



MUTUAL HOUSING

CALIFORNIA

SHAPING PLACES • SHAPING LIVES



I grew up in Texas during the civil rights era, served in the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War, partied in San Francisco during the Summer of Love and have raised six children as a single father at Mutual Housing at River Garden. For 32 years, I have lived at River Garden. I have worked as a community organizer and a part of the maintenance staff.

Having lived in one community for so long I have gained the reputation of being a community ambassador. There are a lot of children who live in this community. With my children now all adults, I seek to encourage the other children to attend college and plump up their young egos by pointing out their unique inner qualities.

Kids that used to live here often come back to visit after graduating and earning a solid job. It brings me such joy hearing them say, "Thank-you Charles or thank-you Charlie or thank-you Mr. Pierson because you were always joking around and telling me to get a job, and it stuck in my head."

Though I am currently retired and my children are grown I like to remain active by planning for and setting up community events at River Garden through the resident council. Helping out makes me feel good. I don't weave no baskets. I don't play no checkers. I don't play no dominoes. I don't play no chess. I simply like working with my neighbors and the youth in the community. I am very proud of what I have accomplished in life and want other Mutual Housing members to feel that way too.