A message from our Executive Director

Dear friends,

Our 2021-2022 fiscal year came with a lot of challenges and changes. As we continue to navigate the many disruptions of the COVID pandemic in our lives and our work, we have been reassessing how we work and have made numerous internal changes towards building a more sustainable organization. From restructuring our staff, to building better organized systems, refreshing our Habitat Stores and modernizing our technology infrastructure, we have made important investments towards building a stronger and more resilient organization to better support our community for years to come.

At the same time, as the pandemic’s unpredictability and volatility impacted our home construction project costs and timelines, we focused on helping more families with immediate needs by ramping up our Home Repair Service program to help low-income homeowners with much needed critical home repair and preservation projects along with accessibility and aging-in-place improvements. We were thrilled to successfully complete 19 home repair projects in our 2021-2022 fiscal year!

As soaring housing prices and the increasing cost of living continues to exacerbate the affordable housing crisis in our region, homeownership and its many benefits have gotten further out of reach for many of our Snohomish County residents while many low and fixed-income homeowners such as our seniors, veterans, and families with disabilities are struggling to remain in their affordable homes. In addition, ongoing building material supply chain disruptions, the scarcity of buildable land, and the high demand for skilled construction workers have quickly raised the cost of home construction over the past few years.

This current unaffordable housing landscape has provided our organization an opportunity to re-evaluate our strategy towards achieving our vision of a world where everyone has a decent place to live. As we move forward into our new fiscal year and beyond, our priorities are to address housing affordability from multiple approaches including 1.) building our pipeline of affordable housing projects; 2.) serving more families through our Home Repair Service; 3.) providing educational opportunities and resources to help homeowners succeed; and 4.) advocating for local, state, and federal policies to increase funding for affordable housing and create more diverse and equitable opportunities for homeownership.

There is much work to do and many challenges to overcome, however, I continue to be humbled and grateful for our community of staff, volunteers, and supporters who continue to come together to support the important work of building homes, community, and hope in our neighborhoods. The work that we do continues to become more important, and I am hopeful that we will be able to grow our impact together.

In service,

Steven Li
Executive Director
Habitat for Humanity of Snohomish County
Rising housing prices and the increasing cost of living continue to exacerbate the affordable housing crisis in our region. Homeownership and its many benefits have become further out of reach for many of our Snohomish County residents.

**Unaffordable Housing**

48% Median mortgage payments exceeded of median yearly household income

Rising interest rates have increased the monthly payment on median-priced homes by $600

20% The costs of residential construction have increased over the past year

2022 housing statistics
Home Repairs Bring Blue Skies

Through a strategic combination of critical home repair, preservation, and weatherization projects, our aim is to empower homeowners to build the necessary resiliency, sustainability, and stability to remain living in their safe, decent, and affordable homes.

Soaring home prices and rising inflation have led to an unsustainable cost of living for many homeowners in our community. Many low-income homeowners (seniors, veterans, disabled) with limited incomes are unable to keep up with these rising costs. Critical home repairs are unaffordable and often end up being neglected, resulting in unsafe and unhealthy living conditions. The goal of our Home Repair Service is to rehabilitate homes in disrepair so more homeowners can continue to live safely in their homes.

Home Repair Service by the Numbers

- 19 homes repaired
- 79% of these homes saved from critical failure
- 9 people with disabilities served
- 15 senior citizens served
- 4 veterans served
- 9 children served
- 1840 construction hours
- 138 volunteer builders
In February 2022, Eric Werner, a Lake Stevens homeowner, needed help building an accessibility ramp for his five-year-old daughter, Fiona.

Fiona is a kindergartner diagnosed with Patau syndrome, a rare genetic disorder that requires her to use a wheelchair to move around at school, doctor’s appointments, and other places outside of her home.

As Fiona grows up, it’s become more difficult for her father, Eric, to lift her down the stairs to her wheelchair - especially as he has had multiple hip surgeries. With the family of nine living on a single income, the Werner family needed help providing more mobility and access for Fiona.

Habitat Snohomish, along with volunteers and supporters, was able to help the Werner Family build a wheelchair ramp using recycled decking material that was generously donated by Stanwood United Methodist Church. With this access ramp in place, Fiona can now experience the world more easily.

“She loves getting outside and going places. I get emotional thinking about how much of a game changer it’s going to be for our family.”
Avoiding Catastrophe

Local exercise therapy instructor, Laura McMurray, contacted Habitat Snohomish requesting repairs to the decking and siding of her 100-year-old Everett home. When the Home Repair Service team made their site visit, they discovered far worse issues hiding behind the home’s 1930’s drop ceiling.

Laura mentioned that, while she was recently recovering from COVID-19 at home, she had noticed water dripping into her bedroom and living room. She had considered getting on the roof and laying a tarp herself, but struggling with both Parkinson’s Disease and Multiple Sclerosis, the task was dangerous and not feasible. Hiring someone to install the temporary tarp would have cost over $800 which she did not have the budget for.

“I tried to mow my lawn and even that put me flat on my back for several days. Without Habitat’s help, I probably would have had to wait until the roof failed completely and it became a crisis of my home being uninhabitable,” said Laura.

A closer look at the roof revealed extensive leakage and rot damage to the roof. Habitat Snohomish Construction Manager, Chris Anderson, determined immediately that the roof was at risk of catastrophic failure if repairs were not completed within a month or two.

The Home Repair Service team quickly sprang into action, gathering the community for support and coordinating the repair work to be done. GAF Roofing generously donated roofing materials and Riverside Roofing installed the new roof.

What started as a simple exterior siding repair became a full roof replacement. Our Habitat Snohomish team was grateful that they were able to help Ms. McMurray bring her home back to a state of safety and security while avoiding further damage and potential catastrophe.
This past year has been a time of growth and improvement for our Habitat Stores. We are now able to serve more community members by supplying affordable materials for a wider range of home improvement projects.

Our Habitat Stores also serve as a gathering place for our community as volunteers, customers, donors, and staff come together to support our mission to build homes, community and hope in our neighborhoods.

Our Habitat Stores generated $1.1 Million in store sales.

1,309,230 pounds of waste was diverted from landfills through 43,641 donated items.

43,535 customers shopped at our Habitat Stores and supported our mission to build and repair decent, affordable housing.
Fostering **Community**

Bringing people together is at the core of our mission. Through the unique skills and talents of our community members, we assemble a community that is greater than the sum of its parts.

At Habitat Snohomish, volunteers have the opportunity to be a part of the change they want to see in their community. Volunteers support all aspects of our organization through their valuable contributions to home construction and home repair projects, stores, committees, and administration.

"I love volunteering with Habitat both because of the fun I have with my colleagues and the sense of purpose that it gives me."

- Bruce Faires, Lynnwood Store volunteer

**Powerful Partnerships**

Our work is made possible by these amazing partnerships.
Thank you for your service!
Our top volunteers
July 2021 - June 2022:

Retail
Our retail volunteers help process donations and staff our stores.
James Hoff, Elizabeth Winter, Doug Asmussen, Kaitlin Clizbe, Earl Shafer, Janie Archer, Tom Easley, Tim Gray, Alexander Day, Gail Mackey, Al Buchholz, Carolyn Jaques, John Tam, Bruce Reid, Norma Kageyama, David Skolnik, Bob Litzkow, Dan Tintinger, Theresa Hutchins, Thien Nguyen, Jane Perry, Michael Sullivan, Vicki Cowles, Denis Burduja, Tigest Abitew, Gary David Reese, Edwing Sandoval, Brenton Ray, Dewayne Rogers

Construction
Our construction volunteers work on build sites and home repair projects.
Gim Quong, Don Zagorski, Jim Bulger, Rich Manhardt, Earl Shafer, Mark Wilson

Administrative
Our administrative volunteers serve on committees, help out in the office, and more.
Carrie Eugene, Anthony Porter, Chris Syberg, Jayme Feijoo, Mary Rickel, Rob Taft, Cary Westerbeck, Bill Seufert, Brian Fyall, Christian Brewer, Gim Quong, Jan Kallshian, Ron Hopper, Sara Horn, Stephanie Lam, Steve Adolfsen, Karl Hoover, Sandy Flores, Jhoanna Whyte, Ken Allen, Sarah Whitaker, Carol Morgan, Scott Chambers, Earl Shafer, Erin Ennis, Rich Manhardt, David Jackson, Jim Chambers, Divya Kapuria, Keinan Zanck, Lisa Hill

Truck
Our truck volunteers assist in collecting community donations.
John Tam, Bob Litzkow
We are honored to recognize the gracious donors who supported Habitat for Humanity of Snohomish County between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022. Without the extraordinary help of our community, progress towards housing stability would not be a reality.
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