



For use in *Faithful Action for Fair and Affordable Housing: Interfaith Advocacy Curriculum for Chicago's Northern Suburbs* (http://open-communities.org/Resources/Faithful_Action_Curriculum/)

From *Metropolitan Avenue* (1988). Filmmaker: Christine Noschese for POV, <http://www.pbs.org/pov/metropolitanavenue/>. Used by Permission.

(38 seconds)

<https://youtu.be/LnH646j7imI?list=PLH0RC1GZCdpH4txSxKiBIWINwx2uCp5s>

Pat McGinnis:

But you see it's such a nice neighborhood. Now I know that people looking at it, if you photographed any part of the neighborhood, they would say, "Well, what would they want to live in a neighborhood like this? What have you got?" Well, you can have all your other neighborhoods and those people that are living there, that's up to them. But this is my neighborhood because of what I said of the people. That care for each other. This is why I want to stay here. I don't want to move and I'm not going to move.

(3:43 minutes long)

<https://youtu.be/FZf5JF--k9g?list=PLH0RC1GZCdpH4txSxKiBIWINwx2uCp5s>

Frances Allen:

I'm a southern girl. Like Sunday mornings it's quiet in this house and you see people going to church, and this is what I saw out here. It was dirt roads because 19 years ago we didn't even have our paved streets. And that first Sunday that I went to church, right away it brought back memories of the South. It was my first real place. It was really something that belonged to me. It was a family place then. Prior to that I had an apartment. But here, when I was given the Projects, I really felt that this is mine; I can really do something with this, and I think I made up my mind right then and there that every day, every year of my life, I was going to put something in this apartment of mine, because to me I felt that this is where I was going to be for the rest of my life.

I think I was the first mother in Cooper that had three children in the nursery at one time. And believe me, if you ever had children, you know how it feels after you come home from work in the evening and find that they've had a happy day. My children, all four of them, have

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grown up to be children that any parent would be proud of. And they were raised right here in this Projects. Not Fifth Avenue, not Park Avenue, but right here.

Community? You mean my community? It's home. It's mine. I have a sheer investment in here. I came in here a very kind of young and broken woman. This community made a woman out of me. Gave me roots and friends. It's like part of me. It is me. This community is even more special... You know, it's just hard to explain. If you probably had asked me 10 years ago, 20 years ago, 19 years ago, it was just a place that I was moving into. But it's everything. Maybe my original roots are in Georgia because that's where I was born. But I've lived here. And it's made me. In other words, my community is my heaven.

1:19 minutes long:

https://youtu.be/aXYQuBC_KYg?list=PLH0RC1GZCdphV4txSxKiBIWINwx2uCp5s

Pat McGinnis:

The only thing I can tell you is what it gave me. It showed me that even though you don't know big words and you don't have an education, which I don't, that you shouldn't be afraid to talk no matter who he is, what he is, or how big he is. If you want to say something, say it. And that's what made me... I'm glad for it. Because I've gotten out of my little shell like I was a nothing. Yes I am a somebody; this is the way I feel now.

I got an experience now, I don't think I'd ever gotten it. If it wasn't for all of this, I wouldn't know it; it is good. I've learned so many different things now, like going to a City Council and speak. God, are you kidding? Me? I'd die first! But you get up there. You're scared but you do it. When you're there, somehow or other you get courage somehow, when you see all the other people there fighting for the same thing, it sort of gives you a nice feeling, "Hey, I gotta help, cut it out, just go ahead and do it."