Welcome to Habitat Washington's Cost of Home Campaign Newsletter! If you got this as a forward, I encourage you to subscribe at the link below to make sure you don't miss an edition. If you already subscribe, please share this newsletter and get your friends to subscribe by clicking on the link here - Subscribe to the Habitat Washington Cost of Home Newsletter.

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Special Note from the Editor

As we are all aware, this is a time of uncertainty. From Spokane to the Peninsula, from Pend Oreille to Columbia Gorge, Habitat families and affiliates are facing a crisis like no other. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with those most at risk. We all should be proud to know that Habitat affiliates around the state have already done so much, simply because there are people today who have stable places to call home who wouldn’t if it wasn’t for our work and the work of so many others. In an age of stay-at-home orders, having a home to go to makes a world of difference. We don't know what will happen next, but what we do know is that we will continue to do the best we can do for our affiliates, our families, and our friends. This newsletter is not going to cover much with the COVID-19 crisis. There are other sources of information such as the state-created Coronavirus Response website that you should be accessing for up to date information on the crisis. This newsletter will continue to publish information about the Cost of Home campaign. We hope you continue to find this informational and helpful.

Habitat on the Hill 2020: We've Only Just Begun!

On March 12th, the Washington state legislature adjourned for the year. While legislators may be called back to the capitol at some point, we are at a finish line for our legislative agenda! If you want to see the full agenda, that can be done here: Habitat for Humanity of Washington State's Cost of Home 2020 Legislative Agenda. While you are at it, check out the Habitat for Humanity of Washington State Cost of Home Campaign Value Statement here.

It is important to note and take a minute to thank all those who helped make this successful year possible. Without the leadership shown by our elected leaders on both sides of the aisle however, none of this would have happened. We thank Speaker Laurie Jinkins, Minority Leader J.T. Wilcox, Senate Majority Leader Andy Billig, Minority Leader Mark Schoesler, And the leadership of the Housing Committee leadership in
both chambers, Senators Patty Kuderer and Hans Zeiger as well as Representatives Cindy Ryu and Bill Jenkin. We also would thank Chester Baldwin - our lobbyist - as well as Jason Gauthier in addition to our in-house team for all they did. Thanks to those folks and so many more, we achieved so much for housing affordability during this short session.

The Governor has taken action on some of our bills and has signed many. The bills that passed the legislature with our support should do much to help people across Washington. We saw progress on eight of our priorities including additional money for the Housing Trust Fund, an exemption to real estate excise taxes when land is sold or given to a nonprofit, and a bill that encourages the development and use of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) on more properties across Washington. We also made progress on some of our Cost of Home campaign efforts including a bill that allows for installation payment programs for apartment move-in costs and an extension to multi-family tax credits. Read more about our successes in Olympia on our website here.

Thank you for reading the third edition of the Cost Of Home Monthly Newsletter. I appreciate you taking the time to read and please let me know if there are things you would like to see in future editions. Also - we are looking for creative names for our newsletter. If you have an idea, please let me know at ryan@habitatwa.org.