

Parkview Villa: Protecting Residents from Secondhand Smoke

Anoka County SHIP Success Story

A partnership between Anoka County SHIP, American Lung Association, and area Property Managers is creating healthier housing options for Anoka County residents.

One property that has benefited from this partnership is Parkview Villa in Columbia Heights. The building had gone smoke-free a few years ago, but people would still occasionally smoke in their units or within 25 feet of the building. With the support of SHIP, Parkview Villa was able to work with the American Lung Association (ALA) to increase their set-back to 50 feet and enforce the expanded policy with new signage that clearly indicated no smoking was allowed in the building or within the 50-foot perimeter.

In the Spring of 2018, Heidi Larson, a Health Promotion Manager with ALA, met with the resident council at Parkview Villa to learn more about the issues they had noticed regarding smoking in and around the building. Heidi then returned in the summer to host an information session educating residents about the dangers of smoking and second-hand smoke, as well as discussing options available to them to quit. By the end of the summer, the smoking policy at Parkview Villa was updated, and new signage (made possible through SHIP funding) was posted to clarify the boundaries on the property.

“Many of the residents at Parkview Villa are seniors and individuals with disabilities,” said Rochelle Holmes, Parkview Villa Assistant Site Manager. “Making this change was important to ensure good health to them, their guests, and the staff of the building.” Rochelle noted that all 175 residents, 5 staff members, frequent guests, and social services support staff benefit from the smoke-free building and set-back, as well as learning more about options available to help them quit. “There were few challenges with implementation [of the new policy]. People like to have clearly defined boundaries, so residents accepted the new policy without complaint. We’ve received many thanks from residents for changing the policy and clearly marking the distance. We are grateful to SHIP and the American Lung Association for supporting us in making this change. [...] Without their encouragement and resources, it would have taken much longer to realize our goal.”



Why should properties implement smoke-free policies?

Benefits for property managers:

- Reduced cleaning and maintenance costs
- Reduced apartment turnover
- Attract new residents
- Reduced risk of fire and insurance costs
- Responding to market-demand for smoke-free housing
- Protection from secondhand smoke for residents and employees



Benefits for residents:

- Reduced risk of heart disease and lung cancer
- Reduced risk of heart attacks and strokes
- Reduced risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, lung issues, ear infections, and severe asthma in children



Sources:
American Lung Association - Health Effects of Secondhand Smoke
American Lung Association - Smoke-Free Housing Initiative Policy Brief
American Nonsmokers' Rights Foundation - The Benefits of Smokefree Buildings

For more information about Parkview Villa, visit their website at www.aeon.org/properties/parkview-villa/



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