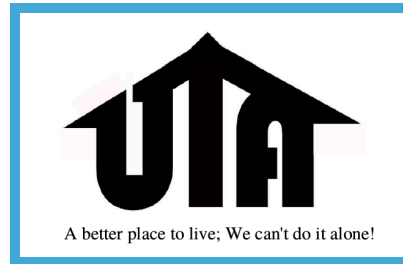


UNITED TENANTS OF ALBANY 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



The mission of UTA is to protect tenants' rights for safe, decent and affordable housing, with special emphases on those who have the greatest need or who experience the most severe problems and to promote the development and preservation of more affordable housing.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

Our UTA team has grown!



With team growth, comes brand new positions!

This year we've brought on an Executive Assistant, Tenant Advocate, Mobile Housing Counselor, Community Organizer, and Tenant Outreach Advocate.



Our Executive Director, Laura Felts, was honored with the Jim Perry Leadership award this year!

[read more >>](#)

GETTING BACK TO OUR ROOTS

UTA continues to revive our community organizing work and we made great strides in 2020. We pride ourselves on being an organization where tenants experiencing housing instability can access caring, compassionate direct services. We are connecting those services to

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organizing work we make space for tenants to stand with us, step into their power, and be change agents in our collective fight for housing justice.



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Check out some of our videos of community organizing and events!

[WATCH NOW](#)

WHAT WE'VE ACHIEVED IN 2020

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in rental assistance grants
disbursed directly to the community
to prevent homelessness.

**1,645**

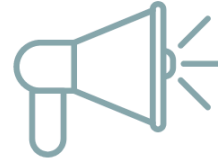
households received
eviction prevention
rental counseling services.



responded to

5,620

housing hotline calls
from across the state
to provide tenants right information.

**274**

community meetings to
build power and
provide tenants' rights
education.

WHAT TENANTS NEED IN 2021

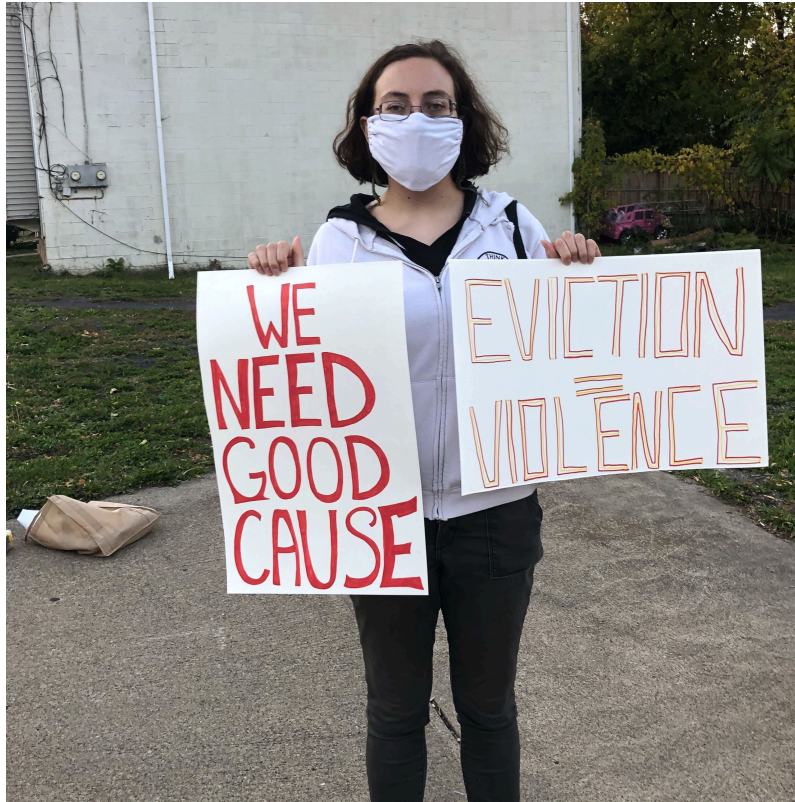
May 2021 bring us warm and safe apartments, with ceilings that stay up, rents that stay down and rats and roaches that stay away. This was a holiday message UTA had in 1979, and it still rings true!



What we're fighting for in New York State:

- **COVID19 Recovery and Rent Cancellation & Relief:** Relief that will provide tenants equitable recovery from the pandemic, policy measures that will afford housing stability for all tenants for whom housing is health. Accessible eviction prevention funding and services to stabilize the housing situations of renters in need.
- **TOPA: Tenant Opportunity to Purchase:** TOPA would allow tenants the right to intervene in the sale, demolition or foreclosure of their building in order to convert it to permanently affordable and community controlled housing. This is particularly important in the context of the pandemic recovery period, when tenants should be positioned to reclaim the homes in their communities in the face of enduring instability in the housing market.
- **Tenant Rights of Action:** Statewide rights to Tenant Initiated Receivership Actions (Extending the 7A Program Statewide) and Tenant Initiated Special Proceedings for Repairs.
- **Good Cause Eviction Protections:** Good Cause Eviction would give every renter the right to renew their lease with a limited rent increase; it would prevent landlords from evicting renters without good cause.

Protection Act of 2019. Too many of the hotline calls received by UTA are matters that were addressed by HSTPA, but due to the lack of implementation of this important legislation, tenants continue to be subject to unfair and illegal landlord practices.



What we're fighting for locally in Albany:

- **Strengthen and enforce inclusionary zoning policies** to ensure that any developers we let into our City are accountable to making meaningful investments in our communities.
- **Equitable code enforcement policies** that create structures for accountability and safe rental housing. Strengthen our local rental permitting processes, tenant rights to emergency repairs and alternate housing, and tenant protections in eviction proceedings that afford renters rights to healthy housing.

implement rent regulation for a substantial portion of the rental housing in Albany.

- **Right to Counsel that is available to all** tenants in Albany County who have housing matters and are interfacing with the legal system.

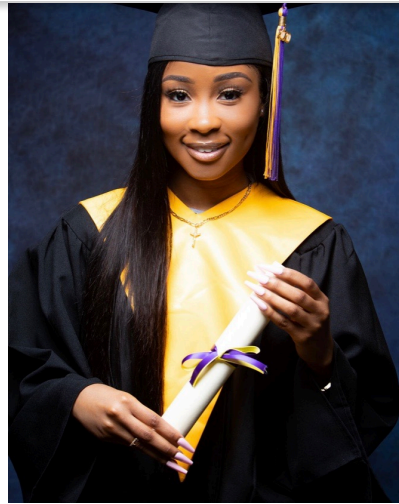
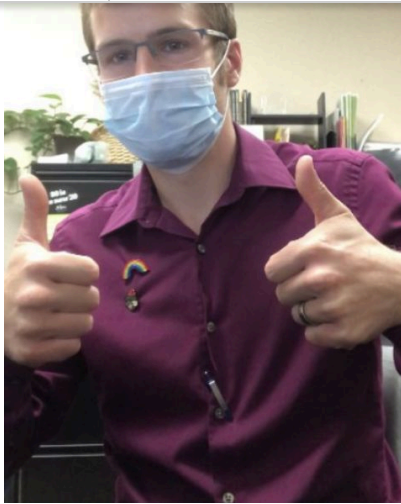
Thank You!

Thank you to the scores of individuals who send in donations and/or participate in SEFA (State Employees Federated Appeal)!
Thank you to our community partners for their contributions past, present and future!

Thank you to our volunteers!

The work of UTA was made possible this year by the 2,000+ hours of work donated to our organization by dedicated volunteers and interns. We can't do it alone!





2020 UTA BOARD MEMBERS

Ann Sconiers

Debra Collura

David Craft

Areatha Fryar

Malcolm McPherson

Ryan McCall

Daniel Lennon

Anthony Judd

Thank you to our funders!

Public Funding Sources Include:

Albany Community Development Agency Emergency Solutions Grant and The Community Development Block Grant, The City of Albany RISE, NYS Homes and Community Renewal, The Solutions to End Homelessness Program, The Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the NYS Attorney General Homeownership Protection Program.

Private Funding Sources Include:

Catholic Charities of the Albany Diocese, The Mother Cabrini Foundation, Enterprise Community Partners, The B'nai B'rith Gideon Foundation, The Albany Housing Authority, The Winnie Fund, M&T Charitable Foundation, The John D Picotte Family Foundation, The NYS Bar Foundation, The

Foundation, The Frederick McDonald Trust, the Jewish Communal Fund, and the National Grid Foundation.



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GET INVOLVED!

VOLUNTEER WITH US!

Become a hotline volunteer or help us with phone banking!
Find us on [Paladin](#) to work with UTA to defend tenants facing eviction!

VOLUNTEER FORM

COVID-19 related layoffs combined with systemic inequities and structural racism have deepened housing insecurity for thousands of tenants in Albany. An unprecedented number of our neighbors are at-risk of losing their homes to eviction. UTA received nearly 900 calls from tenants in need of assistance in the month of November. In response to the extraordinary need in the community, UTA is expanding its services. UTA needs your help to meet this growing demand. The goal is to raise 45,000 to provide vital services and ensure that unemployed and underemployed tenants do not become homeless during the crisis. You can help UTA achieve this goal by making a donation of \$10, \$25, \$50, \$100 or \$450.

DONATE

IN LOVING MEMORY

Steve Winters

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Steve Winters sadly passed away on New Years Day 2021. Steve was a wonderful and caring person whose memory will be cherished by all in the housing community.

Steve was extremely dedicated to helping and serving others. He was a member of the UTA Board of Directors for over 20 years. He headed the UTA fundraising committee and was the star of the annual McGeary's fundraising events. Steve also volunteered at a food pantry, the public library, the VA hospital and was involved with many groups including Council of Churches, the South End Neighborhood Association, CANA, and Community Gardens.

Steve gave of himself but did so in a way that made it so much fun to be around him.

Steve was an amazing person who will be missed by all.



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