



CDFI makes big impact on close-knit community

“This place is so much more than a building,” says Property Manager Robin Skala, sitting in the community room at Wyona Lake Apartments. “It is a truly an extension of family and community, made up of personal touches from everyone.”

Not long ago, Wyona Lake Apartments was in urgent need of an upgrade. Its close community of low-income residents began to feel concern over the future of their aging home.



Wyona Lake Apartments is the only affordable housing in Wyocena. Home to long-time residents with few other housing options, it is an essential part of the community. The project was an exciting chance for Forward Community Investments to make a lasting impact on the rural community.

“It’s vitally important that all people have an affordable place to call home,” said Salli Martyniak, Forward Community Investments president. “Our nonprofit partnerships allow us to give people in Wyocena and other rural communities better lives.”

In 2007, Forward Community Investments made a \$278,500 loan to property owner Central Wisconsin Community Action Council. The loan allowed the nonprofit to finish payment on the federal Section 515 loan that limited the number of improvements to the property.

In Wyocena, residents continue to feel the effect of this support. They gather weekly in the renovated community room to share stories and cherish their close friendships. Once filled with mismatched furniture and outdated lighting, the room now has a large dining table, comfortable easy chairs and a décor that reflects the apartment’s diverse community.

“The renovations give it new life,” notes Skala.

Forward Community Investments is committed to giving new life and new value to affordable housing across Wisconsin. Whether it is through below-market-rate loans (anywhere from \$5,000 to \$400,000 with consideration given up to \$1 million) or technical assistance and know-how, they offer Wisconsin-based solutions to Wisconsin nonprofits. This unique partnership touches the lives of thousands of people each year.

About Forward Community Investments:

Forward Community Investments expands the financial capacity of Wisconsin nonprofits through low-cost flexible financing and technical assistance. Since its inception in 1994, Forward Community Investments has disbursed more than \$15 million to nonprofits whose mission is to benefit low- and moderate-income people and disadvantaged communities throughout Wisconsin. More information is available online at www.forwardci.org.