ImagineHousing
building eastside communities

The Blueprint
December 2018

Reflecting on Eastside Wealth and Poverty

I have lived a very comfortable lifestyle on the Eastside for 22 years. It's a great community. My kids went to quality schools here and my grandkids are following in their footsteps. I feel safe in my home, and when I drive to my office, I drive past nice looking homes on clean streets with no potholes.

Increasingly, I drive past lots of construction of new office and apartment buildings. New jobs at fast growing companies have attracted thousands of people and pushed earnings in east King County to unprecedented levels. In the past few years our growth and changes have brought many new, exciting things to do on the Eastside, from new restaurants to summer movies in the park. In fact, 1 million more people are expected to come to King County in the next 20 years. Our world is changing quickly.

Unfortunately, those changes are not positive for everyone. Vastly increased demand for housing has created a condition where the market will command $2,500 per month for a 2-bedroom apartment. This is out of reach for a household earning $55,000 per year with 2 kids, or a retired person living on social security. Saving enough for a down payment on a house is impossible for many.

Many people have jobs that have not experienced fast-rising wages. Many of these hard working folks have to choose between paying their rent and being able to fix their car, or between having Christmas presents for their family and having a good meal. We know this because we provide homes and supportive services for more than 1,200 people on the Eastside including almost 500 kids under age 18 and we see the stress they experience firsthand.

Imagine Housing seeks to shed a light on the poverty and struggles that exist alongside our wealth on the Eastside. Please join us as we create new, permanent, affordable apartment homes with supportive services for those who need them.

Villette Nolon
President & CEO

Pictured: Architect's rendering of 30Bellevue, which will be completed in early 2019 and will provide 63 affordable apartments, half of which are reserved for families exiting homelessness.

Volunteer at a Community Holiday Meal

We are looking forward to hosting 8 festive holiday dinners in the coming weeks. The holidays can be difficult for people who have experienced loss or trauma, and we try to bring as much joy as we can by sharing meals and keeping spirits up. Join us for a holiday meal or sign up to help us provide a spectacular holiday meal for our communities.

Community meals are happening throughout December:

- Athene (Kirkland): Wednesday, 12/19/18, 5:00 pm
- Francis Village (Kirkland): Thursday, 12/20/18, 6:00 pm (FULL – accepting prepared food donations)
- Andrews Glen (Bellevue): Monday, 12/17/18, 6:00 pm — FULL
- Velocity (Kirkland): Tuesday, 12/18/18, 6:00 pm
- Rose Crest (Issaquah): Wednesday, 12/19/18, 6:00 pm
- Johnson Hill (Issaquah): Thursday, 12/20/18, 6:00 pm
- Kirkland Plaza (Kirkland): Thursday, 12/27/18, 4:00 pm
- Highland Gardens (sammamish): Thursday, 12/27/18, 5:30 pm

Sign up here.

Storey, an Imagine Housing Communities board member, loved her experience volunteering at a community harvest meal. "It's a great opportunity to interact with community members. There's a woman who works there who's younger than I am but who works in services similar to how I did, so we really connect. It's fun because there's such a wide variety of life

experiences and the folks who come to community meals are really open to talking. People are very thankful – and I'm thinking – I'm thanking you, you're trusting me to be here and volunteer. Thank *you*!"

We are thankful to see community expand and grow over delicious food and good conversation!

You Create Home for the Holidays

You can still donate toward our Fall Campaign and help us meet our generous matching challenge of new and increased donations! Your support, no matter the amount, builds affordable housing and welcoming communities for our neighbors in need.

A resident recently shared with the community, "thank you for giving me a safe place to live, I couldn't be happier." Your support - your volunteer time, your advocacy, and your donations - makes this happiness and safety possible. Thank you.

Local Girl Scouts Share Art in their Community

Thank you to local Girl Scout Troop 43690, from Issaquah, for your recent gift to the community at Rose Crest! We are so grateful for the thoughtfulness shown in the painting the girls made to "symbolize community and togetherness," which they presented to the children at Rose Crest during a community meal.

Madeleine Richardson (Issaquah High School), Zaeda Sainz (Tolt Middle School), and Amber Lee (Pacific Cascade Middle School) worked together to create the mural-style painting. Amber said, "Working on

this mural was so much fun. I learned a lot while painting it and I'm glad that we could place it somewhere where it will have an impact on people."

The Girl Scouts chose the words "friends," "family," "home," and "community" and wrote them beautifully in various languages on the branches of the tree. We love seeing the commitment of these young people to celebrating and building community, and thank them for taking the time to connect with their peers at Rose Crest and give a lasting gift.

Melanie, the Resident Support Specialist at Rose Crest, said, "The kids of Rose Crest thought that it was really pretty and neat how the words were used across the tree and the symbols of community that it showed. They thanked the girls for working on the project and coming to unveil it at one of our community Wednesday night dinners. Now the painting is hanging in the community space and is a great reminder of how each individual person at Rose Crest plays an integral part of developing our community- both at the property and in the grander sense of the word."

Help Spread the Word about Affordable Housing

Vote for the Best of 425!

Exposure of our mission in the Eastside community helps our generous neighbors learn about affordable housing needs. Your vote for Imagine Housing as Best Nonprofit in 425 Magazine's Best of 425 gives us a chance to spread the word! Click here to vote in the Businesses & Services category, scroll down to Non-Profit, and enter Imagine Housing. Thank you for your support.

Home for the Holidays

Make a gift to our Fall Campaign now - any new or increased donations help us access a matching gift!

Donate today to help reach our goal of providing 1,000 affordable homes to 2,400 people on the Eastside by 2022.

Your Support Makes a Difference

Donate