

# everyone

deserves a decent place to live.

January 26, 2018

“My kids are going to see that since we own our own house, they should own their own house too. Each generation will know that owning their house is important- **and possible.**”

–Jessica, Habitat homeowner

Dear Friends,

You make it all possible - every build happens because of your generosity; every home dedication is a result of your gifts.

Enclosed you'll find an itemized list of your 2017 giving. While this documents the dollars and cents you gave to Tacoma/Pierce County Habitat for Humanity last year, it doesn't capture all that your ongoing support makes possible.

In December, we wrapped our biggest project to date: The Woods at Golden Given. What began as a dumpsite is now a beautiful cottage community, housing 30 families in safe and stable homes. Not only are these families benefitting from the security of homeownership, but they are thriving as a community. Their homeowner association secured grant funding for summer tutoring and their Common House hosts activities ranging from Girl Scout troop meetings to disaster preparedness workshops.

We're also investing heavily in new homeownership in Tillicum, a community that has historically struggled – with poverty, with gangs, and with drugs. We've been working in Tillicum since 2012, with new construction and rehab work, and this community will be our focus in 2018.

To say Tillicum suffers from a lack of community would be an understatement. But with some powerful leadership by Habitat homeowners, inspired our Habitat Connects program, **big things are happening in this once-blighted neighborhood**. Case in point: the first ever 5K in Tillicum, which happened in September. Habitat Connects was part of the coalition that produced this fun run. Reflecting on the race and the feelings it invoked, one Habitat homeowner shared, “In order for change to take place you have to get involved. We have to let people know they don't have to

be scared, that their neighbors are here to help. That they can help others. As I was out there...I saw people standing on their doorsteps and waving.”

It seems that each gift, every grant and activity inspired a *pay it forward* mentality last year – which created room for great possibility. For example, three of our mission-critical vehicles drove their last mile in 2017. We were faced with some hard choices in order to replace them. But through word-of-mouth and the generosity of neighbors, we ended up with three vehicles donated to our organization within as many weeks – without any sacrifices to our operation.

This time next year, we plan to be building a new eleven-home community called Tyler Court – on a donated plot of land. The property owner attended our Changing Lives Luncheon and was inspired by the generosity he witnessed. *Your gift led to his gift.*

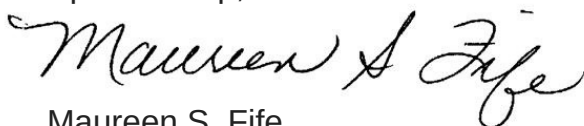
**This is the work you make possible.** I can't thank you enough for your support.

Not only do we build homes, but we help families get ready for homeownership. In the past six months, 140 families attended our Homeownership Information Sessions and more recently, *every interest meeting has been at capacity.*

There's no denying that the need is great. Homeownership is a much bigger challenge than it has ever been. Land is expensive. Rents are climbing. But the compassion of our community is awe-inspiring.

While Pierce County can feel expansive, at heart it is really just one big neighborhood. In a time when our work is more important than ever, I celebrate that you are standing shoulder to shoulder with Habitat – as neighbors helping neighbors. *Thank you.*

In partnership,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maureen S. Fife". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Maureen S. Fife  
CEO