

Volunteer Connections

Winter 2023



Welcome back to the Homes First Volunteer Connections! Happy New Year to each of you! We hope that 2023 brings you happiness, peace, health and so much joy!

Homes First is off to a great start. Our CEO, Trudy, and Project Manager, Ron, have been busy doing all of the business around meeting grant requirements for new homes. We closed on the purchase of three homes in December and will be purchasing several more, as well as building two ADU's on existing properties. Whew! We are hiring additional maintenance staff, an Executive Administrative Assistant, and a Deputy Director! Homes First is growing in all directions!

We are also growing our volunteer program, adding maintenance work as an opportunity for volunteers, and adding more and new group volunteers!

Thanks to Keller Williams Realty, and community and Homes First Board Member, Chris Lester, for bringing together a volunteer group to jumpstart rehab efforts on one of our newly purchased homes! As always, your work is amazing, and always delivered with a smile!



Homes First is happy to participate with the city of Lacey, North Thurston Public Schools, and Lacey South Sound Chamber in the Compassionate Community project, celebrating the Spirit of Giving Back! The project will honor the ways in which community members are giving back to their community! As a Compassionate Community, we treat each other with kindness, respect differences, and make our community a place where everyone belongs and feels safe! Look for postings on Facebook and participating organizations websites!

Volunteer Highlight

Rae Eaton



Rae Eaton began volunteering in our office August of 2022, and continues to share their skills and valuable time several times a month. They are an amazing addition to our cadre of volunteers! They are tech smart, book smart, has a long history of volunteering her time and talents, and is willing to do whatever needs to be done.

Rae Eaton is a relatively new transplant to the Olympia area. They moved here from Seattle in 2020 for work. Rae grew up in Portland, OR, and goes back regularly to visit family and friends still in the area.

Rae started volunteering with Homes First because they wanted to do something to contribute to affordable housing in Thurston County. As a long-time PNW resident, they've seen the impact rising housing costs have had on friends and family. It would be great to get to a point where people can live where they want without worrying about whether they can afford it. Until then, they've enjoyed working on small research projects to help out at Homes First.

When not volunteering or working, Rae enjoys listening to music, cooking, and working on various fiber arts projects. Their goal is to someday make a garment entirely by hand from raw materials.

Volunteer Opportunities

~ We are looking for someone who can learn the CAD program Visio and help us take our hand drawn floor plans from paper to computer. If someone with a tech aptitude wants to take that task on, we will get Visio on your home computer, or you can come into the office to work on it. This as ongoing project as we draw plans for each new home we purchase.

~We are always looking for group volunteers to assist with bigger rehab and yard projects. Just give me a call or email me your interest!

Homes First Volunteers Rock!

Dyana Todd
Volunteer Coordinator

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