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# ORIGINAL VISIONARY

A stint at HUD early on inspired a commitment to housing and an extended shelf life for **TOM BOZZUTO** in the multifamily industry.

story by **LYDIA LEE**

portrait by **JEFF WOJTASZEK**

**I**f you have the opportunity to talk to Tom Bozzuto, chairman and co-founder of the Greenbelt, Md.-based company that bears his name, you may feel shelf-deprived. That's because if you're a resident of one of The Bozzuto Group's apartments, you have a shelf outside your door so you can put your purse or bag down while you get your keys out. It's a small but thoughtful feature Bozzuto implemented in 1976 for the very first project he did as a new developer, an affordable housing project for the elderly.

"The gerontologist we worked with came up with the idea, and the residents loved it—some of them decorated it," recalls Bozzuto, who at the time was a development associate at the now-defunct Bethesda, Md.-based Oxford Development Corp. "My wife made me build one at our house."