

## Executive Director's Note |



Council for the Homeless celebrated its 30th anniversary throughout 2019. This is a notable birthday, amid recent years of growth within the agency, within the community and among those experiencing homelessness. The Council's journey was started through the incredible foresight of local leaders, including representatives from the City of Vancouver, Clark County and the Vancouver Housing Authority, seeing that similar growth was occurring even in the late 80's. Together they created an independent entity to understand homelessness at the local level and facilitate a community-wide response.

Thirty-years later, 2019 has many successes to celebrate. The goal of our three-year, \$500,000 Housing Relief Fund (HRF) Campaign was met thanks to generous donors, many of whom made multi-year pledges. This campaign allows CFTH to focus on moving families from unhoused situations to stable, safe, permanent housing through coaching and connections to ongoing supports. CFTH provided HRF assistance to 374 households in 2019.

The board and staff have become more aware that homelessness affects Communities of Color, people with disabilities and the LGBTQ+ population at disproportionate rates. To recognize this reality and to begin work to progress equity the Board of Directors adopted an Equity Statement and laid out ambitious equity goals into the new year.

The Council's mission driven affordable housing subsidiary, Housing Initiative LLC, has three apartment complexes in development. The Pacific, an 18-unit complex was completed at the end of 2019.



The Housing Solutions Center, Clark County's coordinated entry and assessment, served over 3,500 households. This includes providing information, a listening ear, housing assessments, placement into emergency shelters, diversion coaching or connections to partner housing programs. Greater connections to PeaceHealth SW Medical Clinics, inpatient facilities and the Managed Care Organizations were also built in 2019.

Our mission to end and prevent homelessness remains as vital and important as ever and progress depends on our ability to lead, advocate and enact diverse solutions community-wide. We are fortunate to have the partnership of dedicated staff, passionate volunteers, generous donors and you, because with the right help at the right time, challenges can be overcome and homelessness can end. We see it happen every day.

With gratitude,

Kate Budd  
Executive Director