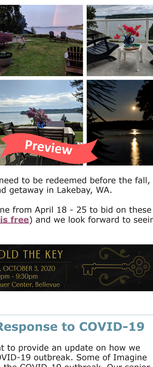
ImagineHousing
building eastside communities

The Blueprint
March 2020

27th Annual Imagine Gala & Auction Rescheduled to October 3rd

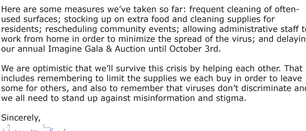
We have made the difficult decision to reschedule the 27th annual Imagine Gala & Auction to Saturday, October 3rd due to concerns around the COVID-19 virus. The gala will still be held at the Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue from 5:30pm – 9:30pm. Registration will remain open on our event website.



If you would like to make a gift to continue supporting our mission, **you can do so on our website.** As of this date, we have raised $108,300 from our supporters and sponsors out of our $500,000 goal so your additional gift is greatly appreciated.

Even though the main Gala & Auction has been moved to the fall, we're excited to offer you the opportunity to virtually bid on a few select auction packages during the week of April 18-25. Each of these exciting packages need to be redeemed before the fall, including a luxury waterfront weekend getaway in Lakebay, WA.

Join us from the comfort of your own phone from April 18 - 25 to bid on these exciting items (**online registration is free**) and we look forward to seeing you on October 3rd!



Imagine Housing's Response to COVID-19

During this challenging time, we want to provide an update on how we are handling issues related to the COVID-19 outbreak. Some of Imagine Housing's residents are vulnerable to the COVID-19 outbreak. Our senior residents are of special concern and we are monitoring our senior properties closely.

Keeping our staff and residents safe is our highest priority. Thankfully, there are no known cases of COVID-19 in our buildings or offices at this time. We have taken steps to prevent the spread of the virus and also communicated those to all our residents, including those recommended by public health agencies. We will continue to monitor the situation and refine our safety protocols accordingly. Regular conference calls are held with all staff to communicate status at all our properties. I'm very happy to say our property management and community partners have stepped up to provide extra services and supplies wherever they can.

Here are some measures we've taken so far: frequent cleaning of often-used surfaces; stocking up on extra food and cleaning supplies for residents; rescheduling community events; allowing administrative staff to work from home in order to minimize the spread of the virus; and delaying our annual Imagine Gala & Auction until October 3rd.

We are optimistic that we'll survive this crisis by helping each other. That includes remembering to limit the supplies we each buy in order to leave some for others, and also to remember that viruses don't discriminate and we all need to stand up against misinformation and stigma.

Sincerely,

Villette Nolon
President & CEO
Imagine Housing

Looking for ways to help?

We are stocking up on extra food and cleaning supplies for residents and have updated our **Amazon Wishlist**. Click the button to see the full list.

Wishlist amazon

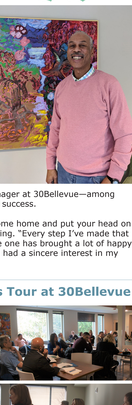
We will also accept fresh or prepared foods. Please email **community@imaginehousing.org** for information on how to drop off in-kind donations.

GIVE NOW

We expect the needs of the most vulnerable in our community to increase as the COVID-19 outbreak affects businesses and families on the Eastside.

Thank you for your support!

A Series of Little Miracles



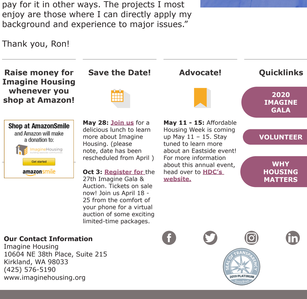
When you ask Kevin what he wants people to know about him, he says, "It's important to have hope and share it."

Kevin's apartment at 30Bellevue is the first home that has had his name on the lease in over 30 years. A battle with drug addiction and struggles with his mental health created a cycle of incarceration and homelessness. Kevin says that support from many sources changed Kevin's life and a series of little miracles brought him to 30Bellevue.

After a friend offered to send him to school, he received a scholarship from WorkSource so he could return to school. He's pursuing a Master's in Psychology and the proud holder of a 3.76 GPA at Bellevue College. His goal is to work as a chemical dependency counselor in Employee Assistance Treatment Program. He also credits support from his caseworker with the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program, as well as support from Sally, his Imagine Housing Case Manager at 30Bellevue—among others—as the reason for his stability and success.

He says it feels very good to be able to come home and put your head on the same pillow you woke from that morning. "Every step I've made that is helping my life evolve into a wholesome one has brought a lot of happy tears, and it's all because so many people had a sincere interest in my success."

Eastside Elected Officials Tour at 30Bellevue



On Friday, February 28, over 30 elected officials and city staff attended the East King County Affordable Housing of Today event at our apartment community 30Bellevue. The workshop was followed by a lively Q&A and property tour coordinated in partnership with the Housing Development Consortium (HDC) and sponsored by Union Bank. This half-day program focused on the importance of strategies, policies, and partnerships that will create and preserve affordable homes throughout the Eastside.

Speakers included Imagine Housing's Director of Housing Development Megan Adams, King County Council Chair Claudia Balducci, HDC Executive Director Marty Kooistra, HDC Advocacy and Policy Manager Mallory Van Abbema, and James Madden of Enterprise Community Partners. Attendees also heard from a 30Bellevue resident, BillieJo, and laughed together when her young son tried to grab the microphone.

30Bellevue Resident BillieJo shares her story

Events like this are an opportunity for local decision makers to dive into ideas for meeting their community's housing needs and exchange valuable expertise with their colleagues.

Mallory Van Abbema, HDC Advocacy & Policy Manager, noted, "Not all approaches to meeting the need for affordable housing are one-size fits all, yet we know there are pieces that are universal. Having options that can be applied in a local context is vital!"

Volunteer Spotlight - Ron

We would like to send a very special thank you to our Housing Development volunteer, Ron, who has been volunteering with us for a little over a year. He practiced law in the affordable housing field for most of his career and says that volunteering with Imagine Housing after he retired was a natural step to take. Ron has provided specialized insight to our work, not only advancing staff and board knowledge but has saved staff time, money, and even optimized the efficiency of our projects under development.

Ron enjoys working as a part of a team to solve problems and is in our office twice a week.

Ron and his wife love to travel and enjoy the change of scene the ocean vistas provide.

Ron says, "I wish people understood that if we don't support affordable housing, we pay for it in other ways. The projects I most enjoy are those where I can directly apply my background and experience to major issues."

Thank you, Ron!

Raise money for Imagine Housing whenever you shop at Amazon!

Shop at AmazonSmile and Amazon will make a donation to Imagine Housing.
amazonsmile

Save the Date!

May 28: Join us for a delicious lunch to learn more about Imagine Housing. (please note, date has been rescheduled from April)

Oct 3: Register for the 27th Imagine Gala & Auction. Tickets on sale now! Join us April 18 - 25 from the comfort of your phone for a virtual auction of some exciting limited-time packages.

Advocate!

May 11 - 15: Affordable Housing Week is coming up May 11 – 15. Stay tuned to learn more about an Eastside event! For more information about this annual event, head over to **HDC's website.**

Quicklinks

2020 IMAGINE GALA

VOLUNTEER

WHY HOUSING MATTERS

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