



Imagine Housing
building eastside communities

The Blueprint
May 2019

30Bellevue Opening Soon Thanks to Imagine Housing & St. Luke's Lutheran Church Partnership



Congregation leaders from St. Luke's Lutheran Church

St. Luke's Lutheran Church of Bellevue has always been passionate about helping the homeless community. Thanks to them, Imagine Housing is opening 63 homes for families at 30Bellevue this month.

Recognizing the need within our community, St. Luke's Lutheran Church has stepped up to help in a big way to provide shelter for those in need. They were instrumental in the creation of Congregations for the Homeless, a year-round shelter for homeless men, and have hosted men from the program since 1993 to provide a safe, warm place for them to sleep each February, one of the coldest months of the year. In 2012, they opened their doors to provide space for The Sophia Way Day Center and Shelter which provides not only shelter, but also a wide arrange of services for women who are experiencing homelessness.

In 2014, St. Luke's Lutheran Church saw another opportunity to make a lasting impact on those who were struggling to exit homelessness or find affordable housing in our Eastside cities. In partnership with Imagine Housing, they began talks to utilize a portion of their property on Bellevue Way to build an affordable apartment community.

Quicklinks

[Why Housing Matters](#)

[Donate Now](#)

[GiveBIG](#)

[Sign up for Affordable Housing Week "Housing 101" Event](#)



Shop at AmazonSmile
and Amazon will make
a donation to:



Get started

amazon smile

Save the Date!



May 8: GiveBIG all day, online! [Schedule your donation here.](#) (See article in main newsletter for more information.)

May 9: Lunch & Learn at Imagine Housing's Velocity community in Kirkland, Thursday, May 9 from 11:45 am to 1:00 pm. Join us to learn about how housing impacts our communities and Imagine Housing's response to the affordable housing crisis. [Register here!](#)

Today, that dream is a reality and 30Bellevue is opening this month with 63 new apartment homes. The property was designed to support families, with half of the units designated for those exiting homelessness. The church continues to support the project by providing basic needs items, meals, and a handmade quilt for each new home.



Quilts made by St. Luke's congregation members for the new residents of 30Bellevue

We at Imagine Housing are grateful to St. Luke's for their vision and their help to provide hope and support for those in need in our community. They are a true role model for real change in the community.

GiveBIG is Tomorrow, May 8!

GiveBIG to support the creation of affordable homes on the Eastside!

You don't have to wait until tomorrow. You can preschedule your GiveBIG donation right now by going to www.givebig2019.org/imagine-housing. Your card will be charged on May 8.

Together, we can make real change and provide affordable housing to our most vulnerable community members. Together, we can reach the Imagine 1000 goal of housing 1,200 more people by having 1,000 apartments by 2022.

Thanks to people like you who have donated, we will be opening 30Bellevue, but there is still more work to do!

Your donation to GiveBIG this year will help us plan for Esterra Park Block 6B, which will integrate affordable housing in the new master development near the Redmond Microsoft campus.

May 13 - 17: Affordable Housing Week. Join us **May 15** for a special event! [Register here](#). (See article in main newsletter for more information.)

June 3: Our Homes, Our Voices Week of Action will have a local event at the Edmonds library Monday, June 3, from 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm. The panel discussion is called "Where Will We All Live? A Conversation About Housing and Homelessness." [Click here](#) to learn more.

June 6: Come hear your neighbors tell "Stories About Home," Thursday, June 6, at 6:30 p.m. at Seattle University's Pigott Auditorium. This free event is hosted by The Seattle Times Project Homeless in partnership with Seattle University's Project on Family Homelessness and The Seattle Public Library. Like last year's event, it's a night of personal stories of homelessness, told in the Ignite style of 20 slides, 15 seconds per slide. Storytellers will be announced Monday, May 6 and registration opens that day [here](#). Bring a friend, family member, or colleague who wants to understand why you do this work.

Oct 2: [Save the date for Raise the Roof!](#) Join Imagine Housing Wednesday, October 2, 2019 from 5:30pm - 8:30pm at the Pickering Barn in Issaquah for a fun-filled night with local chefs, wineries, distilleries, and breweries all coming together to celebrate our work to create affordable apartment homes in our community. Additional



details will be announced in this newsletter and on our website.

**#GiveBIG TODAY
and create
#Homes4All**



Affordable Housing 101: Why is it so dang hard?



Join us on Wed, May 15, 2019, from 6 - 8 pm at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church - Kirkland for a "head and heart" experience.

Hear stories and engage in small groups discussions with experts on both sides of the crisis -- those working to create more affordable housing on the Eastside and those who are in need of it.

King County Housing Authority will be kicking off the event, providing an overview of what affordable housing looks like on the Eastside and beginning our discussion.

REGISTER NOW

Please join us - all are welcome.
Light dinner and refreshments will be provided!

Register by clicking the orange button above.

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

Interested in more events happening during Affordable Housing Week? Check out [HDC's website!](#)

Housing Advocacy Wins Intersect with Public Opinion on Affordable Housing

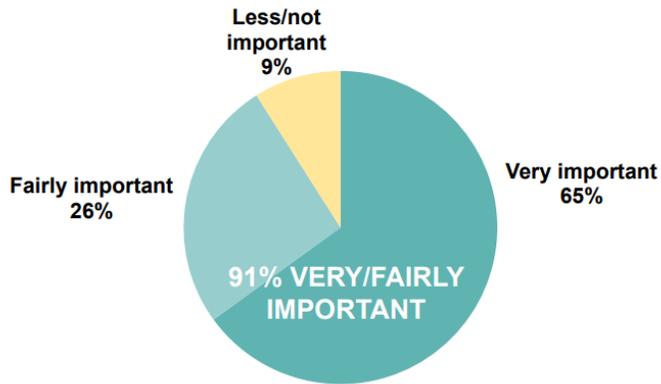
The 105-day legislative session adjourned at midnight on Sunday, April 29 to some major affordable housing successes, with laws enacted that touch everyday life across the state. Housing advocates across the state are celebrating the wins:

- \$175 million invested in the Housing Trust Fund, estimated to build nearly 5,000 more permanently affordable homes across the state
- the passage of HB 1406, which will allow local governments to choose to retain a portion of the state sales tax they already collect to build affordable homes
- the passage of SB 5600 which reforms eviction laws to provide more protection to tenants
- and an increase of \$14.5 million to the Housing and Essential Needs program, which will help more than 1,000 people avoid homelessness.

People across the state, including you, our wonderful newsletter readers, made their voices heard by contacting representatives and advocating for housing justice. You also educated your fellow community members by talking about the importance of affordable housing. Every time you talk to someone about housing, you advocate!

On March 28, the Opportunity Starts at Home campaign released the results of a national public opinion poll, the first in several years, to determine the extent to which the public considers affordable housing to be a problem in their communities. The poll is important because it will help inform lawmakers and policymakers about how the public views affordable housing.

With four in 10 Americans saying they spend more than 30% of their household income on rent or mortgage, the importance of communities having affordable, quality rental housing is recognized almost universally.



Awareness about the need for affordable housing is going up, which is an important step in the right direction. Six in 10 identify housing affordability as a serious problem in the area where they live; this is a 21-point increase since just three years ago, when 39% identified it as such.

These poll results show us that although we should celebrate every win, there's still a lot of work to do.

So, how can you help?

You can advocate by talking to your friends, family, coworkers, and lawmakers about the importance of affordable housing. You can also attend an advocacy event! Affordable Housing week is right around the corner (see the article below for more information). You can also share your passion for affordable housing by sharing our GiveBIG page with your friends and family (see article below for more information).
