? No, because it's just me and my kids. So that's one of the main concerns that I look for when I'm looking for housing. Um, but yeah, so far, so far, so good. We've been in space like apartment

Speaker 1 ([04:01](#)):

And this is in the downtown area.

Speaker 2 ([04:04](#)):

Um, that was, um, I guess that would be over five years ago that I was down there. So yeah.

Speaker 1 ([04:11](#)):

Yeah. Where are you now?

Speaker 2 ([04:13](#)):

I may as well bring it right.

Speaker 1 ([04:16](#)):

Okay. And you like it there? Yeah. Um, um, what's your relationship been like with landlords and property managers?

Speaker 2 ([04:29](#)):

They've been okay until now the people who I'm written for from now, they just recently bought out the apartment complex. I think they're from, this is something, um,

Speaker 1 ([04:41](#)):

You're from where? I'm sorry, Texas. Yeah.

Speaker 2 (04:46):

Um, and since they came in, it's like all hail is broken. Everything a month is pumping new is a new charge for something. And I'm like, Oh, what is wrong? What is this charges? But \$10 crash recharge that wasn't there last month. Then, then there's a hundred dollars trash fee for this month because the one of trash outside in the parking lot, but they want to charge a hundred dollars to each resident. And I'm like, eh, no, that's not. Right. So now I've been going back and forth with the mail every single month about something

Speaker 1 (05:32):

Just like random charges or, yeah. Well, and they're also raising the rent. Wow. Did they, did they say why they were raising the rent or did you just receive a notification or

Speaker 2 (05:49):

Receive the notification? Um, when you, once you renewed her lease, um, this is what the rent prices going up to gone up \$200. Oh my goodness. Well, I mean, it only went up 75 because they didn't do any quote unquote upgrade. Um, but on, on other apartments that people are tenants are moving out and they're doing an upgrade. They're going up \$200.

Speaker 1 (06:16):

Wow. Wow. When did they buy out the place?

Speaker 2 (06:25):

Um, it had to be when I moved here last October. So it was around the first of the year. Right before COVID is when they came here.

Speaker 1 (06:37):

Wow. So your rent will renew in October or has it, did you just renew or will you, so it was so your rent was raised by \$75. Wow. So how's their accessibility and responsiveness to like request for repairs or anything? Yeah. How easy or hard has it been for you to give in? To make repairs? Yeah. Yeah. What kind of repairs have you had to request from them?

Speaker 2 (07:21):

Um, a window. Um, there was a leak in my wash room. Um, and we have a real bed in front of them.

Speaker 1 (07:33):

A pest problem. What kind of price? What kind of pest problem do you have? Oh, okay.

Speaker 2 (07:45):

They send someone out to spray, but it doesn't work and I'm constantly hiking, just trying to keep it under control of myself.

Speaker 1 (07:55):

Wow. And you've expressed this to them and they've would have they, have they responded or,

Speaker 2 ([08:03](#)):

Yeah, they're just saying, Oh, we send someone, we send someone out once a month and I'm like, it's not healthy.

Speaker 1 ([08:11](#)):

Yeah. Are they thinking, are they sending a pest control specialist or are they just sending someone? Okay.

Speaker 2 ([08:20](#)):

It's to tell specialist and everyone in my building is complainant of the time thing. So I was like, I know they're older apart me, but it should be done.

Speaker 1 ([08:32](#)):

Yeah. How many units are in your apartment complex? Do you know?

Speaker 2 ([08:37](#)):

Um, that, I don't know. Not Apple with Apple of my, yeah. But there is think big and building on this bump.

Speaker 1 ([08:51](#)):

Well, and everyone's complaining of the same issue. It's not really being fixed. Wow. Um, so can you kind of explain a little bit how your experience with housing instability has changed if at all, since the coronavirus pandemic?

Speaker 2 ([09:10](#)):

No. It, it hasn't changed. It hasn't changed? No.

Speaker 1 ([09:14](#)):

Yeah. Um, have you experienced being evicted for not being able to pay rent before? No. You haven't? Yeah. Okay. Um, how did you hear about the, um, Chattanooga coronavirus eviction prevention project?

Speaker 2 ([09:33](#)):

Um, if I'm not mistaken, I think it may have been on Facebook.

Speaker 1 ([09:37](#)):

Yeah. And what, why did you reach out to them?

Speaker 2 ([09:43](#)):

Um, I think that was during the time now. And then, um, I was struggling with trying to get unemployment benefits extended, and they weren't understanding, uh, at the office. Um, and they were trying to beat me because I was like two days late and I went ahead and sent it over to the board.

Speaker 1 ([10:09](#)):

Wow. After you were two days late.

Speaker 2 ([10:12](#)):

Oh yes. And I had never been late. You had paid it up, making sure everything. I say, when I said we had to pay you, they weren't, they were not sympathetic or they hadn't been during this whole quote.

Speaker 1 ([10:37](#)):

So they were trying to evict you in the middle of the coronavirus pandemic. When was this? Do you remember the month?

Speaker 2 ([10:44](#)):

Um, what, what was that? I think it was June. This is I've been to court twice.

Speaker 1 ([10:52](#)):

Did you read, did you read able to acquire legal representation? Yeah. Um, was that helpful to you? Yeah. Yeah. So has your experience with the program been helpful or positive?

Speaker 2 ([11:06](#)):

Yes. It has both helpful and positive.

Speaker 1 ([11:09](#)):

Yeah. Um, to what extent has it helped you?

Speaker 2 ([11:15](#)):

Um, it helps me because they were literally not going to, don't want to go ahead with the eviction. They wanted me to go ahead and move out, but the okay. And I'm like, I have nowhere to go. And when I reached out for help, he was like, okay, well, if it's what we're gonna do, we're gonna make sure if you paid, they're not going to put you out. So we got that taken care of.

Speaker 1 ([11:43](#)):

That's awesome. So you were able to pay when your unemployment finally came through? Well, so the attorney was able to get that taken care of help you get that taken care of. Well, was there anything that wasn't positive about your experience? No. So there wasn't nothing that you wished would have been different or in and out. Okay. Well, is there anything else you'd like for me to know about your experience with housing insecurity or the eviction prevention program? Yeah. Okay. Well, thank you so much. Okay.