Home Games A Success—It’s Not Too Late To Give

On the beautiful, Saturday evening of October 19th, 2013 150 Homestead friends and supporters gathered at the Pyramid Brewery for the second annual Home Games Trivia Night fundraiser.

Thanks to guests and event sponsors, we raised over $38,000 to support our work to help no fewer than 20 more modest-income families realize their dream of buying a home in the coming year. Unique to Homestead’s approach, we’ll also ensure that these homes remain affordable to future buyers as well.

Trivia teams were challenged by three rounds of Trivia put together by local Seattle Trivia Maven, Coach Carrie. They heard about current Homestead successes and plans for the future, including the news of our newest project – Columbia 26. Homestead homeowner and board member, Sarah Sausner, generously shared with those in attendance her personal path to homeownership and what Homestead has allowed her to do in her life and in the community.

We are honored to channel the generosity of that evening into sustainably strengthening our community through creating permanent affordable homeownership opportunities for modest-income households in the Seattle area.

If you were unable to attend or would otherwise like to support Homestead’s work, it’s not too late! Use the envelope enclosed here or go to our website www.homesteadclt.org to invest in a more sustainable, equitable and just Seattle.

Meet (or Get Reacquainted) with Homestead

Homestead recently launched a new community engagement strategy in an effort to introduce more would-be supporters, homebuyers and volunteers to the impact of our work. Whether you’ve supported Homestead for years, are a new Homestead homeowner, or have just recently learned of our work, you are invited to Meet Homestead.

Meet Homestead is a no-obligation, in-person “tour” of our mission in under an hour. We won’t ask you for money, or really anything, except to follow up with you by phone to hear your impressions of the presentation and to get your thoughts about our work. This is an effort to raise awareness about our work and introduce ourselves to people who might be interested in or inspired by Homestead’s work. Do you know others who should meet Homestead? Bring them along.

The next scheduled Meet Homestead events are January 22nd and February 26th from 6:00 - 7:00 at our offices - 412 Maynard Ave. South, Seattle, WA 98104. See www.homesteadclt.org for more dates. Please RSVP to erika@homesteadclt.org so we know to expect you.
From the Director

I recently attended the Puget Sound Equity Summit. It was a fantastic event which facilitated conversations and action planning among local and regional efforts all working to advance the cause of equity. Conversations cut to the heart of issues of inclusion, fairness, and opportunity. How can we better ensure that the prosperity of our region is enjoyed by all our diverse communities? How can underserved communities gain more powerful tools to direct their own futures? How can we ensure that when the efforts of underserved communities to win public and private investment are finally successful, it does not have the unintended consequence of displacing those with modest incomes?

These are exciting topics that have historical roots in patterns of exclusion and racism that extend back hundreds of years, and continue to be reinforced in modern history as well as through recent events. It is easy for our society to acknowledge a past injustice such as slavery in the US which built wealth for white slave owners at the expense of black slaves. But it is only when we understand the connection between distant historical events, to events in the recent past, to events in today’s news, that we begin to understand how inequity is perpetuated, and what we must do to advance the cause of equity.

From slavery, to the exclusion of African Americans from many of the New Deal policies of social uplift in the 1940’s, to the redlining policies which maintained racial segregation to support property values in white neighborhoods at the expense of communities of color in the 50’s and 60’s, to the massive wealth stripping that has occurred in communities of color through today’s foreclosure crisis, issues of land and homeownership are central. Given this history, it is no accident the first community land trust was formed in 1970 to give African American farmers in Georgia the opportunity to collectively own and control land for farming. And it makes perfect sense that community land trusts later took on the issue of rebuilding urban neighborhoods in communities of color destroyed by urban “renewal”.

Homestead’s work continues this history of fighting for equity. Started by residents of central and south Seattle in 1992 who were concerned about the potential displacement of modest income residents from their communities, they saw permanently affordable homeownership as an important element in maintaining community cohesion and building community power. This vision continues to inform our work today.

Sheldon Cooper, Executive Director

Homestead Receives another $100,000 from Wells Fargo

In late November we received word that Wells Fargo & Company will donate another $100,000 to Homestead through its 2013 Leading the Way Home® program Priority Markets Initiative to help stabilize and revitalize neighborhoods negatively impacted by foreclosures. These funds will continue support for our Homestead Rebuilding Communities acquisition and rehabilitation program through which we are transforming distressed properties into high-quality, permanently affordable, owner-occupied homes.

“We believe the work of Homestead is a critical conduit to revitalize our neighborhoods that have been deeply affected by the challenging economy,” said Patrick Yalung, Wells Fargo’s Washington region president.

Lindsey Sargent Honored by Puget Sound Business Journal

On November 13, 2013 our very own Homeownership Program Director, Lindsey Sargent, was honored by the Puget Sound Business Journal (PSBJ) as the 2013 Women of Influence Scholarship Honoree. For the past ten years the PSBJ has held this event to shine a spotlight on local businesswomen, community leaders and philanthropists who are a force in the region. Five hundred and fifty attendees gathered at the Hyatt Regency in Bellevue to be inspired by the event’s honorees. Lindsey was featured for her volunteer work leading a Girl Scout troop in White Center for the past 11 years. Lindsey gave an emotional speech about the importance of mentorship and the relationship she has had with these young women that received a standing ovation. The Lytle Foundation sponsored a table so that her co-leader Liz Coleman and members of their Girl Scout troop could attend the event and celebrate with Lindsey as she received her award. The $7,500 scholarship will help pay for Lindsey’s tuition as she attends Seattle University’s Masters in Business Administration program. Congratulations Lindsey. We’re grateful to have you here at Homestead.

Lindsey Sargent (second from right), celebrating a fantastic win with her co-leader Liz Coleman (fourth from right) and members of her girl scout troop (left to right) Veronica Guzman, Jenny Nguyen, Ranny Nguyen, Guadalupe Guzman, Marina Pinedo, Heaven Mangles and Ema Guzman.
Welcome new homeowners Mohammednur Mohammed, Fatiha Jbouri and family!

Fatiha and Mohammed’s goals in coming to the United States in the 90’s, from Morocco and Eritrea respectively, were to have a family and create the opportunity for a better life for their children. This dream is becoming reality with the purchase of their new home at Rainier Vista.

Mohammed works full time as a Nursing Assistant at Harborview Medical Center and has another part-time at a nursing home. Sabrin, Amin and Ayman go to school locally and Fatiha and El Jamali spend the time raising their three children.

Made possible through a partnership between Homestead, Habitat for Humanity of Seattle/King County and others, they will soon be moving into their own home, which is also known as the “House of the Immediate Future”. This was a demonstration project as part of the 50 year celebration of the World’s Fair. The home has a small footprint, is very energy efficient and is located very near transit and services. We’re grateful for the partnerships that have made this dream come true for the Mohammed family. Congratulations.

CHIP Grantees Share Best Practices and Stories

In November Lindsey Sargent and Stephanie Hiebert represented Homestead at the Cornerstone Homeownership Innovation Program (CHIP) Grantee’s Capacity Building Institute in Berkley, California. Homestead is one of ten organizations in the country to receive multi-year capacity building CHIP funding with funds from the National Social Innovation Fund and the Ford Foundation. A benefit of this funding is having the opportunity to send staff to meet semi-annually with others doing similar work to brainstorm and innovate best community land trust practices and policies that not only improve our work and service delivery but can act as a model for other groups starting out. The work of these ten organizations will lift the sector as a whole.

“Meeting with other organizations with similar missions doing work in different ways in other areas of the country gets my creative juices flowing,” said Lindsey Sargent, Homestead Program Director. “It motivates me to come back to Seattle and incorporate new ideas into our program to make the work we do here even better.”

In addition to more technical sessions, Andy Goodman of the Goodman Center presented on storytelling. “This was best workshop of the conference,” said Stephanie Hiebert, Homestead’s Stewardship Coordinator. It was great to see how others from across the country are innovative in how they get their message out. It was very powerful.”

Goodman will also lead the storytelling webinar series in January in which four Homestead homeowners will participate. Congratulations to Sara Holbrook, Dan Moore, Sarah Sausner and Mark Zimmerly who won scholarships to participate in this training. If you’re a Homestead homeowner and want to participate, there may still be time to sign-up. Contact Erika Malone 206-323-1227 ext. 117 or erika@homesteadclt.org.

Calling Housing Advocates – Save the Date!

Please join affordable housing advocates from across the state, including Homestead members and supporters, at the Washington Low-Income Housing Alliance’s Affordable Housing and Homelessness Advocacy Day in Olympia on Tuesday, January 28th, 2014.

Watch your email for more information or go to www.homesteadclt.org to learn more.
Save the Date!

Join us for our 2014 Annual Celebration

Wednesday, January 8th,
from 6:30 – 8:00
at the Southside Commons (3518 S Edmunds Street Seattle, WA 98118).

It’s a family friendly event and dinner will be provided. Please RSVP to erika@homesteadclt.org

Columbia 26 Sneak Peek

Wednesday, January 8th, 4:30 – 6:15.

Get a sneak peek of our newest project – Columbia 26 (5006 Renton Ave. South, Seattle, WA 98118) then walk over to Southside Commons (just blocks away) for our Annual Celebration.
(See invite to the left)