

Hello, my name is Penny Pero and I am happy to say I live at Allard Square in South Burlington. I am thrilled to be here today and thank you in person for giving me a new life.

Cathedral Square built this amazing apartment building in a location so conducive to our needs (especially those like myself who no longer drive.) It's so nice to live with my peers who are mostly struggling with the same issues, but still have so much life in them.

I moved here last November 2nd and within a month it was HOME! Like I have expressed to many, I feel like I have won the lottery. I have made so many new friends and still live close to my grown children.

Even though I worked all my life, widowed at 39 and raised my children as a single parent, I could not afford to live in an apartment on my own here. You have made this affordable for all of us.

My apartment is bright and cheery, comfortable and warm. We gather while waiting for our laundry in the lounge by the fireplace or in the gym. We have an activity room for BINGO,

chair yoga, and Tai Chi. Now when friends call I am often not in, but downstairs or on my way out.

Our SASH Coordinator Kat arranges all these activities and more. She is also a great listener and directs us with any issues we may have. Our SASH Nurse Ann O'Brien has come to my apartment and wanted to know about me and any health concerns. I am comfortable she will be there for any of my questions. SASH is a very important link for us all.

Without this apartment I would have to continue living with my daughter, who does not complain but she is as happy for me as I am for myself being here. She visits often and this is so much better for us both.

I want to ask you for your support for full funding for Vermont Housing and Conservation Board and full funding for SASH.

These two programs are critical.

So I will end with the biggest THANK YOU and please if you can – keep supporting these programs so more seniors can live an independent happy life. Thank you.