

TRANSCRIPT FOR DECATUR LAND TRUST VIDEO

I'm Mark Kendall and we're here in the city of Decatur where it has gotten too expensive for many school teachers, nurses, the workforce of the city to afford a home.

That's why the Decatur Land Trust looks to provide an innovative path to home ownership for the city's workforce, like here at Oak Cottage Court.

Let's talk to some of the residents and see what's what.

My name is Courtney Hartnett. I work in the city of Decatur as an elementary school teacher and I live in Oak Cottage Court. The city of Decatur is like a really special community. I grew up in the Atlanta area my whole life and so I've always kind of lived around this area. Not only are there fantastic restaurants and festivals and all kinds of things to do on the weekend, but it's also a wonderful place to live. I've worked in the school system for I think this is my 20th year now and so I'm very familiar with the community here and I do think it's a really special place.

Oak Cottage Court is a community of six homes. We're on a Decatur Land Trust property. What makes the houses affordable here is that we don't actually own the land but we pay for the structure. We've got a common area where five of the homes are around so it seems like the intention of the build was to have this sense of community. We're all women that happen to live here. We already have a really tight-knit sense of friendship. I would not have been able to live in the city of Decatur had it not been for this land trust opportunity.

Man, Oak Cottage Court is amazing. And it's not just a path to home ownership. It's also a close, diverse community of amazing people.

As a teacher, it benefits me being within this community as well because not only do I see my students at the school, but I get to see them at the grocery store or around town or walking my dog. I think it adds a definitely an important edge to our teaching and makes it more meaningful.

Buying a home is expensive, but guess what? Keeping one is too. That's why Decatur Land Trust has the home rehab program that's built to retain legacy residents and address smaller, older homes and their maintenance needs for people that may not otherwise be able to afford them. Let's go meet some folks.

My name is Joyce W. Jackson, and I work in the city of Decatur as a crossing guard. I raised three generations in this house, and at this same address, same phone number, 20 years I've been crossing guard. My favorite part of being the crossing guard, when the schools start the new year, to get to know the new kids, the kindergartners, I had a leak around the chimney, right there. And I was really talking to the insurance company when my cell phone rang. Ms. Mitchell was telling me how she got my number, and I told her my homeowner insurance got canceled. They say I need a new roof, which I did. I really did. But I couldn't

afford one at that time. She said, that's what I'm calling you for, that she can help me get a new roof. I said, are you for real? She said, it's Decatur Land Trust. They help seniors. And I mean, I was just crying. I was like, so I said, God is good. That's because that was a miracle.

We've seen how the Decatur Land Trust helped the people that makes the city run afford or stay in their homes all while building a thriving community.

If you want to help the community, donate to Decatur Land Trust.

Your support helps preserve affordability.

Learn more and donate at decaturlandtrust.org.

Let's work together to make housing more affordable.