

# Annual report 2017/2018

Habitat for Humanity in Whatcom County

building strong families & communities





*“Homes don’t make communities. People do. Partnerships are how we make real change happen.”*

Eli Mackiewicz  
President  
Habitat for Humanity  
in Whatcom County

## creating stability and strength

The housing crisis in our community doesn’t have a single cause. It’s the result of a confluence of factors that conspire to put safe, decent, affordable, and sustainable housing out of reach for many individuals and families in our county. This means that our current housing crisis doesn’t have a single solution. Opportunities for home ownership for low- or even middle-income families in our community cannot be created by any organization working alone.

Instead, we must forge opportunities through partnerships that challenge conventional wisdom. We must break down (or work around) economic, social, and structural barriers. Every collaboration must inspire a sense of ownership of both the problems as well as the solutions. At Habitat for Humanity in Whatcom County we’ve positioned our work as a leader for expanded solutions and real change. Everything we do is built on our vision of permanent solutions to our broken housing system.

Whether by volunteering in our Store, on one of our job sites, or on one of our many Board Advisory committees, dedicated individuals have incalculable impact. In partnership with our dedicated staff, who are community-first thinkers, we’ve developed a model that works very well for building affordable homes for the population we serve. Our mission is built on cooperation. Our goal is lasting change.

As we move forward in partnership with the Whatcom Community Foundation and the Kulshan Community Land Trust to build the Telegraph Townhomes project, adding more than 50 new homes to our community, we owe it to our homeowners to give them a sense of place. A community is diverse. And with diversity comes resilience and independence. A resilient community can withstand economic, social, and family hardships. Only by partnering with community, the people, and organizations that make up Whatcom County, can we make real, meaningful progress.



*"In the coming year we'll be exploring new partnerships with for-profit companies as we search for ways to bridge the affordability gap and reduce homelessness and suffering in our community."*



John Moon  
Executive Director  
Habitat for Humanity  
in Whatcom County

## solving our housing puzzle

We often hear "It's time to stop talking and do something about our housing crisis" from many searching for affordable shelter. And it's not a problem just for the poor. Any family of four living in Whatcom County whose household income is less than \$92K a year, that's 42,000 of our neighbors, is living without secure housing.

Although this annual report is designed to illustrate the good work we've done this past fiscal year, the truth is that Habitat for Humanity's capacity to have an impact diminishes daily. We are focusing our strategic planning on solving this problem in a sustainable way.

We've identified several key components critical to making the Habitat "a hand-up, not a hand-out" model scale up to meet the need. Each of these components we've treated as puzzle pieces, interlocking components with distinct attributes, each needing individual attention. Only by fitting together the pieces can we reach our goal of closing the housing gap.

The puzzle pieces evolved from asking hard questions: How can Habitat build affordable homes that remain affordable for future generations? What can we do to mitigate the high costs of land and permitting? Can others do Habitat's work by forgoing profit? How can Habitat's work respond to the acute demand for housing in a way that doesn't compete with the for-profit construction sector?

The results have been extremely encouraging. Habitat is now partnering with Kulshan Community Land Trust as a way of eliminating the speculative value of land and creating permanent affordability. The Whatcom Community Foundation has created a dedicated fund called the Threshold Fund, which gives Habitat access to low-cost capital. Several large construction contracting companies will do work at cost. The result is 22 homes being planned and built at 1050 Telegraph Road in the city of Bellingham.

Partnering opens many possibilities. Offering homes at a price point below the typical starter-home price in Bellingham means that family of four earning less than \$92K can purchase their own home. In turn, every new homebuyer frees up a market-rate or subsidized rental for another community member, which then creates a path to transitional housing for the homeless.

Mixed-income communities provide new sources of housing revenue. Connecting all the puzzle pieces means that Habitat can now envision building 30 additional homes on Telegraph Road, and at least 12 more in the Birchwood neighborhood.

This is impact our community needs.





## community spotlight

In 2018, the Habitat Store added an additional 8,000 square feet for a total of 24,000 square feet of retail space. The expanded showroom, dedicated to higher-end furniture, provides revenue that helps us fund more builds. Big thanks to Construction Manager Roy Anthony and his team of dedicated volunteers for their great work on this expansion.



Every year, the Women Build program offers exciting opportunities for friends and family to help end the housing crisis in Whatcom County. Women helping women sends a positive and powerful community message. Women Build welcomes people of all genders to join us, both on the build site and in supporting the builds. Women Build is an ongoing yearly program designed to also provide opportunities for hands-on learning. Our yearly goal is to create 10–12 teams, each with 10 team members. Each team is also asked to help with fundraising (our target is \$1,000/team). Every hand, every heart is needed to help Habitat homebuyers realize their dream of owning a home.



The Mata family joined our program in June 2016, and quickly completed their 500 sweat-equity hours in 2017. You can see their smiles at their home's dedication in Kendall in October 2018. The family, though displaced and separated by a devastating fire, brought tremendous strength and courage to the completion of their new home.





Habitat for Humanity in Whatcom County envisions a home-building process that maintains Habitat’s “Simple, Safe, Decent, Affordable” standards and that also allows for the introduction of new materials and designs. Throughout this fiscal year we’ve continued to develop our “net-zero-ready” homebuilding energy plan by using appropriate technology whenever possible, including solar panels, passive insulation, triple-pane windows, LED lighting, air-to-air heat exchange systems, and Energy Star appliances. On average, our homes cost less than \$20 per month to heat.

We partnered with the Whatcom Housing Alliance and a creative alliance of for-profit investors and nonprofit agencies to sponsor a series of lunch workshops to explore the causes and potential solutions for the housing gap in Whatcom County.



During a friendly poker game in 2015 John Moon and Steve Lecocq discovered a shared interest in how 2.25 acres of land owned by Steve could be transformed into a multiunit housing complex for Habitat. And the Telegraph Townhome Project was born! So far, the site has been graded for construction, an adjacent wetland has been restored, and some road construction has been started. The first 12 homes will be built in 2019.



Approved in December 2015 and completing her 500 hours of sweat equity in August 2016, Linda Clow, one of our Volunteer Champions (racking up more than 1,500 volunteer hours so far), is very close to celebrating the completion of her new home in Acme. Her contribution to her community goes back decades and continues strongly to this day.



# Ortiz family

Julio Ortiz came to the United States from Guatemala in 2006, alone. A trained teacher, he had earlier worked for six years teaching in three different communities. He had every intention of remaining a teacher. For 31 years, he had lived with his mother and six siblings in a small two-room house. Julio married in 2002, and as some siblings moved out and space opened up, he and his wife remained at home with his mother.

“It was hard in Guatemala. I made about \$200 a month as a teacher. I originally planned to work only two or three years in the United States, then return to be a teacher in Guatemala. But in 2008, my wife and my two kids were also able to come here, and that changed everything.”

The Ortiz family has since grown to five children. Both parents work, Julio as a farm laborer, and his wife in a plant nursery when Julio’s farm season stops for the year. Julio then takes over at the home with his children, while his wife works fulltime.

Julio works at the same 500-acre raspberry and strawberry farm where he started in 2002. Today, he drives the heavy farm machinery, one of ten drivers, spraying and cultivating up to 10 hours a day every summer. During the growing season, about 10 months each year, his hours can be long, with crews working from 7 a.m. to midnight. But with his seniority, Julio has been able to “cut back” to 11 hours a day. He spends his “extra” time with his children in the evenings.

“I like my work. Every year I work about ten months. From February to the end of November. When I take time off, my wife works. In the summer my wife also works at the berry farm.”

The family was living in a rental house in Everson when they applied for the Habitat program in Whatcom County. The rental had three bedrooms and one bathroom. His sister-in-law and her husband took one bedroom. His two older children, a boy and a girl, were in another room. The third bedroom was used by Julio and his wife and their two small boys. Another brother-in-law lived in the living room. Rent was \$1,100 per month, which was challenging on a seasonal farm laborer’s pay. Julio and his wife were responsible for half the rent.

Julio attempted to buy the Everson rental, to lock in a predictable monthly payment. “I almost bought it,” he said. “The owner offered to sell me the house. I went to the bank with my cousin, who said ‘Let’s ask.’ So, I applied, and they checked where I worked and how much I made, and I didn’t qualify. I thought we’d live in a rental house forever. But then Habitat came.” Even after successfully applying to Habitat, it took five years before Julio and his family could move into their Habitat home.

During slow days on the farm, Julio and his wife worked their 500 sweat-equity hours in the Habitat Store, and they did another 100 hours during the construction of their new home in the Birch Bay area. The family moved into their new home in August 2017.

“Living here, with my wife and kids, to have my own house, I feel completely happy. I trust in Habitat. I put my hope in Habitat. I’m thankful.”



# homes build independence



*"My plan for the next two years is to see if I can bring my teaching degree to the United States. I'm finding out what steps I need to take. It'll take time, but my plan for the future is to go back to college."*



# homes unite us



*"I believe in helping other people. It takes a busload of faith. I really believe in the Habitat mission. I'm very grateful for everything I'm getting."*





# Linda Clow



Located 25 miles southeast of Bellingham, Washington, the rural town of Acme is nestled in the South Fork Valley between the North Cascades and Lake Whatcom. In the winter of 1975, Linda Clow and her family moved to Acme and into what were two former bunkhouses joined together to make one dwelling. The bunkhouse-based house, built in the 1920s as part of the expanding timber industry in the South Fork Valley, is where Linda has lived for 43 years.

She had always dreamed of traveling to Europe, especially to Greece. “I wanted to travel. I had the money saved in the bank. But my husband worried it would be too hard for us to find a house if we went traveling after the end of our commercial fishing season. One summer we’d had a really bad season, and my husband had to sell his boat. We had to make a choice, so we bought this house instead of traveling.”

Like many pioneers, Linda’s entire life has embodied strength and self-reliance. After years of working hard in the fishing industry, she became a school bus driver, ferrying children to and from schools in Kendall, Harmony, and Acme for 27 years.

The years haven’t been kind to Linda’s cobbled-together house or to her health. The damp North Cascades mountain climate has, over the years, reduced the structural integrity of Linda’s 1920s house to near collapse. Deep moss covers the disintegrating roof. Decay and deterioration have made routine maintenance impossible. Living so many years in an increasingly unlivable house has compromised her health.

“My old house should have come down a long time ago. I was talking about buying a modular home. Then, while talking with my pastor, she said, ‘Why don’t you try Habitat?’

“I started out going to a class at Lowe’s, to learn how to use some basic construction tools. Then I went to Habitat’s Lowe’s Women Build day out on Telegraph Road. I couldn’t do much because I had just had back surgery. But I made food for everyone and did what I could. Then I started working in the Habitat Store. I had to have 500 hours of sweat equity. I believe I have 1,500 hours now. The Store staff is really friendly and genuine.”

Construction began on her new home in 2018. Throughout construction, the old front porch has been the scene of countless lunches with her volunteer work crews, neighbors, and well-wishers. “When Habitat started building my home, it was getting cold. So I made a pot of soup and told the guys that they didn’t have to hang out outside. There was no building out there then. I knew it was going to get colder, so I invited them up here to the porch. That’s been the really fun part for me.”

Linda’s new, warm home will be finished in February 2019. Complete with passive insulation, triple-pane windows, an air-to-air heat-exchange system, and solar panels, her new home embodies Habitat’s mission to build “net-zero-ready” homes.

“I love the people who’ve worked on my home. They’re like another family.”

*“I was talking to my pastor, and she said, ‘Why don’t you try Habitat?’ I’d heard about Habitat but didn’t know that much about it. I didn’t think I had a chance because I’m older. I thought it was just for someone who was raising a family.”*

# Santiago Reyes family

The Santiago Reyes family came to Washington in 2006. Aracely was pregnant when she and Eli arrived. They came to work in agriculture, on a raspberry farm in Lynden, Washington. Their first house was a small, drafty cabin on the raspberry farm where they both worked. The couple came to be with family, a common desire among those working on Washington's berry farms.

Life in the small farm cabin was very difficult, especially in winter. There was a stove, electricity, and a small refrigerator, but no bathroom and no running water. Getting snowed in was common in winter, confining the family, who couldn't leave or work. They had no heat. Seasonal workers often live in inadequate housing and face insecurity because even though they can't work all year, they must still find rent.

Aracely's extended family eventually left Lynden and relocated to Texas, but Aracely and Eli wanted to stay in Washington, which had become home. It was at this point that the family received help from Bellingham's distinguished grassroots organization, the Opportunity Council, a private, non-profit community-action agency that serves low-income families and the homeless. Since 1965, the Opportunity Council has focused on local solutions to problems in Whatcom and Island counties, building equitable communities through support for education and direct assistance. They currently help over 18,000 people every year.

It was from the family's connection to the Opportunity Council that they learned about Habitat for Humanity in Whatcom County. The Council helped them one winter pay their \$100/month rent, which they couldn't pay because they couldn't work on the farm in winter. It was after their daughter was born that the family decided they needed to find something better.

The family moved, again with help from the Opportunity Council, to a hotel and better employment for Eli on a dairy farm in Everson, Washington. Doors started to open for more stable housing in Everson, where the family was able to get a proper apartment. In 2010, they moved to Bellingham, applied for the Habitat program, and Eli got an even better job as a painter in the shipyards at the Port of Bellingham.

It's been a good job, but without seniority, Eli was laid off frequently as work periodically slowed down. He was rehired when things picked up. This fluctuation made income unpredictable, and rent was a constant worry. Again, the family was forced to move to find cheaper housing, this time north to Ferndale. Over time, Eli has increased his seniority and layoffs are less frequent, though they still happen.

"When we applied to Habitat, we wanted to secure something for the family," said Aracely. Eli and Aracely worked their sweat-equity hours in the Whatcom County Habitat Store when it was in Ferndale. Many of Aracely's siblings didn't find a path to security because they didn't finish high school. "The ones who suffer the most are the kids. That's why we decided to stay. I saw that in my family. We didn't want that for our daughter. You always think more about your children than you do about yourself."

The Santiago Reyes family's new home is being built in Sudden Valley, a community of about 6,000 residents east of Bellingham, beside Lake Whatcom. Aracely is currently studying English at Whatcom Community College. She still has dreams. "If God gives us the opportunity," she added, "someday I want to open a restaurant."



# homes create a better life



*“Dreams can feel very far away. Habitat is a program that has helped a lot of families. I know there are a lot of families like us. When you find a program like this, it’s like a dream.”*

*—Aracely*



# our story .

**667** cubic yards of soil

The amount of soil moved in digging the foundations for three Habitat homes in 2018.

**17,567**  
volunteer hours

Whether in the Habitat Store or on job sites, our volunteers make everything happen. All of our homes are built by volunteers under the direction of a professional construction manager.

**55** tons

How much recycled (non-aluminum) metal we recycle in a typical year.

**\$16,535** from round-up donations

After every purchase, we ask customers if they'd like to round up their purchase for a particular campaign or building project. Round-up donations range from pennies to much more. Approximately 75 percent of customers round-up, and it adds up!

**75** trees

We cut down and processed 75 trees as part of our excavation for 3 home foundations in 2017–2018. All trees were either milled into lumber or used in landscaping.

**16** types of fasteners

We use a minimum of 16 different types of fasteners to assemble each house. This includes nails, screws, and bolts.

homes built **38**

To date, we've built 38 homes in Whatcom County and contributed to an additional 72 elsewhere.



# by the numbers

square feet of shingles **3,400**

Thanks to the support of GAF and Topside Roofing, we installed 3,400 square feet of shingles this year. That's 102 trips up a ladder with a 75-pound bundle of Timberline Architectural shingles.

**1,242** tons

The weight of miscellaneous construction materials donated for resale in the Store that would otherwise have gone into a landfill.

**230,850** pounds

We poured 3 foundations this year, using a total of 57 cubic yards of concrete weighing 230,850 pounds, about the same as a Boeing 757-200. All was delivered on time by Cowdel Gravel.

**156,789** items sold

All the items we sell in the Habitat Store are donated. It's a tremendous blessing that we have such a generous local community. Donations range from furniture to housewares to dining sets to construction materials, the bulk of the donations coming every spring.

**\$218,716.28**

Plus 1 year, 9 months, 15 days, 12 hours. That's the time and financial resources it took us to get a building permit approved for the first 8 townhomes in the Telegraph Road project.

# building for impact

## our goals and objectives



### Build a sustainable organization

- Grow skills, collaboration, and leadership
- Mobilize resources and steward them faithfully
- Create innovative partnerships across a broad spectrum of for-profit and nonprofit agencies



Seeking to have the biggest impact by addressing urgent housing needs in our community, Habitat for Humanity in Whatcom County strives to be a partner and catalyst, creating impact in the community, in the build sector, and in society overall.

### Build community impact

- Improve housing conditions
- Develop sustainable construction and housing support services
- Transform communities using shelter as a catalyst
- Grow capacity to serve the most vulnerable

### Impact the build-sector

- Partner with builders and others to increase access to shelter
- Support market approaches that increase options, services, and financing that lead to affordable home-ownership
- Promote policies and systems that increase access to adequate, affordable housing

### Build societal impact

- Build a strong presence in the affordable housing community
- Develop a leading voice that inspires everyone in the community to support affordable housing
- Broaden and deepen opportunities for meaningful volunteer engagement



# homes keep families together



*"God keeps me going. He saved us.  
Every day I pray to keep strong.  
God bless everyone at Habitat."*





# Orozco Valencia family

## Telegraph Road

Magdalena “Maggie” Orozco came to the United States from Mexico when she was a young woman. She met the man who would become her husband, got married, and the couple settled in the Pasco, Washington, area. Sadly, the marriage didn’t last. Before Maggie and her husband were divorced they had three children: Cesar, Joseline, and Roman. Today, Maggie is a single mother and the sole provider for her children. Approximately 12 million households in American are headed by a single parent. Of those, more than 75 percent are headed by single mothers.

Maggie relocated to the Bellingham area to be near her brother and his family, a move she made to feel less alone. Isolation and loneliness make life even harder for struggling single-parent families. Times of stress are when families need the social support of a wider network in order to stay healthy and engaged in life, especially for school-aged children. However, not long after Maggie arrived, her brother moved out of the area, leaving her alone again. Lacking a ready-made support network in Bellingham, Maggie assembled a “found” family, a small network of friends who have recognized how hard she works to keep her family together.

Still, it’s been hard for Maggie and her children. She works a minimum of two jobs at any one time, more jobs if she can find them, for income she badly needs to pay her bills and keep up with her rent. She has a “regular” job working in manufacturing, and she’s also taken part-time jobs at fast-food restaurants. Her days are filled.

All her children are involved in extra-curricular school and sports activities, something Maggie encourages so that they can experience greater stability and routine.

Even with the family’s tight schedule, and while working multiple jobs, Maggie and her daughter, Joseline, found time to work at the Habitat Store for their sweat-equity hours for their new home. They’ve now completed their hours and chosen their Telegraph home, part of Phase 1 of the development now underway.

“The joy I feel is overwhelming,” Maggie added. “I never thought I’d be able to get a home. I’m so grateful to Habitat because as a single mom having my own home was never going to be a possibility.”



# Habitat Store



Front row: Ashley, Katlyn,  
Pasquilita, Malie, Tyla

Back row: Jon, Mike, Joe, Austin

The last few years here have been defined by an ambitious goal: fulfilling the dream of becoming a million dollar Habitat Store in order to build more homes. After sales went up 20% in my first year as the general manager, we made the bold decision to expand. On May 19, 2018, we expanded from 16,000 to 24,000 square feet of sales space. Although we've had our ups and downs, I'm both excited and determined to continue making a meaningful impact on Whatcom County.

We were very fortunate to get the space next door to the existing store, but we knew there would be an enormous amount of work needed to connect both loading docks and both stores so that staff, volunteers, and customers could easily move between the new spaces. The new loading dock makes transporting items easier and faster, and the door connecting the stores makes it easier for customers to browse and shop.

I'm happy to say that we're on track for our five-year plan to hit the million-dollar mark! It's incredible to think that our community is able to support our cause in such a remarkable way.

The reason I'm so determined to hit our annual goals is because the store truly builds homes. Every donation, every sale, and every volunteer hour raises additional funding that supports our mission.



I've been the general manager at the store for about two years now, and this is the first job I'm proud of when I go home every day. Home ownership changes lives. The work we do in the Habitat Store provides a hand-up to those in need, and every new partner family I get to work alongside makes my job even more meaningful. Being able to work side by side with volunteers and partner families creates purposeful and lasting relationships that motivate and drive me on.

Not only do I appreciate all the hard work and time volunteers contribute to our efforts, I also appreciate how hard our staff works. The Habitat Store staff is one of the most hard-working, warm-hearted, and entertaining teams I have had the chance to manage. Family is the most important thing in my life, and watching my team learn and grow gives me hope for the future of the Habitat Store and the families of Whatcom County.

—Malie Laolagi, Store General Manager

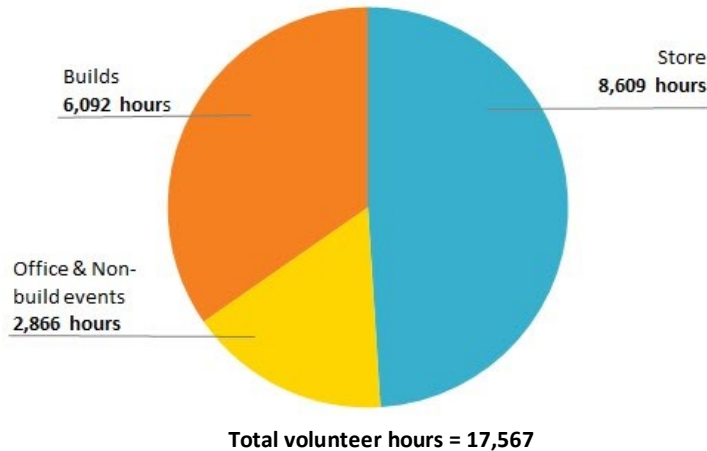


# volunteers

Linda Clow's home in Acme, which includes one of the most famous porches in our build history. (right and below)



The Santiago Reyes family with volunteer builders at their home site in Sudden Valley.



Habitat has always had a very strong volunteer program. A lot of our core functions, things that are critical to what we do, are based around our volunteers. One of the things I noticed when I came on board in 2018 was that we don't have a lot of opportunities for what I call "weekend-warrior" people. These are your 9-to-5 workers who every now and then have a free Saturday and want to donate a few hours to a good cause. They're not particularly concerned with the specific cause, just the general idea of altruism. I want to build a system that not only appeals to the long-term dedicated volunteers who are interested in helping to solve the housing gap in Whatcom County, but that also works for people who want to give, people who have a need to support their community.

The big gift that we give to every partner family is an incredibly low labor cost in calculating the price of each home we build. The way that we're able to build in the housing gap, where other developers can't, is because almost all our labor is volunteer. Without volunteers, our core mission doesn't happen!

The economy is kind of a two-way street when it comes to the number of people volunteering. A lot of people volunteer more when they feel like they have more money and more time. That's why we typically see a reduction in volunteer hours during holidays. But people also volunteer when there is hardship. For example, people who are temporarily out of work for whatever reason often have a hard time just staying at home. People want to feel useful. That sense of utility, that the work that you're doing is helping somebody else, balances out any economic downturns.

I participated in AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) for two years and saw the great impact young volunteers can have. We have an opportunity with programs like a Habitat Chapter at Western Washington University to increase our impact. I envision the Chapter at Western as a hub for creating new opportunities, internships, and grass-roots fundraising with young volunteers.

—Hunter Campbell, Volunteer Services



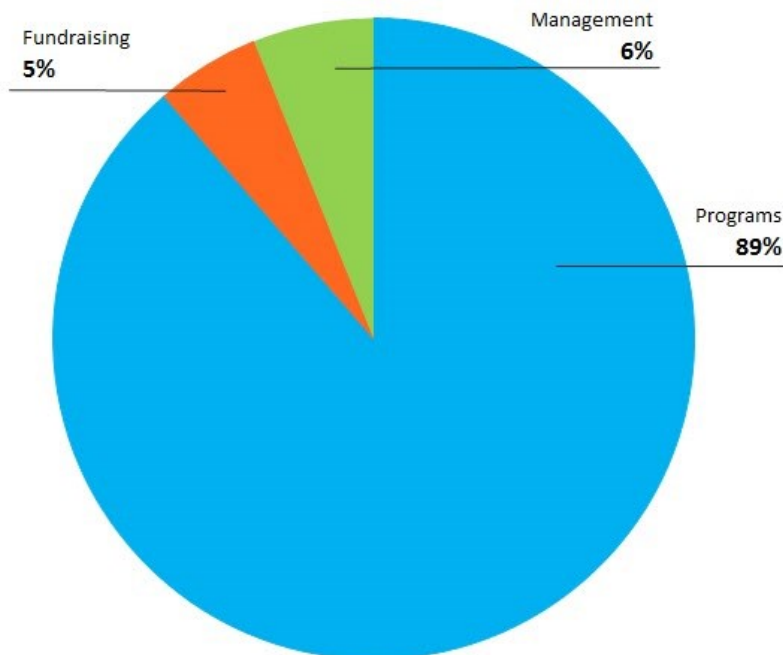
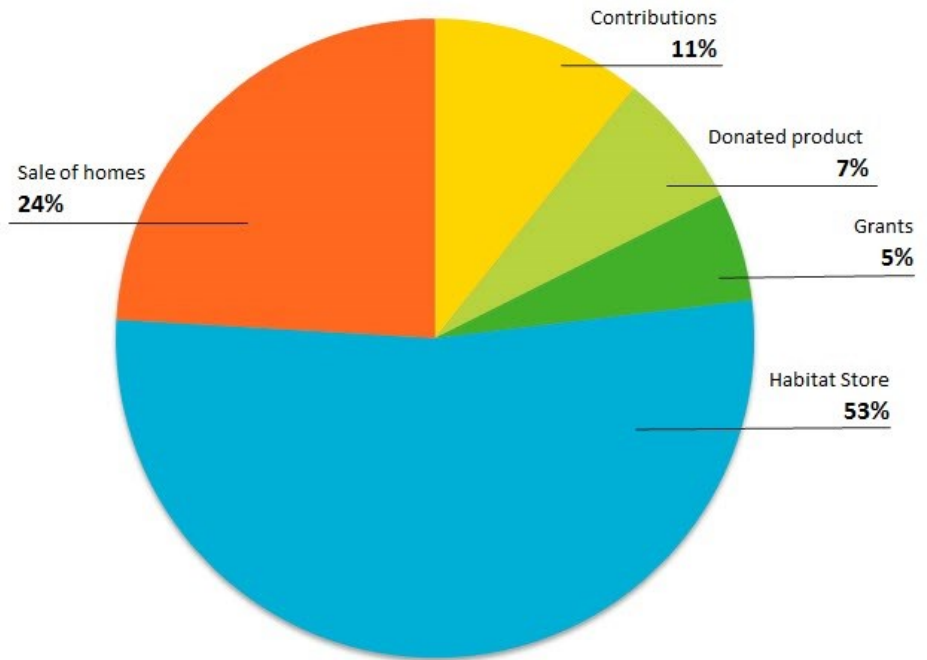
# financials

Unaudited, consolidated  
financial information  
07/01/2017 to 06/30/2018



## FY 2018 fund sources

Contributions	\$138,211
Donated product	\$ 89,311
Grants	\$70,667
Habitat Store	\$681,993
Sales of homes	\$310,740
Other income	\$29
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>\$1,290,951</b>



## FY 2018 Use of funds

Programs	\$1,085,987
Fundraising	\$64,326
Management	\$76,671
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$1,224,984</b>

# Isabel Meaker, advocate

Habitat Family Advocates are paired with one or more families. Advocates are committed to helping each family navigate the entire building process, from acceptance into the program until their home is finished. The support, a commitment sometimes lasting for years, continues until the family becomes successful homeowners in their new Habitat home.



How do you change lives? Meet Isabel Meaker, Special Assistant to the Superintendent for Family Engagement in Bellingham Schools, and a Habitat for Humanity Family Advocate.

Isabel grew up in the Dominican Republic, in a tiny mountain town on the island of Hispaniola. After high school, she moved to the city for college, where she majored in business, one of the few options open to her.

"While I did a year of basic studies, I couldn't work because my studies were during the day. I literally went hungry because I couldn't work. It was that important to me to have my degree."

Eventually she found her way to Western Washington University, thinking that she'd pursue a career as a Spanish teacher. While finishing her B.A., she learned about an AmeriCorps volunteer position in Bellingham Schools. They needed a native Spanish speaker to partner with Latino parents and students. Parents weren't coming to school events. The kids weren't doing well.

"And I thought, *I* was one of those parents," Isabel said. "When my daughter started school, I didn't speak a lot of English. I care deeply about her education, but I was terrified of going to the school. There's a huge cultural and language barrier for Latino parents." She got the job.

Her paycheck barely covered gas for her commute, but she decided to work with AmeriCorps for a year, and then go back to WWU for a graduate degree. "A year went by and I fell in love with the work," she said.

"I decided to do a second year because the need was there. Once you see something, you can't *unsee* it. It was really hard for me to walk away. And I saw magic when I brought parents in and engaged them. Teachers were talking. Parents were talking. I saw the results of everyone working together."

Dr. Greg Baker, Superintendent of Bellingham Schools, noticed the impact Isabel was having. "I was helping families all over the district. He saw the need to expand the work. That's when he created the position that I then applied for, and got, and am doing today."

It's been ten years and demand has only grown. The district created the Family Resource Center at Shuksan Middle School, a meeting place for parents and school staff.

"I think we're probably the number one client for the Habitat Store. We recently worked with four families from Afghanistan, and we bought all their furniture there. Do you know that we have families in Bellingham sleeping on the floor, sometimes for years? Between the little money we get from donors, and by partnering with Habitat and Samuel's Furniture, we buy furniture from the Habitat Store and it's delivered by Samuel's (at no charge). Samuel's provides a delivery truck and staff every week," she says.

"We have angels in our community."

# Champions – businesses



*Habitat for Humanity in Whatcom County has been blessed with many dedicated and passionate long-term supporters. These foundations, businesses, and individuals have earned our “Champion” rating, inspiring us as much as their donations drive the changes we envision for ending the housing crisis in Whatcom County. Without these Champions, we couldn’t do the work we do. Working with them is a tremendous honor. Together, we’re working to build strength, stability, and independence for our community and our partner homebuyers.*

## Foundations/Grantees

Bank of America Charitable Foundation	The Eleanor and Henry Jansen Foundation
Banner Bank	The Norcliffe Foundation
Bellingham Bay Rotary	Umpqua Bank Charitable Foundation
First Federal Community Foundation	Washington Federal Foundation
Peoples Bank	Wells Fargo Foundation
Rotary Club of Bellingham	Whatcom Community Foundation (Neighborly and Youth Philanthropy Environmental Project)

## Businesses

2roofs Team	Fourth Corner Nurseries	Phillips 66
Anvil Engineering	GAF Shingles	Platt Electric
Applied Digital Imaging	GK Knutson	Reimer Excavating
Bank of the Pacific	Great Floors	Rice Insurance
Barron Heating and Air Conditioning	GTS Interior Supply	RMC Architects
Belcher Swanson Law Firm P.L.L.C.	Habitat Home Improvement with Brian Mattioli	Roger Jobs Motor Inc.
Bellingham Bay Rotary Club	Habitat Home Inspections with Brian Mattioli	Schneider Electric
Bellingham Grocery Outlet	Hardware Sales	Scott Stilts, Electrician
Boundary Bay Brewery	HD Fowler Company	Simple Box
Bradley Engineering	Heritage Bank	Stockton’s Paint
Budget Blinds	Imagine Design Studio	Stremler Gravel, Inc.
Budget Septic	Interior Doors and More	Superfeet
Builders Alliance	International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers #191	The Truss Company
Building Industry Association of Whatcom County	Keller Williams	Thrivent Financial
Business Support Services	Len Honcoop Gravel	Topside Roofing
Carlson Steelworks Inc.	Light Source Design and Drafting with Shannon Maris	United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, Local 70
Cascade Drywall	Lowes	United Rentals Branch 921
Cascade Natural Gas	Management Services Northwest	Valspar
CAZ Energy Services	Marlins Auto	Walton Beverage
Chicago Title	MC Smith Construction	West Edge Credit Union
Clear Solutions Septic Design	Mike Peetoom Construction	Western Forest Products
Compass Point Survey Group	Mills Electric	Western Solar
Construction Supply Company	North Pacific Concrete Pumping	Whatcom County Association of Realtors
Costco	Northwest Ecological Services	Whatcom Educational Credit Union
Cowden Gravel and Ready Mix	Pacific Building Center True Value	Woods Coffee
DOW Chemical		
Ferguson Enterprises		
Ferndale Ready Mix and Gravel		



# Champions – individuals



*“Over the years I've observed what Habitat is doing in Whatcom County. I've seen some of the individual houses that Habitat built. One house here, one house there. I saw those going up. I made some contributions from time to time. And then I saw Habitat's work grow into talking about complexes of houses like the Telegraph Road project. Habitat's work now seems to me to be about a whole new housing concept.”*

—Joe McClain, Longtime Habitat supporter  
and Giving Champion

## Carpenters Club

*Those making monthly  
donations*

John & Terry All  
Eric Anderson  
Alfred & Harriet Arkley  
Arthur Baddorf  
Sarah Bond-Yancey  
Stephanie Bowden  
Devin Buhl  
Josh Burke  
Katlyn Carleton  
Cynthia Cartwright  
Linda Clow  
Dan & Andres Daniels  
Brett Ebright  
Robert Ellis  
Joy English  
Merilee Erchinger  
Don Griffiths  
Elaine Hartig  
Marlin & Linda Hendricks  
Rich Hoyle  
Kelly & Deborah Johnson  
Malie Laolagi  
Steve & Cathy LeCocq  
Steve Lightburn  
Jonathan Looper  
Pasquilita Martinez  
John McDaniel  
John & Tina Moon  
Stephanie Morgan-Curd  
Mark Neff  
Gary Oaksford  
Brian Oliver  
Hillary Pritchard  
Stephen Riley  
Mike Roberts  
Terese Rowe  
Fred Sheppard  
Robert Smith  
Elke Stevens  
Paul & Jane Stromdahl  
Kenneth Trupp  
Melissa Walser  
Ashley Winter

## Individuals

Dana Alder	Eva Mazzei
Seth Belik	Joe McClain
Bill & Barbara Brausieck	Chris McGee
Sandra Bryant	Jamie McMillan
Charles Burleigh	Marie Metivier-DeMasters
Business Support Services	Brenda & James Mooradian
Doug Cole	Mark Morgan
James & Gaylen Cook	Ryan Mueller
Eleanor & Benton Corley	Kevin Murphy
Russell & Lora Crawford	Shenandoah Myrick
Christine Crosser	Gladys Nelson
John & Leah Cuneo	Levi Nyberg
Andrew Day	Tom & Marilyn Olson
Catherine & James DeWine	Beverly Ott
Kevin Dixie	Michael & Margaret Palmieri
Marc & Cathy Fairbanks	Sandy Paris
Catherine & Marcus Fairbanks	Julia Parker
Tim & Leslie Farris	Nancy Peck
Judith Fox	Anndi Pena
Gretchen Fuller	Jami Peterson
Carol Gavareski	Mike & Tracy Pullman
Miguel Genovesi	Miguel Ramos
Lisette Goff-Maness	Kris Reid
Kevin Green	Larry & Marilyn Richardson
Michael Guidon	Cassie Robles
Maia Halvorsen	Dave Ross
Anna Heflin	Tina & James Ruff
Jim Hedrick	Richard Sandeen
Kathryn Hermes	David Schmdtz
Michael Higgins	Jessica Schoonmaker
Virginia Holman	Randy Scobee
Leonard Honcoop	Tom Scott
Michelle Hornof	Linda & Thomas Selman
Joe & Staci Hudak	Phyllis Shacter
Donald Hulse	Kimberly Shea
Timothy & Tracy Johnson	Eugene Simpson
Kelvin Kalsbeek	Amy Slonim
Jan Kallshian	Kathy Stauffer
Allen Kihm	Bella & Gabe Stephens
Steve Kimberley	Rick Sucee
Judy Lancaster	Nancy Taylor
Gary & Nancy Lazarus	Glenda Thompson
Sharon Lighterink	Josh Willette
Maryanne Mackinnon	Wendy Wixson
April Markiewicz	J Matthew Yorkston
Tammie Marr	



# board members

## Eli Mackiewicz, President

Eli works as a professional engineering technician for the City of Bellingham Public Works Department, managing green building and low-impact development projects.

## Kim Weil, Secretary

As a planner with the City of Bellingham, Kim works daily with the challenge of providing affordable housing, environmental protection, and adequate social services to our community.

## Mike Roberts, Treasurer

Retired from the construction industry, Mike brings his extensive construction background to the boardroom but also to our build sites.

## Tim Johnson, Director

An Environmental Team Leader at Phillips 66 Ferndale Refinery, Tim works to facilitate partnerships with our local faith community, bringing people together, restoring homes, communities, and hope.

## Ross Quigley, Director

An Energy Efficiency Program Manager with the Opportunity Council, Ross strives to make homes more energy efficient, comfortable, healthy, durable, and affordable.

## Regina Sabino, Director

A human resources professional, Regina strongly believes in the Habitat mission, working to help members of the community find the resources they need to advance themselves.

## Tiffany Blair, Director

As an Assistant Vice President Retail Branch Manager for Peoples Bank, Tiffany brings deep knowledge of the banking and finance industry, as well as passion for long-term housing solutions.

## Yung Lee, Director

As Branch Manager at Washington Federal, Yung has seen first-hand how the housing crisis affects working families. Yung is a passionate advocate for finding long-term solutions to the housing crisis.



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[www.hfhwhatcom.org](http://www.hfhwhatcom.org)

## Habitat staff

John Moon, Executive Director  
Hillary Pritchard, Outreach Director  
Debbie Johnson, Office Manager  
Fred Sheppard, Resource Development Manager  
Paul Stromdahl, Construction Manager  
Roy Anthony, Construction Manager  
Malie Laolagi, Store General Manager  
Hunter Campbell, Volunteer Services  
John Ellison, Communications Manager

