ImagineHousing
building eastside communities

The Blueprint
April 2019

THANK YOU

Thank you so much to everyone who made our 26th Annual Imagine Gala & Auction a wonderful success. Your generosity raised over $520,000 to support the most vulnerable in our community and your great spirit made it an evening to remember.

Please mark your calendars for April 18, 2020 for the next *Imagine* Gala & Auction!

30Bellevue is Most Recent SMR/Imagine Housing Development

We'd like to shout out to SMR Architects who designed our newest community, 30Bellevue, set to open later this spring. Imagine Housing has worked with SMR several times during our history, starting with Highland Gardens in Sammamish, WA in 1998. We've also partnered with them on Velocity at the South Kirkland Park & Ride and Andrews Glen in Factoria.

SMR started in 1977 as Stickney & Murphy Architects and has since grown to 31 people. They are passionate about community design, historic preservation, and social and environmental sustainability.

John Woodworth, Managing Principal, says of this passion, "*At SMR Architects, we believe in an approach that puts people first and serves the most vulnerable in our community. We recognize the urgent need for affordable housing, and we are dedicated to partnering with organizations like Imagine Housing to create innovative solutions for the housing crisis. SMR is proud to have partnered with Imagine Housing on many affordable housing developments such as Andrews Glen, Velocity, and 30Bellevue.*"

Principals

Douglas Ito | Dean Kralios | Scott Starr | John Woodworth

Their award winning work is frequently recognized for its exemplary contribution to multi-family housing design. In 2018, SMR received the Gold Nugget Grand Award for Best Affordable Housing Community for Hoi Mai Gardens and was recognized in 2017 with the AIA/HUD Secretary's "Creating Community Connection" Award for Plaza Roberto Maestas. Last fall, SMR Architects also was recognized with a Friend of Housing Award by the Washington State Housing Finance Commission for exceptional contributions to creating and supporting affordable housing in the state.

We are thrilled to continue our close relationship with SMR and look forward to opening 30Bellevue later this spring.

What's up at Imagine Housing? Downward Facing Dog!

Regular exercise and physical activity are important to the physical and mental health of everyone, but especially important for older adults. Being physically active can help you continue to do the things you enjoy and stay independent as you age, producing long-term health benefits.

Imagine Housing recognizes the importance of keeping our senior residents active and engaged. Many of our senior residents suffer from chronic diseases, poor mobility, and many were living outside before moving into their Imagine Housing apartment. In 2018, thanks to a Get Active Stay Active grant from King County, we began offering weekly yoga classes to seniors in our three affordable senior communities. We were also able to purchase a DVD player and several yoga DVDs so that residents could access on-demand, sustainable yoga instruction at any time.

Thanks to the experience of classes with a yoga instructor, residents have learned proper yoga form, and how to adjust yoga positions to accommodate their individual disabilities and mobility challenges. Since the program’s inception, our senior residents who participated have shared extremely positive feedback, including improved physical and mental ability.

Because of this great feedback, we recently applied to King County for funding that will allow us to purchase low-impact exercise machines for our Kirkland Athene community. Our 91 senior households there will have a low cost, in-home way to keep fit.

Thank you REACH, for Filling Bellies and Enriching Souls

April is National Volunteer Month, and we'd like to highlight a volunteer group that is celebrating their one year anniversary volunteering with Imagine Housing.

REACH Church is one of Imagine Housing's volunteer groups that regularly hosts a community meal for residents at our Francis Village community in Kirkland. Every second Thursday of the month, this high-energy group plans and executes an incredible meal for residents at Francis Village that fills tummies, sparks engaging conversation, and brings the community together over a meal.

Over the course of the past year, the REACH group has become quite popular with residents. Leading up to a meal, residents frequently ask Imagine Housing staff what the REACH group is bringing for the community meal. "Why all the anticipation?" you might ask.

You would be asking about menu plans too, knowing that in the past, REACH has brought killer soups and stews with fresh baked bread, an expansive Panda Express spread, and a full Thanksgiving feast. Beyond the mouth-watering menus, members of REACH have built incredible relationships with our residents. Warm smiles and thoughtful questions, such as "hey how did the job interview go," are a part of regular conversations between residents and REACH members during meal prep and throughout the community meal. The REACH group has become an integral lifeline in the Francis Village community, sparking joy, as well as filling residents' tummies and souls with intentional conversation each month.

We are so grateful for the REACH Church volunteer group and their role in building community at Francis Village and want to say a very loud and hearty (and maybe even full-mouthed) "Thank you!"

GiveBIG Returns on May 8th

When we all give together, we GiveBIG

GiveBIG 2019 is a one-day online giving event to raise funds for nonprofit organizations in Washington State, and Imagine Housing is participating again this year.

You don't have to wait for May 8 to GiveBIG. You can start a fundraiser at any time on our GiveBIG page, or share the event on Facebook.

Two Upcoming Events

Affordable Housing Week is coming! Join us Wednesday May 15, 6-8pm at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church in Kirkland for a "head and heart" experience and learn about why the issue of Affordable Housing is such a difficult one. You'll hear stories from experts on both sides of this crisis -- those working to create more and those who are in need of it.

Sponsored by a coalition of Eastside providers: Attain Housing, Imagine Housing, Lifewire, The Sofia Way, and Tech 4 Housing, an advocacy champion.

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Lunch & Learn

Join us on May 9th at the Velocity Apartments Rooftop Terrace Room for Lunch & Learn!
Register on our website.