Alexandra was first introduced to Homestead CLT’s program by her supervisor at work, who sent her an email with a link to some information about our program. Alexandra checked out the link but her perception at the time was that the agent’s info clearly broke down the numbers, which realized that YES, she could do this! Armed with this information, Alexandra was motivated to apply to our program – and we were happy to approve her!

Alexandra’s impression of the home-buying experience, in her own words, was “great, and closing happened as quickly as possible after the pre-approval process. I am altogether happy with the program, and I believe the staff and organization as a whole are very professional”. The most difficult part of the process for Alexandra was the fact that the home she was purchasing was bank-owned, which presents more challenges to the closing process than purchasing from a person. She believes that without Homestead CLT, homeownership would still be out of reach, and she would not be able to provide such a stable environment for her family. There was nothing on the market in her price range at the time that would allow her to purchase a home with the same quality in the city of Seattle. Without our program, she believes she would still be renting.

Alexandra and her son Sean are very happy in their home, and she has referred several families to our program since becoming a member of the Homestead Community Land Trust. Alexandra wants to specifically encourage other single parents, who may be experiencing the same challenges she faced, to check out our program and apply. Alexandra is employed with Lutheran Community Services and administers international counseling and community services to refugees and their families, and she believes our program is an important resource for these families; families that have had to flee their home countries and leave everything behind. Homestead CLT can be their first step towards establishing stability and homeownership.

For more information about Lutheran Community Services and their mission, check them out on the web at www.lcsnw.org/seattle/#os.htm
I suspect we can all look back and find moments when our lives were changed forever. Sometimes those moments are dramatic and obvious (the day I became a father comes to mind). But often they are more subtle, a new idea that plants itself in the mind and grows over time into the heart and soul.

One such moment for me was in 1999 at the National Community Land Trust Conference in St. Paul, MN. I had been involved with Homestead for a number of years, and had just transitioned from being on the board to being its sole staff person.

At that conference I met several of the movement’s pioneers, Chuck Matthie, Marie Cirillo, Susan Witt, John Davis and others. I heard these people tell personal stories that connected their lives’ work with CLTs to broad and vibrant civil rights and social justice movements for community control of land as a tool for self determination and community empowerment. A bright line was drawn connecting the plight of sharecroppers in the rural Southeast, those living in coal mining towns in Appalachia, those living in run down cities decimated by urban “renewal” policies, and those forced out of their communities by gentrification. Great strides against racism had been made in the legal arena through the civil rights movement, but institutional racism remains stubbornly embedded in the economic realm. Seeing CLTs as a powerful tool to move us closer to Dr. King’s “promised land” was inspirational for me.

I left the conference with a powerful feeling of connection, between the work of CLTs today and historical struggles for justice, as well as the feeling of connection at both these levels that has kept me passionate about this work for the past 12 years.

At the conference I also met a surprising number of lovely and passionate people who were involved in CLTs in the Northwest. We began to meet up at meals and quickly realized the value in peer to peer sharing at a regional level. We left the conference with a pledge to get together again soon closer to home, and the Northwest Community Land Trust Coalition was born.

I attended the conference with a powerful feeling of connection, between the work of CLTs today and historical struggles for justice, as well as to a peer group engaged in this work locally. I have no doubt that it is this feeling of connection at both these levels that has kept me passionately engaged with this work for the past 12 years.

Now that you know a bit of this personal history, you will better understand why I am so excited to personally invite you to this year’s National Community Land Trust Conference in Seattle, October 24-27, at the downtown Red Lion, hosted by Homestead, and the Northwest Community Land Trust Coalition. It is going to be amazing! You definitely won’t want to miss it. Who knows, it just might change your life.

See you there!

Connecting Homeowners: The Key to Homestead’s Success

Successful homeownership doesn’t end at closing. Homestead’s commitment to ongoing support and programming hit a tipping point one year ago when we reached 100 homes in our land trust. The addition of dedicated staff time for our Stewardship programming and Homeowner Engagement activities have resulted in increased classes customized for our land trust homeowners and new peer-to-peer programming that connects new friends and families.

Recent research tells us that Land Trust homeowners are 10 times less likely to experience foreclosure than those who bought in the traditional market. In keeping with this, Homestead has never experienced a foreclosure. As homeowners connect more over the next year we expect to see even more classes and activities that support homeowners in flourishing as successful homeowners.

Thank You for your support!

Homestead is excited to partner with these institutions in creating successful, affordable homeownership in the Seattle area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Grant Amount</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
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</tr>
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<td>Tim Ball</td>
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Get Involved!

You don’t have to be a Homestead homeowner to make a difference with Homestead.

We welcome your involvement in our committees and activities.

Whatever level of participation you’re looking for, we have a place for you. No special skills or knowledge are required to volunteer (but if you’ve got skills or knowledge to offer, we’ll certainly take it!)

Volunteer and Committee Positions are available - contact carly@homesteadclt.org for more information.

2011 New Homeowners:

Southwest Seattle
Kevin & Christa McMammon
Alex Clairmont
Scheby John
Sandra Rabago
Abelia Barham & Gutu Nemaoye
Paul Bartine
Misia Callahan & Matthew Rizzuto
Estevan Munoz Howard & Elisa Ishi

Southwest Seattle
Alexander Barma
Antonio Li
Amy Caider
Thinh Lu & Ngoc Lu
Cindy Lui & Young Chew
Wei Min Huang & Xi Fang Yu
Kristie Tabadero

Southwest Seattle (cont.)
Sarah Dean
Shenina Bell & Derek Hart
Antonia Jones
Howard Clark
Matt Dunuesa & Samuel Bonsamo

Northeast Seattle
Gopiath Tu
Heather Bouzik & Ian Baker
Thomas Taylor
Yihe Huang

Northeast Seattle
Dereje Muhammed & Almemesht Weldeyehanes

Four Bedroom Homes Available for only $225,000*

Features...
- 4 bedroom 2.5 bath, over 1500 sqft
- Open Living Room/Dining Room
- Modern architecture with bamboo flooring & hydronic heat
- Gourmet kitchen with stone counters and stainless steel appliances
- European style cabinets
- Deluxe finishes throughout home
- Homes will be complete December 2011
- Take advantage of historically low 30-year fixed interest rates today
- Special financing with only $3000 down payment

*Price is net of subsidy from Homestead Community Land Trust, contact HCLT for qualifications.