Tasked with caring for three siblings after her mom fell ill, 15-year-old Michelle Murray assumed the parenting duties: cooking, cleaning, homework and paying bills. She was also forced to address eviction issues, and she consequently formed relationships with landlords and office managers. She became so knowledgeable in the business of property management that, a few years later, she was offered a job as an administrative assistant at a development management company, Tria Adelfi.

Today, Murray and business partner Julia Foust own Tria Adelfi, which recently partnered with St. Edmund’s Redevelopment Corporation to develop St. Edmund’s Oasis, a mixed-income community in the Washington Park neighborhood.

“I had a hard time growing up,” Murray said. “So, for me, the best fulfillment I can get out of this job is being able to help others become self-sufficient.”

Murray grew up in Dearborn Homes and Stateway Gardens with one brother and two sisters. Her brother Centrale recently earned his Master’s in engineering and currently serves in the Navy. Murray’s sister Samantha graduated with a degree in marketing, and Nikia is passionate about development, just like her older sister.

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