

Nat Yalowitz: NORC Supportive Services Center

Issue Area: Local Leadership

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Summary:



Nat Yalowitz is a thirty-eight year resident of New York's premiere Naturally Occurring Retirement Community, Penn South Mutual Houses. Rather than resting easy in his retirement, Nat took initiative to help older adults throughout New York City working with housing organizations to enable older adults to age in place. With this goal in mind, Nat established the NORC Supportive Services Center in 1996. NORC, which stands for the Naturally Occurring Retirement Community, started by assisting housing organizations in New York City, but now has outreached into Pennsylvania, Illinois, Maryland, and Ohio. Mr. Yalowitz is a perfect example of how far one person can go to help older adults age in place, not just in their own community, but also in a broader interstate community. His work with NORC has established him as both a local and regional leader.

Nat is currently the CEO and President of NORC Supportive Services Center. Nat's non-profit organization is based on helping the older adults in naturally occurring retirement Communities. This term is used to describe a housing area that is predominantly populated by older adults. NORCs are not necessarily retirement communities, but they are communities in cities, suburbs, and rural areas that have been inhabited by older adults over the past several years or decades. A NORC may be one apartment building, a collection of homes, or a sprawl-type neighborhood. New York City realized the efficiency and ease of funding services where NORCs occur and have invested \$4 million dollars in NORC Supportive Services Center to improve the lives of older adults living in these types of communities.



Dave Smith, Nat Yalowitz, Ed Yaker

The NORC Supportive Services Center "assists housing companies and organizations to develop programs which will assist seniors to remain in their own homes, among family members and friends, so that they may continue to feel the safety and security of their

homes.” Their mission runs parallel to the ideals of aging in place: enabling older adults to live in their current homes safely and securely without having to move. The center provides consulting services such as running surveys, and funding and running programs that would best serve the older adult community. The center offers several programs including social services, care coordination, health services, recreational, educational, and cultural activities as well as volunteer participation communities. Nat Yalowitz is an example of an older adult who rose to the challenge of helping his fellow “generation-mates” aging in place happily in their own homes.

Related Resources:

Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities. <<http://www.norc.coop/>>.

Perry, Joellen. “For Most, There’s No Place Like Home.” *U.S. News & World and Report*. June 4, 2001.
<<http://www.usnews.com/usnews/biztech/articles/010604/aging.htm>>.

Bell, Amanda. “Aging Peacefully.” City Limits.org. December 1999.
<<http://www.citylimits.org/content/articles/articleView.cfm?articlenumber=462>>.

Yalowitz, Nat. “Supporting NORCs and Helping Seniors ‘Age in Place.’” *Journal of Cooperative Development*. Fall 1998. <<http://www.cdf.coop/pdf/journal/CDJfall98.pdf>>.