Homestead Welcomes Laura Evans, Homeownership Program Manager

Laura Evans, Homeownership Program Manager

The position of Homeownership Program Manager for Homestead Community Land Trust has proven to be an exciting and challenging role for me. Born and raised in the Seattle area, I have been a first-hand witness to the increasing prices of Seattle’s housing, watching as the prices soar above an attainable level for the majority of its residents.

I am a strong believer that access to safe, stable, and affordable housing is a fundamental human need and part of the foundation of a strong community. Homestead Community Land Trust is on the brink of facilitating three new homeowners to meet this need, with another 15 homeowners expected to realize the same dream by the end of the year with the support of HCLT. Needless to say, it is an exciting time to be joining the organization.

Working within HCLT’s homeownership model, I see that a vibrant, diverse, and caring community in Seattle can be cultivated, one homeowner at a time. I am honored to be participating in building community in this way and look forward to continuing the work of HCLT in supporting those who might otherwise be pushed out of our city, as they gain a foothold in the market and make the leap to homeownership.

For more information about HCLT’s ADVANTAGE Program visit www.homesteadclt.org
email Laura: laura@homesteadclt.org

Local & Regional Community Land Trust Movement Growing

By Sheldon Cooper

The sun has returned, days are longer, warm breezes blow. Tulips are up, my grass needs mowing, nature is bursting and growing. It must be spring!

I recently returned from the Northwest Community Land Trust Coalition’s spring gathering in Corbett, Oregon. Fifty-five people from 24 community land trusts (CLTs) from Washington, Oregon and one from California spent the weekend learning and sharing best practices of how to create permanently affordable homes in our region. This was by far the largest of these meetings, and sold out far in advance. The small group of us who have been attending these gatherings for the past eight years found ourselves surrounded by new faces. New CLTs are springing up around the Northwest, and existing CLTs are growing the scope of their projects and ambitions.

The Washington State legislature recently allocated $200,000 to growing the capacity of young CLTs around...
the state. At this recent regional gathering, 11 Washington CLTs were identified that could take advantage of this assis-
tance. The Northwest Community Land Trust Coalition has proposed that it create a year long professional development course for these eligible CLTs combined with technical as-
sistance tailored to each organization. This relatively small dollar investment will dramatically increase the capacity of CLTs across Washington, nurturing the current growth of the movement and setting the stage for greater growth in the future.

Homestead Community Land Trust (HCLT) is also expe-
siencing a significant growth spurt. As you will read in these pages, we have hired two new staff members, dramatically increasing our capacity to serve more homeowners. We have been adding to our stock of affordable homes at a rapid rate. We have added four homes in the last six weeks, bringing our total to 15. Four more homes will close in the next six weeks. These include our first townhome, condos, and Habi-
tat partnership home.

Collectively, our four most recent homebuying families have African, Asian, Native American and European an-
cesty, seven children, include recent and long established immigrants, and people for whom English is a second and third language.

This spring brings HCLT new growth in many directions. New homes, new housing types, new family demographics, new partnerships! No wonder I haven’t had time to mow my lawn!

How to Help Preserve Permanent Affordability

Your financial contributions make home ownership pos-
sible for hardworking individuals and families who other-
wise could not own a home of their own in the community in which they live or work.

When you make a charitable donation to Homestead Com-

How to Help Homestead by Granting a Wish

There are ways to help support Homestead Community Land Trust by providing goods or services that we would otherwise have to pay for! Please call Kristin Bolken at 206.323.1227 to contribute the following items or expertise from the Wish List:

- Copy/printer paper
- Pencils for homeownership orientation participants
- “Welcome Home” gift baskets for new homebuyers
- Digital scanner with automatic document feeder (example: Xerox DocuMate Scanner)
- Phone system with auto attendant and voice mail
- Printing services
- Sign, banner and plaque design and printing
- Donated land/property in the Greater Seattle Area

Thank you Homestead Partners!

Realtors who have worked with our buyers this Spring:

Tishal Ayalew with John L. Scott
Stacey Grgersen with Renton Realty
Tonya Hennen with the CoHo Team and Windermere
Janice Kato with Reality Ventures Corporation

Dear Homestead Community Land Trust,

Thank you for providing the opportunity to contribute to your efforts to preserve affordable housing. As a...