HOMES FIRST! 1998 Annual Report

In Thurston County

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Homes First! is entering its ninth year as a nonprofit housing organization. We are very excited about the changes that time has brought. We have grown from an all volunteer board with no staff and no units of housing, to an all volunteer board with two part time staff and 24 units of housing. With this change, Homes First! has been able to concentrate more fully on creating new affordable housing.

The growth of Homes First! can be attributed to a number of things. We are fortunate to have a dedicated and committed volunteer board who continue to give of their time and actively participate in the organization's day to day activities. We are also fortunate to have a hard-working and compassionate staff who give their time and energy to Homes First! in an amazing variety of ways.

But most importantly, we are fortunate to have the support of a wide spectrum of the community. Individuals, churches, area businesses, service groups and locally-based banks serve as community partners to help Homes First! meet the housing needs of Thurston County.

A special thank you goes to all of those who contribute their time, talent and resources to our efforts. As you look over our accomplishments of the past year, keep in mind that it is the community support of many that made it possible.

Michelle D. Morlan

Board President

THE YEAR IN REVIEW:

In 1998, Homes First! expanded the number of affordable rental houses we provide, formed a new partnership with a service provider, and increased our staff hours slightly to accommodate our growing work load. In addition, Homes First! took a look at our mission and reaffirmed our commitment to providing scattered site affordable housing in existing neighborhoods.



Members of the Board and Staff

LACEY AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT, PHASE II: The Lacey

Affordable Housing Project, Phase II moved ahead dramatically in 1998. After an extended search we were able to locate and purchase the last of three houses to be renovated as part of this project. Working with service providers for the 12 adults with developmental disabilities to be served, we created a plan for renovations and modifications to the houses, including wheelchair accessibility improvements

See Year in Review (Continued)

such as ramps and roll-in showers. With the help of the Housing Authority of Thurston County, a bid process was conducted, contractors were selected, and work began. By year's end, two of the three houses were complete and occupied.

Renovations to the third house are scheduled to be completed in 1999.

Major assistance for this project came from the Federal Home Loan Bank, Olympia Federal Savings, the City of



ESRI volunteers at a work-party

Lacey, HUD and the Washington State Dept. of Community, Trade and Economic Development. Thanks also goes to Abbey Realty and to Homes First!'s many dedicated local volunteers and supporters, for their time and financial assistance.

FUTURE PROJECTS

In 1999, Homes First! will be planning and fundraising for one or more future projects. One project being considered is construction of

neighborhood housing on our West Olympia lot. Both townhouse and single-family construction types are being considered. Building from scratch would be a new experience for Homes First! and if successful, could lead to additional projects later.

Homes First! is also working with Oxford House Inc. to locate a large single-family



Building a fence at one of our houses

home that could be used as shared housing to serve women in recovery from drug and alcohol dependency. Oxford House is nationally renowned for helping individuals in recovery create clean and sober shared housing by pitching in to rent a large

house. Oxford House has an outstanding 82% long-term sobriety success rate in Washington state.

Oxford Houses are organized into men's and women's houses. Women (who tend to have lower

incomes) often have a more difficult time finding an appropriate house that they can afford to rent.

After purchasing one women's Oxford house several years ago, Homes First! hopes to be able to help again by purchasing another house in 1999.

VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHTS

In 1998 Homes First! sponsored a number of volunteer work parties. These events help cut maintenance costs, which keeps rents

affordable and also improves
the quality of life of our tenants.
Two memorable events this year
included painting the exterior of
one of our houses, undertaken
by the Olympia Host Lions
Club, and construction of a back
yard fence by locally based
employees of the Environmental
Systems Research Institute.
Thanks to everyone who gave
their time and effort to assist
Homes First! in the past year!



Statement of Activities

Balance Sheet

Income	
Rent Collected	\$ 114,443
Development Fees	25,995
Donations	32,172
Grants	6,008
Contributed Services	6,583
Interest Earned	2,313
	\$ 187,514
Expenses	
Program Services	
Property Management	\$ 42,862
Repairs & Maintenance	15,369
Prop. Taxes, Utilities & Insurar	nce 40,219
Interest on Loans	15,294
Depreciation	34,011
Miscellaneous	585
	\$ 148,340
Supporting Services	
General Management	\$ 13,376
Office Support	6,747
Audit	1,085
	\$ 21,208
Operating Reserves	\$ 17,015
Excess of Income over Expenses	\$ 951

1998 STAFF

Todd Davison, *Project Manager*Mary Ann Swain, *Executive Director*

Assets	
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 63,444
Cash Reserves	32,102
Approved Loans &	
Grants Receivable	77,868
Homes - Net Depreciated	
(\$ 126,105)	1,984,697
Equipment & Furniture	5,525
	\$ 2,163,636
Liabilities & Net Assets	
Current Liabilities	\$ 4,347
Long Term Liabilities	2,121,298
Total Liabilities	2,125,645
Net Assets - Operating	
Reserves	\$ 53,970
Net Income	(15,979)
Total Net Assets	37,991
	\$ 2,163,636

1998 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Michelle Morlan, *President*Maureen Hill, *Vice President*Billie Heath, *Secretary*Rene J. Herrera,, *Treasurer*

Karen Bert
Bill Crabtree
Larry Eickstaedt
Don Foran
Russell Fox
Karen McSwain
Arvilla Moore
Randy Shaw
Ed Stanley

Our Valued Supporters Help Make the Work of Homes First! Possible:

INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTORS

Dean & Cathy Anderson Carol Baque Lois Bergerson Tim & Nora Burke **Edward Capestrany** Gema Casanas Jim & Betty Clemen Thad & Jo Thornton Curtz Patricia & Gayer Dominich Robert & Michelle Doran Susan A Dubuisson Allen & Susan Fiksdal Susan & Donald Finkel Don & Maggie Foran Cathy French Kathleen Gookin Jon Halverson Jan Hanson Virginia Hays Mimi Heinrick Rene & Marita Herrera Maureen & Patrick Hill Joseph & Yolanda Hiss

Jackie & M.J. Huetter Robert & Betty Hutt Jane Jervis & Norman Chonacky Frances & Rip Johnson Donald & Lillian Kemp Eric Larson Becky Liebman Tom & Barbara Malone Clarice McCartan Karen Hanson Munro Peter & Claudia Murray Oscar & Barbara Soule Karen Steele Rick Stence Phil & Dorothy Tenkhoff Robert & Jeanne Marie Thomas Evelia Romano Thuesen Gene & Eliana Vosberg Robert & Alene Whitener Valerie & Bob Whitener

CHURCHES AND ORGANIZATIONS Abbey Realty Clees Miles CPA Group

Common Ground Environ. Systems Research Inst. Fullers, Mega Food Housing Auth. of Thurston Co. Kokua

M.J. Accounting Services
Olympia Host Lions Club
Oxford House Inc.
Prime Locations

Sacred Heart Catholic Church Safeplace South Sound Options Unlimited

SPEECH St. Michael Catholic Church Stormans, Inc: Ralphs &

Bayview Thriftways
The Evergreen State College
United Way of Thurston Co.
Wa State Combined Fund Drive
Wright Enterprises

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Anchor Savings Bank Centennial Bank Continental Savings Bank Heritage Bank Olympia Federal Savings

SPECIAL GRANTS

Campaign for Human
Development
City of Olympia
Housing Authority of
Thurston County
Human Services Review
Council
Olympia Federal Savings
Washington Community
Development Loan Fund
Washington State Dept of
Community, Trade &
Economic Development



HOMES FIRST!

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