ImagineHousing
building eastside communities

The Blueprint
November 2019

Home for the Holidays

966 students in East King County school districts were homeless during the 2017-2018 school year. For Mariel, a single mom with two boys, the choice was whether to go to a shelter, or save up to buy a car. "I was almost giving up—child support stopped coming in and I couldn't afford to pay the rent," she said with tears in her eyes. "I promised myself when I became a mom that I wouldn't put my kids through this."

When Imagine Housing called and said there was an apartment available for her and her two sons at Andrew's Glen, she was overwhelmed. "Finally I have a home, a place to call my home. We do feel safe here. I don't want to be anywhere else. *This is home for us.*"

When you donate to Imagine Housing, you provide community and support to help our residents on a path to success. You give them stability, opportunity, and hope.

This year, between now and December 31st, your gift can go even further thanks to a challenge grant of $10,000 to match any new or increased gifts. Your gift will be matched dollar for dollar by a generous donor to double your impact.

Please give generously to help us match our $10,000 challenge grant through new and increased gifts. Please also check if your employer will match your donation. Thank you!

Your support makes a difference!

Quicklinks

Holiday Meal Sign Up

A Home for the Holidays

2020 Imagine Gala

Why Housing Matters

Shop at AmazonSmile
and Amazon will make a donation to:
ImagineHousing
building eastside communities
Get started
amazonsmile

Save the Date!

Feb 6: Sign up for Lunch & Learn at Imagine Housing's Velocity community in Kirkland, Thursday, February 6 from 11:45 am to 1:00 pm.

Apr 18: Save the date for the 2020 Imagine Gala & Auction. More details coming soon!

Advocacy Opportunity!

DONATE NOW

Provide a Holiday Meal

The holidays are a time for families to gather and share food, joy, and warmth. For many Imagine Housing residents, their community has become their family. Holiday dinners at our communities are an extra special occasion, where all residents have the opportunity to come together to share in the warmth and joy of the season. For some residents, these community dinners are their only Thanksgiving or Winter Sinner.

Volunteers and community members can share in these special occasions by donating food and/or helping with setup, food prep, serving, and cleanup.

The available dates are:

Gratitude Dinners:

- Thursday 11/21 in Issaquah
- Tuesday 11/26 in Bellevue
- Date to be determined by volunteer group interest in Kirkland

Winter Solstice Dinners:

- Tuesday 12/10 in South Kirkland
- Thursday 12/12 in both Bellevue and Kirkland
- Thursday 12/19 in both Bellevue and Issaquah
- Date to be determined by volunteer group interest in Kirkland

Sign up now!

House Bill 1406 was recently passed at the state level--it allows local government, cites, and counties, to retain a portion of their sales tax and use it for affordable housing. It is not an additional tax, but rather, an innovative way to retain local revenue for a greater impact. How can you support HB 1406 in your community?

Take a look at our partner, the Housing Development Consortium's (HDC) list of action items below and support HB 1406 today!

- Take action now by sending a message to your local legislators urging them to implement 1406 and maximize their impact by pooling their resources sub-regionally through existing partnerships between neighboring cities.
- Sign up here to be a part of the mobilization efforts!
- Mark your calendars for when your city has their council meetings, and show up to testify in support of 1406!
- Meet with your lawmakers! Reach out to our partner, HDC and they will help you meet with your lawmakers. Hearing from you is what will make all the difference!

Children at 30Bellevue Attend Top Bellevue School

When the residents of 30Bellevue moved in this past May, about half of the families had no furniture. Many of the kids needed school supplies. Thanks to the support of generous community members and a donation from Microsoft to purchase mattresses and bed frames, not only do all the kids have beds, they also each started the school year with a donated backpack filled with school supplies.

The kids were excited to start school, especially the elementary school students who were to attend Clyde Hill Elementary. When the Clyde Hill staff say they value working collaboratively with our students' families, they mean it. Just this past month, 30Bellevue hosted a family engagement event for *all* Clyde Hill elementary school families.

School principal, Edmund Wong, assistant principal, Brooke Garcia, school counselor, Amanda Van Wormer, and school instructional coach, Kari Tondera, all attended. School staff, parents and children all mingled and enjoyed pizza, fruit, cookies and juice.

The community has been so warm and welcoming for the kids and families at 30Bellevue. Everyone at the family engagement event got to see just how much when the students surprised everyone there by standing and singing the Clyde Hill elementary school song together.

Welcoming John Burke to our Board of Directors

John is one of the regular faces at Velocity community dinners. He is always active in the community, from lending a helping hand at community meals to cultivating a garden on the Velocity rooftop terrace. We first shared John's story five years ago, and it is wonderful to share an update.

John is not only grateful for stable, affordable housing, he wants to grow as an advocate for low income housing and as an ambassador for Imagine Housing. In February, he joined with Imagine Housing staff and other residents for Housing and Homelessness Advocacy Day, to speak directly with elected officials about the need for a affordable housing. He also recently joined the Imagine Housing Communities Board, where he will continue to advocate for affordable housing here on the Eastside. We are honored to welcome him to the Board!