

Somerset County Housing Alternative: Senior Living in a Ranch-Style House

LARA GOLD • MARCH 12, 2010

COURIER NEWS & HOME NEWS TRIBUNE

When trying to find the perfect place for Mom or Dad to live, many do not realize that there is often a more affordable option than Assisted Living or a nursing home. While these housing choices are important for Seniors who need constant care, there is another option for those living independently and also for those requiring some care. Cooperative Housing offers housing & services in ranch-style handicap accessible homes, rather than a facility.

Cooperative Housing (CHC) is a non-profit organization founded in 1986 that provides housing for those 62 and older making less than \$56,000 per year. The organization owns and operates 7 houses in Somerset County, all of which are debt-free. Five people share each house, and every resident has their own private suite with bedroom and full bathroom. Spacious common areas such as the kitchen, dining room, and living room are shared by all. This offers the best of both worlds since residents have privacy in their own space, but companionship when they desire it.

At CHC, Independent living is offered for those who are capable of managing their personal needs, or Supportive housing is available for those who need some assistance in daily living. Many services are also included, such as grocery shopping, meal preparation, housekeeping, maintenance, laundry assistance, nursing and social services, and activities.

The arrangement at Cooperative Housing is cost-effective for not only the resident and their family, but also for the State of New Jersey. Residents sharing services and camaraderie is a win-win for all. One of CHC's goals is to help people preserve their assets for as long as possible, so that funds will be available when they do need that next level of care.

For more information, please call Cooperative Housing at (908)526-8130, or visit their website at www.chchousing.org.



One of CHC's ranch-style houses (Lara Gold)