February 7, 2017

Dear Friends,

You are amazing. Your generous support of Tacoma/Pierce County Habitat for Humanity provides hope and offers opportunity for struggling families who need to stabilize their living conditions.

Enclosed you will find a statement of your 2016 donations. In addition to reminding you of the dollars and cents, I’d like to share how your gifts are making a difference.

- In response to Pope Francis’ Year of Mercy, the Pierce County Deanery worked alongside us to fully fund and build a Habitat home. This was a beautiful partnership for us; while building the home, we also forged relationships with people from 25 parishes across the county because of their volunteerism.

- More than 34 groups came together to volunteer through our Team Habitat program; their hard work and inclusivity is inspiring.

- In 2004, The Russell Family Foundation launched its Jane’s Fellowship Program, which supports, trains, and empowers grassroots leaders in Tacoma and Pierce County. We saw the third Habitat homeowner get accepted into this innovative program in 2016. It is incredibly rewarding to watch these amazing individuals use all they've learned in order to influence change in the larger community.

In the coming year we will continue to work under the banner that everyone deserves a safe, decent place to call home. With support from friends like you, here are just some of the things we will accomplish:

- Completion of the 30 homes at The Woods at Golden Given this fall, which will wrap our largest project to date. It has been so gratifying to watch this community grow. The Woods has won several awards for environmental sustainability; the families are thriving; and in 2016, homeowners elected their first board of directors to manage the association.
• Our own grassroots leadership program, Habitat Connects, is expanding to Tillicum. I am excited to see Habitat homeowners leading community redevelopment efforts in what has been a very challenged area. Habitat Connects is a tangible measure of how resident leaders can create to stronger, more cohesive neighborhoods.

• A new tour program at The Woods at Golden Given will launch next month, so we can readily demonstrate the difference Habitat makes to donors and new friends. Please consider joining us! Visit our website for tour details.

• We are exploring new community partnerships to foster land donations and affordable acquisitions in order to fill a pipeline of land to carry us through the next five years of construction.

This is important work, and I am honored to have you among our allies.

Please consider joining me at our annual Changing Lives Luncheon on March 7 to hear more about Habitat’s future in our community. At the event, we will also celebrate some wonderful homeowners and the successes they’ve found through the stability of their Habitat homes. For information about our luncheon or to reserve your seat, please visit our event website at http://bit.ly/2017ChangingLivesLuncheon.

Thank you again for all you do. Your financial contributions to Tacoma/Pierce County Habitat for Humanity are so important - not only because your gifts change the lives of our homeowners, but because you inspire us. Because of you, we continue to have hope. Hope that things can change and that someday everyone will have a safe and decent place to live.

With deep gratitude,

Maureen S. Fife
CEO