

Volunteer Newsletter

April/May 2022



Hello and welcome to the first (maybe last?) edition of Homes First Volunteer Newsletter! As we are able to welcome new and old volunteers into the office, we thought this might be a good way to stay in touch and keep everyone on our team updated about what's going on at Homes First and with our amazing volunteers! We can't say how happy we are to have volunteers joining us again! The last couple of years have been tough on everyone. We're very happy to be able to share our space, our lives, our work and our joys with each other again!

Welcome to our new volunteers, Karen and Eduard! Eduard has been volunteering at his home, transferring hand drawn floor plans to a computer CAD program—and doing a fantastic job of it. Karen has started working on several projects in the office, including corralling the information about the appliances in our homes and cleaning up 2 years of Dyana's filing neglect! Thanks for your incredible attention to detail! We hope to be welcoming more new volunteers into our fold. If you're interested, and not currently volunteering, give Dyana a call at 360-236-0920, ext. 210 or email navigator@homesfirst.org



It's going to be a big year or two for Homes First! We just purchased a new home close to the office. Genesis House will house youth 18-24 who are completing their high school degree and getting ready to join the real world! We also have a property in Tumwater that we will be doing extensive rehab work on, then partnering with the Oxford Program who will use it as a house for women in recovery. We have some grant money coming to add ADU's to several of our properties. AND we are looking at properties to house individuals with developmental disabilities and some single family homes. Wowzers! We're growing and growing!!

Volunteer Highlight Val Gerst



Val has been a steadfast and regular volunteer since she started volunteering for Home First in October of 2016. And we are only one of the recipients of her gifts! She has also volunteered for the YWCA, Cielo and the Thurston County Food Bank. Clearly, Val is invested in her community!

In 2017 Val was awarded the Paul Grudis Inspiration Award by the South Sound Partners for Philanthropy, which is an award to recognize volunteers who inspire philanthropy and volunteerism and have made a significant impact in their community. Val sure falls into that category. She has contributed more than 730 hours—some fun, some tedious, we're sure—to Homes First since 2016!

We're so glad Val found Homes First and are beyond grateful for her contribution to our success in providing affordable rental homes to those in our community who need them most. (And we love that she loves to garden! Our yard would be wanting without her guidance and hands-on work!)

