



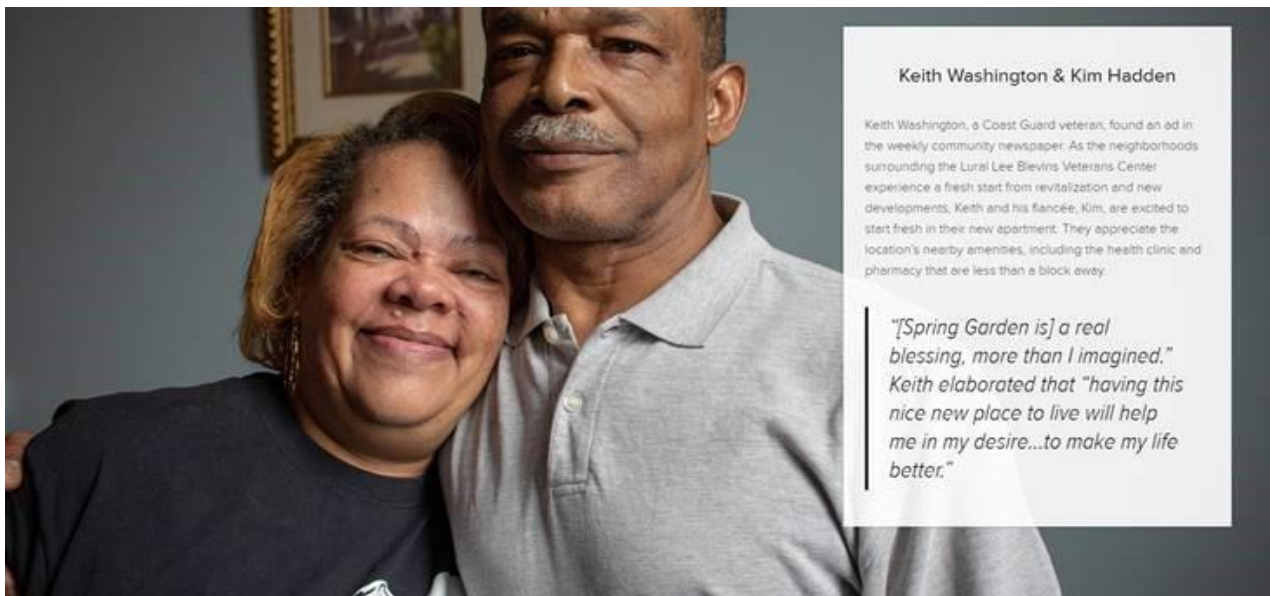
# Rental Assistance Demonstration RADBlast!



## In Service to Those Who Served and Sacrificed

As we remember and honor those who have given their lives in service of our country, we wanted to share a few examples of how PHAs and owners have used RAD to support our nation's veterans and families of fallen soldiers. Today, we are releasing a new photo essay that focuses on veterans housing preserved through RAD in Philadelphia. The Philadelphia Housing Authority was able to convert an abandoned, historic elementary school called Spring Garden into the Lural Lee Blevins Veterans Center. Working with the national non-profit [HELP USA](#), the PHA preserved 37 units of senior housing with a veterans preference, including 12 units that will be set aside for homeless and/or veterans with special needs. Given the needs of the senior and veteran populations, the redevelopment prioritized providing special accommodations for this population. Additionally, the project has supportive services for the veterans, including a neighborhood health center, access to Veteran's Affairs services, and other senior-related assistance.

The need for housing the homeless is great within the city of Philadelphia. More than 12,000 individuals a year access local shelters and an average of more than 650 individuals go unsheltered in Philadelphia on any given day. Low-income veterans make up a significant portion of the homeless population, so this property will make a huge impact in the community. Resident Keith Washington, a Coast Guard veteran, summed it up best when he said, "[Spring Garden is] a real blessing, more than I imagined...having this nice new place to live will help me in my desire...to make my life better."



Keith Washington & Kim Hadden

Keith Washington, a Coast Guard veteran, found an ad in the weekly community newspaper. As the neighborhoods surrounding the Lural Lee Blevins Veterans Center experience a fresh start from revitalization and new developments, Keith and his fiancée, Kim, are excited to start fresh in their new apartment. They appreciate the location's nearby amenities, including the health clinic and pharmacy that are less than a block away.

*"[Spring Garden is] a real blessing, more than I imagined." Keith elaborated that "having this nice new place to live will help me in my desire...to make my life better."*

You can read the Philadelphia photo essay here: <https://spark.adobe.com/page/OHIAFCEbZhUtV/>.

In another example, we're pleased to announce that the substantial rehab at American Gold Star Manor in Long Beach, California has been completed. American Gold Star Mothers is an organization started in 1928, formed to provide support and services to mothers who lost sons or daughters in World War I, and in subsequent years, expanded to include those who lost children in any war or conflict. The 348 unit American Gold Star Manor was developed in 1975 with a HUD Section 236 mortgage, with 139 units subsidized under a HUD Rent Supplement contract. The 44-year-old property was in need of a major renovation and was able to finance \$56M to improve the property through conversion to a long-term Section 8 contract under RAD preserving the property for current and future American Gold Star Mothers and Fathers and U.S. Veterans. Construction work on the project included improvements to the sidewalks, ramps and walkways, improved elevators, energy efficiency improvements, new bathrooms, kitchens, windows and sliding doors as well as new roofs, new appliances and new flooring.

You can read more about Gold Star Manor here: <https://www.presstelegram.com/2019/04/12/shirley-wild-gold-star-manor-completes-56-million-renovation-project/>.

Thanks!  
-The RAD Team

*To join the RAD email list, please go [here](#).*