



**Imagine Housing**  
building eastside communities

## ***The Blueprint*** **News from Imagine Housing** **March 2017**

Imagine Housing is launching *The Blueprint*, a bimonthly newsletter to keep our friends and supporters up-to-date on what we're doing. We'll use it to send you project updates and announcements, spotlights on residents or supporters, relevant local housing news, advocacy opportunities, and more!

### **Housing Development Update: Athene is moving up!**

Construction on our newest property, Athene, has been progressing quickly, and we're excited to share a construction update with you! The photo you see here shows the entire completed concrete podium slab, the last of the structural concrete elements for the building.



Athene will contain 91 apartments for low-income seniors in Totem Lake, next door to Francis Village. Construction is scheduled to be complete this fall so that our new residents can move in by Christmas this year. [Want to get involved? Our supportive services team will be collecting welcome basket supplies for new residents when they move in. Contact [Amanda](#) if you're interested in helping.]

We'll keep you posted with photo updates on our [social media pages](#) as Athene progresses more and more visibly!



### **Resident Spotlight**

In each newsletter, we will be highlighting an Imagine Housing resident or supporter, and this month are pleased to have spoken with Phil, who has been a resident at Andrew's Glen since 2011. Before that, Phil was homeless and received support from Congregations for the Homeless for two years. He came to Imagine Housing through the Grant Per Diem (GPD) program, which provides transitional housing to homeless veterans, and quickly moved into a permanent apartment. Phil has been unemployed since he moved in. He suffers from bilateral

neuropathy, which prevents him from walking or standing, and feels that his disability has been a barrier to finding work.

After an unsuccessful search for employment on his own, Phil felt discouraged and began working with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation in mid-2016. He did not have a birth certificate, a

social security card, or a photo ID, which created additional barriers to both work and progress with the DVR. So he came to the Imagine Housing services staff for help. Phil worked with Soren, an on-site Resident Support Specialist, who provided him direct support by communicating with DVR staff and pointing him toward community resources that helped him obtain a copy of his birth certificate and photo ID. He received help updating his resume through a partnership between Imagine Housing and the King County Library System. Documents in hand, Phil was able to move forward with the DVR program. He completed his community-based assessment, which highlights his strengths and weaknesses in the workplace, making it easier for him to find permanent employment. Phil recently secured temporary work as an office assistant that will ease the transition back to full-time, permanent employment, and we at Imagine Housing could not be happier for him!

"I appreciated having someone listen to me and remind me to stay patient with the pace of my progress," Phil said about the process. "I feel like I have a purpose again."

When asked about the impact permanent affordable housing has had on his life, he said that the supportive services staff through Imagine Housing has been "incredibly supportive and a wonderful resource." During his time at Andrew's Glen, staff has visited him at the hospital and helped him prevent eviction, and community partners have provided winter coats and other helpful donations. "I have always felt like I was being supported no matter what issue I was facing," Phil says. "I'm on the path to success because of supportive services."

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## Housing and Homelessness Advocacy Day 2017

Housing and Homelessness Advocacy Day is one of our favorite "holidays" around here, and last month 15 Imagine Housing staff, board members, and supporters made the trip down to Olympia. We joined over 600 other housing advocates to speak up for our residents and make the case for more investment in affordable housing. The Imagine Housing team collectively met with 23 legislators or their aides, from 8 districts, to share how we rely on the Housing Trust Fund to build more affordable housing and how low-income Washingtonians rely on affordable housing to maintain stability for their families.



Our advocacy doesn't end now, though! There is much more to do throughout the legislative session to continue to make gains for affordable housing. If you weren't able to join us this year, there are still several ways to contribute to our advocacy efforts:

- Visit our partners at [WLIHA](#) for legislative updates throughout the session
- Mark your calendars for [Affordable Housing Week 2017](#), coming up May 15-22
- Don't wait until next year, *join us now!* We would be honored to have you join us on our next advocacy outing. Email [Kathryn](#) for more information.

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## Upcoming Events and Announcements

**Saturday, April 8, 2017:** Celebrate 30 years of creating affordable housing on the Eastside at the 2017 *Imagine* Benefit Auction & Dinner! We will begin with silent auctions at 5:45 PM at the Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue, and the dinner and live auction program will conclude at 10:00 PM. For more information and to register, visit the event [website](#).

**May 15-22, 2017:** Affordable Housing Week! Imagine Housing will be taking part and you can, too - look for more details from us on how to participate, and check out the [Housing Development Consortium's](#) website.

**Job Opportunities:** Imagine Housing is hiring for the following positions: [Executive Director](#), [Senior Real Estate Developer](#), [Director of Supportive Services](#), and [Resident Support Specialist/Case Manager](#). Follow the links for details and how to apply!

STAY CONNECTED:

