



FAITH PARTNERS FOR HOUSING

A Home For Everyone

Faith Community News

Our mission -- is to expand affordable housing in Clark County, Washington by mobilizing faith based resources.

Winter 2021

Volume 2 Issue 1

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See our website address on the back page of this newsletter.

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Faith: The Foundation for Advancing Housing Affordability

By Denny Scott

Faith Partners for Housing was formed in 2015 by faith organizations already working to feed those who are hungry, shelter those experiencing homelessness, providing transitional housing, collecting coats and socks, making quilts, opening church parking lots for car camping, serving on the boards of the Council for the Homeless and Share---and so much more. The commitment to serve the most disadvantaged by poverty and injustice is prominent in most faith traditions. It represents a thankful and generous response to God's love.

- ❖ Christian teachings equate Jesus himself with those who are most vulnerable. In Matthew 25 Jesus says when I was hungry you gave me food, when I was sick you took care of me, when naked you gave me clothing and then pointed out "just as you did it for one of the least of these who are members of *my family*, *you did it to me.*"
- ❖ *The Jewish attitude toward* those who are poor can be summed up in a single word—achikha (your brother). The Jewish faith insists on dignity of all people and giving to those who are poor is an obligation.
- ❖ One great reform the Prophet Muhammed brought to the Arabic world was on the matter of giving to the poor. "Every Muslim must give to charity." It is one of the five pillars of the Islamic faith. Every solvent Muslim adult must give 2.5% of their wealth to charity (called Zakah).

When faith organizations embrace and advocate safe and affordable housing to alleviate suffering and end homelessness it comes from the same foundational place---a calling from God to lift up those who are poor. Working to support permanent low-cost housing is an extension of what the faith community is already doing with one distinction--- housing is aimed at ending homelessness. As Pastor Jim Stender, my late mentor and inspirational leader put it, "Efforts to expand affordable housing moves the faith community from triage to a cure."

Faith Partners for Housing is doing that by advancing a safe and secure home sharing plan. It will increase the number of comfortable and affordable "living units" by using homes already in place. FP4H also urges faith organizations to explore the possibilities of converting some of their property into affordable housing; and has advocated measures at the city and county level which would start cutting away at the severe shortage of affordable housing.



Home Share Program Update



Faith Partners for Housing (FP4H) has submitted a grant application to the City of Vancouver to start a home share program. Clark County has expressed an interest in supporting the program upon approval by the City and has set aside \$35,000; providing matching funds are secured. If the program is funded, FP4H will begin the process of recruiting and interviewing for a Home Share Program Manager. Grants will be awarded April 05, 2021. The program is planned to tentatively start locating home providers and seekers by the end of April 2021. For more information, contact Denny Scott, Chairman, FP4H, at rdennyscott@aol.com.

HOME SHARING WORKS!

By Sally Schlachtenhaufen and Joe Aalbue

In the coming years, seniors will be at an even higher risk of homelessness. Studies suggest numbers could grow as much as 30%. When you share your home or become a roommate, you can solve many potential problems. So, take a chance on someone. It could be a win-win for both of you!

We want you to consider Home Sharing! We have shared our home with approximately thirty people over the past 23 years. We started this by building a cottage for my parents who moved here from the cold Wisconsin winters. Our home also has an upstairs apartment built in WWII. We have been able to provide housing during emergencies, life changes, and temporary housing as well. With the exception of my parents, the lengths of the stays were from two months to five years, and most of them have worked out very well. A few of the stays have not been perfect, although we have learned a great deal from both the good, and not so good times. Often, people we have shared our home with have become friends and look back on their stays as a very special time.



*"Home sharing works when
the rules are clear."
(Please see suggested rules on page 4.)*

Mark Maggiora Selected to Join Clark Co. Affordable Housing Panel



Mark Maggiora, Vice Chair of Faith Partners for Housing, has been selected to sit on a panel of Clark County community leaders to develop plans to create different types of affordable housing; within the unincorporated areas of Clark County. The name of the panel is the "Clark County Housing Options Study and Action Plan Project Advisory Group". The shorthand label (acronym) is PAG. The PAG will consist of about 20 members with a broad spectrum of interests and experience, including those most vulnerable to rising housing costs and displacement. The group will meet ten times throughout the year of 2021 and develop recommendations, which will be shared with the public, the Clark Co. Planning Commission, and the County Council.

Mark commented, "I am very pleased to represent Faith Partners for Housing on this important panel. We've established ourselves as a credible and steady advocate for affordable housing and it will be an honor to work on concrete plans to increase all types of affordable housing in Clark County."

Annual Report Available

The 2020 Faith Partners for Housing Annual Report is available.

Email rdennyscott@aol.com to request a copy.



To Partner on Low-Income Housing



The Columbian

There is an undeniable link between health and recovery, and having access to safe, secure housing. PeaceHealth Southwest Washington Medical Center is located on NE Mother Joseph Place and Mill Plain Blvd. PeaceHealth recognizes the connection between health and recovery and has recently joined Mercy Housing Northwest to build 72 affordable rental homes near the hospital. Located in Seattle, Mercy Housing NW is expanding their mission to Vancouver. Sean Gregory, Chief Executive of PeaceHealth said "We recognize our role of caring for our community goes well beyond our clinics and hospitals." PeaceHealth, a Catholic non-profit healthcare system will donate the land. Mercy Housing NW will manage the housing development. Mercy has developed more than 2,000 affordable rental homes across 16 counties in Washington. Notably, the hospital will provide needed on-site and "at-home" services for patients moving from hospital care to affordable housing. Through the Affordable Housing Fund, the City of Vancouver will provide \$500,000 for initial planning. An application has been assembled for the City of Vancouver's "HOME Fund"-- a federal block grant program available to cities for building affordable housing. This 72 home project is now in the process of a lengthy City planning/zoning/permitting review and Mercy hopes to break ground in 2021.

(The above Project Map was provided by the Columbian Newspaper)

Jay Elder for Your Willingness to Share Your Time and Talent!



FP4H is now a 501 (c) (3) Organization.
 To donate please send your tax deductible check to: FP4H c/o St. Andrew Lutheran Church, 5607 Gher Rd. Vancouver, WA 98662
 Or
 Contact Denny Scott – FP4H Chair @ email rdennyscott@aol.com.

Jay Elder: Holding the Oak Desk Top Box presented to him as a Thank You for his volunteer work. Jay volunteered his time and talent and registered Faith Partners for Housing with the IRS as a non-profit tax-deductible 501 (c) (3) charity organization



An Answer to Prayer

By Sally Schlachtenhaufen & Joe Aalbue

I want to share JoAnn's story: JoAnn is an 82 year old woman who grew up in Vancouver. She and her husband lived in an RV during the winters in Arizona and in Vancouver during the rest of the year. When her husband died, she wanted to continue living in Arizona in the winter, and Vancouver in the spring. A widowed friend had a wonderful condominium with a downstairs that was nearly as complete as the upstairs. She rented the condo and it worked out very well until the widow's children needed the space. After some discussion, we agreed to Home Share with her. Recently, I asked JoAnn about the pros and cons of Home Sharing. Concisely this is what she said. If she had to rent an apartment by herself, she would go through her savings quickly and the nest egg she had saved for her care, if she needs it, would be gone. She said living with us was an answer to prayer because along with housing, she enjoyed being part of a safe neighborhood where she could walk and know the neighbors. She also likes being able to cook and do laundry on site. Since the room was furnished, she also did not need as much stuff. JoAnn and I talked a little about advice we would give to folks considering home sharing.

It is as follows:

1. Understand house rules and expectations and honor them.
2. Honor schedules such as laundry, cooking, sleeping, etc.
3. Clean up after yourself.
4. Be aware of NOISE...TV and music volume, talking, etc.
5. Respect each other's independence.
6. If there are concerns, problems, or suggestions, "TALK"! Talking will usually resolve any concerns.



About the picture: "Recently I noticed JoAnn was short on storage space in the little kitchen area so we bought unfinished upper cabinets and JoAnn and I finished them."



Legislature Takes Up Bill (HB1183) to Support Home Share Programs

The Washington State Legislature is considering Bill (HB113), which would provide annual supporting grants to home share programs. The Bill would provide annual grants from a pool of funds that already exist to support homelessness services. No new taxes or fees are required to fund it. Many of our supporters and members of FP4H have written emails to the Housing, Human Services and Veterans committees, and urging a YES VOTE.

Who are the Partners In



FAITH PARTNERS
FOR
HOUSING

A Home For Everyone



Our Mission -- Is to expand affordable housing in Clark County, Washington by mobilizing faith-based resources.

We are a coalition of faith-based communities and individuals, open to all faiths. The role of Faith Partners for Housing (FP4H) is to connect people who have resources: land, buildings, homes, and expertise with organizations who can effectively transform those resources into low income, affordable and shared housing; for families, singles, and seniors. We want to live in a community where all hard working people can afford a safe and decent home for themselves, and/or their families. A community where seniors know they have a place to live and the most vulnerable among us need not live in tents. The role of Faith Partners for Housing is to connect people who have resources – land, buildings, homes, expertise – with organizations who can effectively transform those resources into housing affordable for low-income families, singles, and seniors.

Thanks So Much To Our Active Faith Partners:

Lutheran Churches: St Paul, St Andrew, Memorial, Immanuel, Camas and Zion.

Catholic Churches: St. Joseph, and St. Thomas.

Episcopal Churches: St. Luke's and St. Anne's.

United Methodist Churches: Vancouver Heights and Orchards.



CONTACT INFORMATION

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To learn more go to our website: <https://faithpartners-forhousing.org>



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