



building **stability, strength** and **self-reliance** through shelter

August 10, 2020

Dear Friends,

In recent months Tacoma/Pierce County Habitat for Humanity has wrestled uncertainty, made tough decisions, and stretched our faith. But through it all, **you continued to show up** for Habitat. *Your love and support have not gone unnoticed.*

In big ways and small, you made sure we kept the faith, stayed true to our mission, and continued moving forward. **You are the strength behind our work.** Because of you, as we closed the fiscal year, we had victories to celebrate and good news to share – despite the challenges we faced.

As the pandemic gripped the world and forced the closure of our volunteer schedule, we sorely felt the absence of our volunteers. Still, our Construction Managers continued building homes, even taking phone tutorials from skilled volunteers to get the job done. **We have completed and sold four homes since March.** That brings us to five owner-occupied homes at Tyler Court, plus *one* new homeowner on Key Peninsula.

Building at Tyler Court continues. Now in Phase 2 of our *Volunteer Return Plan*, we are **averaging eight volunteers on site each day** – including future homeowners earning their sweat equity. In time, I look forward to welcoming *all* volunteers back to site – but we're moving carefully, prioritizing our community's health.

In the shadow of a global pandemic, Habitat for Humanity International cancelled all non-domestic volunteer opportunities. Our office had several trips pending and, as we worked with local volunteers to cancel several of our pending trips, we also received news that our local Global Village program had reached a milestone. In partnership with local volunteers, **we have distributed more than one million dollars for housing solutions around the world, serving 288 families internationally.**

During the dark, early days of *Washington's Stay Home, Stay Healthy Order*, when businesses were shuttered and anxiety about economic futures was palpable, we reviewed our financial position and became a little nervous, too. I came to you to ask if, after decades of providing a

hand-up for our neighbors in need, you would provide a hand-up for Habitat itself. Our shared history told me that you would meet our needs, but my heart wasn't quite prepared for your overwhelming response. **You came through just when we needed you most**, with over \$100,000 (and counting!) in support of our work. I will be *forever grateful*.

Because of your continued support, I can say that **we had a pretty good year**. But even better, **there are exciting things ahead**; with new and deeper ways we can serve our community together.

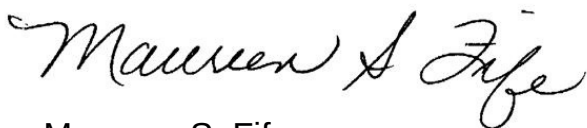
In the coming months, we will **expand our home repair program for vulnerable, low-income seniors**. Our pilot program is a partnership with the Pierce County Human Services Department, providing repairs at low or no- cost to homeowners. These services enable seniors members of our community to age in place, with dignity and security. Building on this experience, we aim to move to an open-enrollment *Aging in Place* program over the next year.

As we complete the construction at Tyler Court this fall, our **next project will be in Gig Harbor** for a three-home project near St. Anthony's Hospital. We'll also be **building in Tacoma**, with townhomes to serve eight families in the Proctor District and a four-home project in the Fern Hill neighborhood.

The pandemic has shown us how quickly homeownership can be threatened by economic challenges. Twelve percent of Habitat homeowners have requested forbearance, mirroring the experience of so many families in our community. With this in mind, we feel called to offer our services to serve the broader public and have partnered with Pierce County on a robust mortgage relief program for those impacted by COVID-19. Over the next four months, we will **distribute \$1M to an estimated 300 homeowners**, helping to keep the risks of default and foreclosure at bay.

What we accomplish as an organization is only possible **because you stand with us**, working shoulder to shoulder to build a world where *everyone* has a decent place to call home. Your ongoing support - *especially over these last few months* - is more appreciated than you know. This work truly belongs to you and **we couldn't do it without 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