

## *Growing in Community: Alfred's Story*



"I'm a person that's just good. Yeah, I'm just a good person. Just nice – it's just in my DNA. What I was brought up with. The way my mother raised me. So of course I live on the Eastside – I'm a sider-easter, an Eastsider! Oh, and my name is Alfred Jackson.

I've been coming here for a lot of years! All the community centers around town – I used to go to every one of them. I first heard about Allen Neighborhood Center through the newsletter. I saw that and I came down here, and then I saw everything that goes on here. And they helped me with a lot of stuff. They helped me with my Social Security, helped with finding out things I need to know about this community, and helped me with BreadBasket, the program that they have here – and now I volunteer with that! ANC is like an arm or a leg to this neighborhood. We need it. I see this need when I'm volunteering at BreadBasket: people who are in need, need food, I can help them with that. It's incredible. I also come to the farmers market and buy apples or whatever, and in the summer, play the piano at the market– but don't be telling everybody! They'll all want to come hear me play!

ANC is important because it helps the community! They help people – young, old, African-American, refugees, whoever. They just help people and don't even ask, who, what, where, when and how; they don't have you jumpin' through hoops with question after question, just, 'Come on in and we'll see what we can do for you'.

This organization has so much knowledge. And if they don't have the knowledge about something, you best believe they will find it out – I know they will! I also know this community

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views ANC as a great, substantial, place. Anyone that needs help with something, or needs to find out things, this is the place you go to. You can use the public phone, you can use the computer, you can ask staff about things - they're gonna help you with everything.

Now the people here at Allen Neighborhood Center - well it depends on the people, I got a couple of them that are REALLY nice - no, I love all of them. Everyone who comes in here, every neighbor, gets treated equally. No one ever has to wonder if something isn't gonna be taken care of, or wonder if someone's not going to help them, because Allen Neighborhood Center takes care of everyone equally.

This place, it's uplifting! Great atmosphere! Energetic! Lotta people who are energetic, uplifting, and ready to go and get the job done.

ANC is AWESOME!! Not only that, but they've just got great people here. People who will stand by you and will help you. That's substantial. When you need someone to talk to, these folks will help you out. And when you talk to them, it just feels so good knowing that you have someone there to talk to - even if you have no one else.

I LOVE ANC!!! WHOOOOOOOOOOOOO!"