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BRAIN GAIN

A newcomer's story



Abigail Staudt

Age: 31

Occupation:
Attorney,
Legal Aid
Society of
Cleveland,

Lake/Geauga County Office

From: Chicago area. Lived in California and Seattle.

Lives in: Tremont

Best part about NEO:

"People here have been so friendly! From the night I moved in, when my landlord and the former tenant of my house helped me unload the U-Haul, to the day the doctor in Chardon did not charge me at all and saw me on short notice with an ear infection, to my neighbors welcoming me, to people stopping to chat when I'm out with my dog, Mo, I have been repeatedly pleasantly surprised at how nice everyone is. I have moved around a lot, and Cleveland stands out as a friendly place."

Least favorite: "It's too bad the public transportation isn't better. I didn't own a car in Chicago and loved being able to move around that city so easily on the El and the buses. Here, I rely on my car to get most places."

What she'd change: "A lot of the city seems so run-down, with empty, overgrown lots, broken glass on the street and abandoned buildings. There just seems to be so much poverty. The school system needs help, there needs to be more affordable, safe housing, and there are not enough jobs."

Why she's here: To work at the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland.

— Janet H. Cho

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