ImagineHousing
Building east side communities

The Blueprint
June/July 2020

When a Community Comes Together

During the past 3 months, our communities have dealt with an unprecedented number of rapid changes, most of them requiring difficult adjustments. The people most affected are low-income households that have lost their jobs, which creates stress in every other area of their lives.

When this all first started in March, we saw an outpouring of offers to help from every corner. Zoom calls were quickly established, information was constantly shared, financial assistance was secured and help was on the way.

On behalf of the 1,400 residents who live at Imagine Housing, we want to take this opportunity to say thank you to the many community volunteers and agencies that our residents rely on for so many things that help them be successful in their housing.

We hope we don't leave anyone off this list, and we want to say from the bottom of our hearts, THANK YOU.

A Plateful
Allied Residential Property Managers
Amazon
Asian Counseling and Referral Service
Bellevue Lifespring
Bellevue Chamber of Commerce
Bellevue School District
CB Bain
Chicken Soup Brigade
City of Bellevue
City of Issaquah
City of Kirkland
City of Redmond
Dynamic Languages
Eastside Baby Corner
F5 Foundation
Farms for Life
Friends of Youth
Hopelink
IKRON
Imagine Housing Case Managers
Issaquah Christian Church
Issaquah Community Services
Issaquah Food and Clothing Bank
Issaquah Nourishing Network
Issaquah School District
Issaquah School Foundation
Kindering
King County DCHS
King County Office of Equity and Social Justice
Language Line
Mami Tran
MarsJewett Financial Group
Microsoft
Puget Sound Energy
QFC
Quantum Residential
Property Managers
Snoqualmie Indian Tribe
St. Vincent de Paul
Starbucks
Symetra
Tableau Software Foundation
UBER Health
United Way of King County
Volunteers
Walsh Construction
Wandering Table Catering
We Speak Medicare
Wellspring Counseling, Bellevue Branch
YMCA

With gratitude,
Imagine Housing Board and Staff

COVID-19 Updates and Good News

King County's phased approach to COVID-19 affects each of our communities and residents differently. We are grateful to our Case Managers and community members who work together to foster welcoming communities. Please read on for a few stories to make your day brighter!

A local flower stand on Mercer Island donated flowers to all the elderly on Mercer Island. A total of 59 mason jars of tulips were delivered at the doorstep of residents of Imagine Housing community, Grace Place. Our property manager, Renay, said that the residents were so happy to see the bright colors!

Case managers are now often distributing food and other basic needs items directly to our resident's doors in for contact-free delivery. Imagine Housing Communities Board member John Burke came to our rescue and donated 1,000 bags from QFC to our supportive services team. He also connected us with a vendor to source masks for our staff to distribute to residents. Thank you so much, John!

Our Case Managers have been hard at work during this time:

Since **February**, due to increased need, we have provided

2788% more **resource referrals** and

66% more **case management hours**

We could not serve our most vulnerable families, seniors, and veterans during these difficult time without you!

Imagine Housing residents have been some of the hardest hit in our community during COVID-19. Many have lost their jobs, had to take unpaid leave to care for their children, or experienced reduced hours at work and are fearful of what it means for their housing stability.

We have launched an emergency Rental Assistance Fund (RAF) to assist households who are experiencing this economic hardship.

We will be contributing $100,000 to start the fund, but we urgently need your help to reach our goal of a minimum of $300,000 so we can support stability and offer relief for our most vulnerable families, seniors, veterans, and those who have experienced homelessness. Please consider contributing a gift to help support household stability on the Eastside.

Congratulations to Scholarship Winner, Claudia!

Determination and persistence brought Claudia to where she is today: a cancer survivor, mother of two, college scholarship winner, and a resident of Imagine Housing community Andrew's Heights. Claudia came to the United States from Peru as a child. She didn't know any English when she arrived, but now speaks the language fluently and confidently. More than anything, she wants to show her two children that persistence and determination pay off.

Her love, hope, and determination to give her children better lives helped her leave her abusive husband while also overcoming stage 3 cancer. Claudia is currently in remission, and has lived at Imagine Housing for about a year. She loves gardening and is excited for the chance to plant some items in the big planters at Andrew's Heights with her kids. In the meantime, her patio garden features some charming planters bursting with flowers and greenery.

"I want to stand on my own two feet and be able to provide for my kids. With persistence, because you have a goal and want something better for yourself, it is possible." —Claudia, Imagine Housing Resident

Claudia is enrolled to start at Bellevue College for the fall. She appreciates the support of her Case Manager at Andrew's Heights, Will, who assisted her with collecting the materials she needed to submit her scholarship application. We at Imagine Housing are so excited for her and congratulate her on winning the Women in Transition Scholarship from the Women's University Club (WUC) of Seattle. She isn't sure what she is going to do after finishing her degree, but she would like to work in a field with children after finishing her AA degree. She is looking forward to showing her kids what their mother can accomplish with determination and persistence – and she has plenty of it.

Are you a Member of BECU?

Are you a member or an employee of BECU? Please consider nominating Imagine Housing for the People Helping People Awards sponsored by BECU.

Nominations are open June 15 - July 5.

Thank you!

LEARN MORE

Board Profile: Dan Johnson

We would like to thank Board member, Dan Johnson, for his years of support and service of Imagine Housing. Dan and his wife, Darcy, have been supporters of Imagine Housing since it began—in fact, Darcy was a founding board member and worked to launch what was then Saint Andrew's Housing Group.

Dan's direct and most recent involvement has been on the Board for the past three years, where he also serves on the Finance Committee and a special Board task force. He is currently retired, and brings nonprofit development, marketing, and sales experience to the board.

Dan says that he's seen Imagine Housing reach many milestones over the years, but "some of the most impactful that I've observed have been the addition of Supportive Services, signaling a shift to be a truly community-based organization."

During his free time, Dan enjoys caring for his four year old grandson, fly-fishing, photography, and skiing. He also is involved in serving several other organizations, such as the Church Council at Saint Andrew's Lutheran. Thank you, Dan!

Upcoming Events

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL!

Early Bird Special (Expires July 17th)
Foursome $900
Individual Golfer $225

Join us this August 31st to for 18 holes of golf at the scenic Golf Club at Newcastle in the first-ever Imagine Housing Golf Tournament. This event will support the newly created Imagine Housing rental assistance fund (RAF) for our residents. Some of Imagine Housing's residents are especially vulnerable to the COVID-19 outbreak. Many of our residents who work in the retail, hospitality and other service industry roles have uncertain employment situations. This golf tournament will be the inaugural event to launch the rental assistance fund.

This much-needed fund will help our low-income families, veterans and those who have experienced homelessness stay on track with rebuilding their lives and enable us to continue supportive services to help them thrive.

Register for the Golf Tournament

Join us for a Virtual Lunch & Learn Thursday, July 30 from noon to 1pm.

These quarterly events are open to the community and are for anyone who wants to learn more about our organization, our approach to affordable housing, and how to get involved.

Whether you're just curious about what we do or if you're looking for ways to get involved, grab your lunch, or a coffee, and bring any questions for this informative and interactive hour.

Register for Lunch & Learn

Register for FREE Now

In light of COVID guidelines, we have re-imagined our Oct. 3rd gala We're going virtual!!!

The fun begins Saturday, September 26 and runs till Oct. 3rd with over 100 wonderful auction packages and opportunities to support the vital work we do. Be sure to register to get exclusive access to pre-event news and drawings.

For the grand finale, we invite you to join us for a livestream "Roaring 20s House Party" on Saturday, October 3rd from 5:00pm - 6:30pm. Stay tuned for some ideas that you can do to make this a fun night at home. We'll be sending out all the details on how to view and bid as we get closer to the date.

Raise money for Imagine Housing whenever you shop at Amazon!

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

Save the Date!

July 30: Join us for Virtual Lunch & Learn with Vilette Nolon

August 31: Join us for a scenic day of golf at The Golf Club at Newcastle

Sept 26 - Oct 3: Join us for a virtual "Roaring 20s House Party" for the Re-Imagined Gala & Auction

Advocate

Take action for the HEROES Act! Contact your Senators to pass critical relief measures and protections, including $100 billion in emergency rental assistance. It takes 1 minute! We signed on as an organization!

Sign the action alert!

Quicklinks

Imagine Gala & Auction
All In, Together
Volunteer

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