



Imagine Housing  
building eastside communities

The Blueprint  
March 2018

## Making a New Home at Athene



*"I am home at last! Safe and sound - so grateful and so happy. Thank you for caring for seniors! I have so many new friends and my life is now 'forward-looking!'"*

We were thrilled to celebrate the formal Grand Opening for Athene in February. *Thank you* to our project partners, elected officials, community members, and residents for your support in the creation of 91 new affordable homes for seniors in Kirkland!

At the event, speakers reflected on how Athene addresses the rising need in our region. King County Executive Dow Constantine pointed out that today's seniors laid the foundation for the incredible prosperity our region is enjoying now, so

we need to ensure they can continue to live in their community as they reach retirement and are living with a fixed income.

Kirkland City Councilmember Toby Nixon noted the vast number of families and individuals concerned with being able to access safe, affordable senior housing for themselves and their loved ones. Athene, responding to two of the city's top priorities, is a great example of our community coming together to begin addressing the immense need, he said.

The new residents at Athene marked the grand opening by reflecting on their new community:

*"There is no place like home - for real! After a long time of fear and panic, I am finally learning how to relax. Thanks to everyone who helped make that possible."*

*"You make it look easy to do, delivering outstanding facilities and services. Thank you for making such a difference, such a contribution for Eastside residents."*

*"I am grateful for a once-in-a-lifetime chance to make changes in the community that can happen through love, sharing, and caring for each other, and being happy for the rest of our days."*

Your support of our mission creates safe, stable homes and most importantly, hope for our residents. Thank you!

## This Month: 2018 Imagine Gala & Auction



March is Gala & Auction Month! If you're planning to join us at the 25th Annual *Imagine* Gala & Auction on Saturday, March 24, don't forget to complete your registration online or through your table captain.

Visit our website to [register](#). You can also help by [sponsoring](#) the event or by [donating an item](#) for the auction.

## Advocacy Win! State Votes Against Housing Discrimination

Housing advocates across the state, including Imagine Housing, have been trying for years to ban source of income discrimination state-wide. And as of March 1st, House Bill 2578 passed in the Washington State House and Senate in a huge victory for low-income Washingtonians who rely on housing assistance to afford rent.

Why is this so important? In a failure of fair housing laws to include source of income, people who receive housing subsidies through Section 8 vouchers, VA Supportive Housing Vouchers, SSDI, and other forms of public support are legally discriminated against by landlords. Craigslist ads that specified "NO SECTION 8" were perfectly legal, and categorically denied housing to renters most at risk of homelessness. You may remember in 2016 when 2 Renton apartment complexes attempted to stop accepting Housing Choice Vouchers [and evict more than 65 families from their homes](#). This legislation will prevent landlords state-wide from trying this again.

We applaud our leaders in our state legislature who voted to end this practice that kept thousands of families, veterans, and people with disabilities from accessing and keeping stable, affordable housing. The [Housing Alliance](#) has a handy tool to help you thank your legislators and urge them to keep up the good work in less than a minute.

## Upcoming: Lunch & Learn with Imagine Housing

Want to learn more about ways we can all help the vulnerable people in our communities? Join us for the next Imagine Housing Lunch & Learn on Thursday, May 3, 2018 from 11:45 AM-1:00 PM! This short lunch program offers an overview of our mission, programs, and goals. You'll meet other like-minded people, learn about affordable housing, and get more connected to the Eastside.

Register [here](#) to attend.