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“If I don’t tell you where I’ve been, you would not know the reason why I’m so grateful for affordable housing... It changed my life a lot for the simple reason that now I’m stable.” – Johnnie George

Johnnie George stood in front of a crowd during this month’s ribbon-cutting ceremony at the [Robin Lane Apartments](#), and explained what having an affordable home means to her.

After a tumultuous year of personal loss, Ms. George also lost her job and subsequently her home. Living in her car, she was able to find work, yet could not afford a home near her job in Contra Costa County. Ms. George’s journey led her to the Robin Lane Apartments where one-bedroom apartments rent for \$487 per month; nearly a third of what she would have paid for a comparable apartment.



Ms. Johnnie George at Ribbon-Cutting
(Dan Rosenstrauch/Bay Area News Group)

When [Satellite Affordable Housing Associates](#) (SAHA) purchased the bank-owned Robin Lane buildings in 2012, they were vacant and dilapidated. [Enterprise Community Loan Fund](#) provided financing for energy efficiency upgrades and the rehabilitation of the Robin Lane Apartments through the Bank of America Green Retrofit Loan program. The 16-unit property now offers five one-bedroom and 11 two-bedroom homes convenient to grocery stores, public transit, and services.

In addition to having a stable place to live, residents like Ms. George have access to a range of supportive services and activities including health screenings and financial literacy education. Ms. George says she is flourishing in her new home. This summer she hopes to finish her studies in medical office administration, and closed her remarks at the ribbon-cutting by inviting the crowd to attend her graduation.

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