

ATTAIN NEWS

WINTER 2019 NEWSLETTER



Bringing our community together to partner with homeless families by providing affordable housing and empowering them with practical case management and hope.

In the News

Eviction Prevention

Helping people keep their current housing proves to be cost-effective and efficient

Eviction reform and eviction prevention services have been in the news a lot lately. Attain Housing has played an active role in providing eviction prevention and move-in services for several years now and we've seen our number steadily increase in both demand and the amount of funding we've been able to devote to it.

Losing your home can happen to anyone at any time. Anyone who loses a job, has a major medical issue, retires on a fixed-income, or gets divorced can easily find themselves in financial dire straits. Having an eviction on your record makes it very difficult to obtain future housing. Preventing folks

from entering the cycle of homelessness is a crucial first step in lowering the homelessness numbers in our region. While it may not address all the other systemic issues that contribute to homelessness, it is a very cost-effective way to help people in the short term. And for folks in crisis, the short term might be all they have.

In 2018, we prevented 101 households from becoming homeless, up 48 percent from 2017. It's clear the demand for these services remains extremely high and we hope to help even more households remain in their homes in 2019. Your support will us achieve this goal.



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The Comfort of Home Clients Denise, Ernest, and their children in front of their home

A Message from our Executive Director



Now that Snow-pocalypse is behind us (whew!), and little hints of spring are upon us, I've been reflecting on the last 18 months at Attain Housing. It's hard to believe that it's been that long since I stepped into the Executive Director position with eager ambitions and a naïve sense of what it would take to be a provider of homes and services to homeless and near homeless families living here on the Eastside.

Our organization has gone through a lot of change in the last 18 months, and I feel our current staff and Board is the best group yet! We have a great combination of experience and new enthusiasm as we work to improve our relationships with donors and other service agencies.

We are celebrating our 30th year of operation and have evolved from a few congregations wanting to house their neighbors to an organization that has a proven success record and yet a very individualized approach to helping families leave the trauma of being homeless behind. We are also poised to grow significantly! Here's

a few tidbits of what we're working on:

- We are a finalist in the purchase of a significant amount of land from a local church and hope to expand our program by almost 50 percent in the next few years.
- We have also been awarded money from King County to expand our Master Lease program by 400 percent. A Master Lease is one where Attain leases a home (condo, townhome, or single family home) from an owner and then in turn leases it to a family experiencing homelessness. We work closely with that family for up to 30 months as they become great tenants, productive citizens, and ultimately self-sufficient. **Please consider that rental property you own as an opportunity to give back to the community!**

I'm excited about where we are heading and I'm eternally grateful to all of you for your support over the last 30 years. Kirkland Interfaith Transitions in Housing...Housing at the Crossroads...and now Attain Housing. 30 years of community support, volunteers, and genuine caring for our neighbors. Enjoy our newsletter, and I hope to see you at the **7 Hills of Kirkland Bike Ride coming up on Memorial Day!**

Kathy

Find us on social media!

 Facebook.com/AttainHousing
  @AttainHousing
  IG: @AttainHousing

7 Hills of Kirkland



Register today for Kirkland's signature Memorial Day tradition! All proceeds from the bike ride go directly to help fund Attain Housing's mission. 7 Hills offers courses of 40, 60, and 100 miles. All three routes are clearly marked, have multiple rider support stops, and are great fun! The ride starts and finishes at Marina Park, which features a festival-like atmosphere with vendor booths, food, and music. See you there!





Save the Date!

Fall Luncheon 2019

Thursday, September 26

Bellevue Presbyterian Church
1717 Bellevue Way NE
Bellevue, WA 98004

We would like to welcome all current and past volunteers, board members, and supporters to join us in celebrating 30 years of serving Eastside families!

Attention: Eastside companies and organizations! We would love to feature you as a sponsor for our 2019 Fall Luncheon. Please contact Carol Ryan (Carol@attainhousing.org) for sponsorship information.



7 Hills of Kirkland

Celebrate 30 years of Attain Housing by joining our annual fundraising bike ride

It may be chilly and cold right now, but spring is right around the corner! That means our annual 7 Hills of Kirkland bike ride is coming up soon! Registration is open at 7hills. attainhousing.org. All proceeds from the ride go directly to fund Attain Housing's mission to serve homeless families.

CrowdRise!

We are encouraging riders to take part in our CrowdRise program to help support our Eviction Prevention program. CrowdRise is an easy way to help raise additional funds for 7 Hills through your social media channels. You can recruit friends and family to join your "team" and do the ride with you, or just ask friends to donate a few dollars on your behalf for the cause.

It's easy! Check it out at 7hills. attainhousing.org.

Sheri Putzke, local real estate agent and longtime Attain Housing supporter, created a CrowdRise team for the 2018 7 Hills ride to honor of a friend who had passed recently.

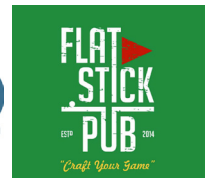
"He was an amazing athlete and an Ironman competitor who had a sudden heart attack," Putzke said. "I named the team in his honor and it was a really easy way to support a great cause."

Sponsors!

We still have room for a few awesome sponsors for the 2019 7 Hills ride. Please contact Carol Ryan (Carol@attainhousing.org) for sponsorship information.



Thank you to our 2019 7 Hills Sponsors!



Fleeing Conflict, Finding Stability

A Client's Story: Lena, 32

We'd like to share a recent success story with you. Lena and her son Simon recently moved out of our housing and into permanent housing here in Kirkland after spending about two years living in our transitional housing program.

Many of our client families are immigrants who benefit greatly from having case managers to help them navigate new systems and customs in their newfound home. Lena and Simon fled the violent conflict in Northeast Africa that claimed Lena's husband's life. They arrived in the United States in Massachusetts. Shortly after settling there, Simon was severely injured in a car accident that left him with on-going developmental issues. Months later, after Simon was healthy enough to move, Lena relocated to Washington with Simon and was connected with Attain Housing through her church.

Lena and Simon flourished in their new stable home and safe community. Simon, now 8 years old, began getting the educational help and attention he needed in the Lake Washington school district. He has bonded with his classmates and has found the community support network that he and Lena have so badly needed since immigrating to the United States.

Lena was steadily employed for most of their two year stay in our housing. Thanks to the help and mentorship of our case managers, she was able to make the jump to partially subsidized permanent housing just last month. We are happy and proud to have been a part of Lena's progress and we know she and Simon will continue to thrive here in Kirkland.

Meet our Staff!



Holiday Shenanigans!

Kathy, Greg, and Jesse enjoying a cheeky holiday gift exchange

Attain Housing remains a small, but mighty nonprofit organization. Feel free to come on down to the office and meet our staff! When you walk in, you'll likely be greeted by **Jesse**, our Welcome Home program administrator and 7 Hills bike ride coordinator. Our intern **Anna** might be up front, too, helping out with Welcome Home follow-up calls. If you head down the hallway, you'll come across our development team, led by Development Director **Carol** and Communications & Development Specialist **Eric**. They'll be working hard on spreading the word about Attain Housing's services and working closely with our fantastic donors and sponsors.

Continuing down the hall, you might see our part-time bookkeeper **Nita**. Be sure to answer her trivia question on the white board! Maybe you'll run into

Kurt, our Facilities & Maintenance Manager if he's not busy fixing something at one of our apartment complexes. Next up, you'll be approaching the Case Managers offices with our Housing & Facilities Program Director **Carmelita** and our two primary case managers, **Greg** and **Megan**. These folks are the heart and soul of our organization and work extremely hard to help our client families meet their goals. Give them a high-five!

Finally, you'll be right next the office of our Executive Director **Kathy**. If she's not tied up in a meeting, she'll likely pop out to greet you with a big smile and a "Hey y'all!" in her signature Texan twang. Stop by and see us anytime!

Volunteer Corner

How YOU can help!

Upcoming volunteer opportunities

Maintenance work at our apartments: We are in need of volunteer groups to do yardwork at our Petter Court property in Kirkland. We're also always looking for folks to help with interior painting as needed when families move out. Please contact Eric@attainhousing.org if you are interested.

7 Hills bike ride prep and day-of ride volunteers: sign up at 7hills.attainhousing.org

Community Supper: These dates are still available: May 28, July 2, July 16, August 6, August 13, October 1, and November 26. If you your group would like to host any of these dates, contact Eric@attainhousing.org to sign up.



Ta-Da!

Volunteers from Gates Ventures strut their stuff!



Two Thumbs up!

Volunteers from Holy Family Parish serve up another delicious meal at a recent Community Supper

Community Supper

Sometimes a warm meal can make all the difference!

Attain Housing's Community Supper program is still going strong, every Tuesday night at 6 PM at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church in Kirkland. We saw an increase in attendance in 2018, especially through the fall and winter months, averaging around 50-60 attendees at times.

All walks of life are welcome at Community Supper. Many of our regular attendees live nearby and the supper is a pleasant part of their weekly routine. Having a "cook's night off" is truly appreciated by the families with small

children who join us most Tuesdays. Many folks who come to the supper are fortunately not homeless, but living in subsidized housing, collecting disability benefits, retired, or they just enjoy the company and a warm meal served by a different group of volunteers every week.

We love to engage local businesses, church groups, and other community groups as volunteers to prepare and serve meals. This proves to be a wonderfully authentic and meaningful way for our supporters to make a difference in their local community.

We still have a handful of open suppers left for 2019. Please contact Eric@attainhousing.org if you are interested in organizing a group to serve a meal or would like to join as an individual.



30 years of Attain Housing Help us tell our story!



Throwback!

Scene from the inaugural 7 Hills of Kirkland bike ride in 1996

We've been very fortunate to receive support and leadership from countless Kirkland-area volunteers and staff over the years and we would love to hear from you. We are gathering memories from our organization's history to share and celebrate at our Fall Luncheon on September 26, 2019. We want to hear your stories and see your old photos! Please share any old photos on social media and be sure to tag us (@AttainHousing) or email them along with your stories to Carol@attainhousing.org.

Cheers to 30 years of Attain Housing and here's to many more!