



455 Gold Pass Heights
Colorado Springs, CO 80906

MON.-FRI., 8:30 AM-4:30 PM
719-473-8890
PARTNERSINHOUSING.ORG

SUMMER 2019



MOVING FAMILIES FORWARD

Partners in Housing

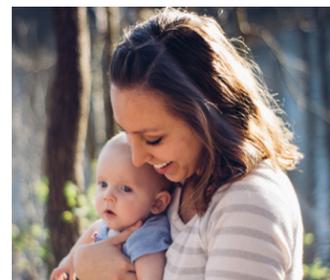
2019 ANNUAL FUNDRAISING EVENT PRESENTED BY GALIANT HOMES: TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

ENTERPRISE ZONE

- **WHAT IS IT?** Partners in Housing is eligible for the El Paso County Enterprise Zone, a 25% state tax credit.
- **HOW DO I QUALIFY?** Donations for this tax credit must be made in the form of a check. Please donate a minimum of \$250 made payable to "El Paso County Enterprise Zone" with Partners in Housing and the last four digits of your social security number in the memo line. Send your check in the enclosed, addressed envelope to Partners in Housing.
- **WHAT IS THE IMPACT?** Individual or corporate contributions help 120 families in need move forward out of homelessness AND has the additional benefit of reducing your state tax liability.

TWO TAX CREDIT BENEFITS CHILDCARE CONTRIBUTION TAX CREDIT

- **WHAT IS IT?** A gift to Partners in Housing's Child Enrichment Center offers the greatest return! Your gift of \$500 or more is eligible for a Childcare Contribution Credit on your Colorado state taxes of up to 50% of your gift.
- **HOW DO I QUALIFY?** Please donate a minimum of \$500, payable to "Partners in Housing" using the enclosed envelope. Write "Child Enrichment Center" on the memo line.
- **WHAT IS THE IMPACT?** Your individual or corporate contribution to the Child Enrichment Center has a direct impact on the lives of over 250 children each year AND it has the additional benefit of reducing your state tax liability.
- **WHY GIVE?** With our current resources, we can only serve 120 families per year, but we receive almost 1000 applications every year. The need is great, but TOGETHER we can make a difference.
- **TO GIVE?** Visit partnersinhousing.org/give-help today.



You are invited! July 25th at 6 PM at The Club at Flying Horse. Enjoy wonderful fellowship and food with sweeping mountain views, then be whisked away to a private viewing of "The Vanderbilt," a Galiant Homes Parade of Homes custom house. Hear a moving story from one of our past Partners as she retells her journey out of homelessness. Celebrate our families' successes, learn about our future goals and discover how you can be a part of Moving Families Forward. We are so thankful to Steve Miller and the team at Galiant Homes for opening up their home so Partners in Housing can help families that do not have a home. "Our partnership with Partners in Housing will not stop until every qualified applicant has a home and they support they need to get back on their feet." Tickets are limited and can be purchased online at: Partnersinhousing.org/events.

TO LEARN HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIFE OF A FAMILY EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, VISIT PARTNERSINHOUSING.ORG.



OUR MISSION. Partners in Housing guides families in housing crisis from insecurity to stability, self-reliance and prosperity.

PARTNERSINHOUSING.ORG

MARY'S CORNER: Growth & Opportunity



As Partners in Housing nears our 30th year in service to families in crisis in our community, our staff and Board of Directors are developing a strategic plan for growth.

These plans are very exciting and include both providing more housing units to assist more families and providing more services to our Partners to promote stability earlier and to easier sustain that stability after leaving our one year program. We intend to focus more support to the many children in the families in our program, always with the intent of breaking the cycle of poverty and homelessness. With

the high cost of housing in our beautiful community, we know our families need to earn a livable wage and will continue to strengthen our career path program.

Unfortunately, the need for Partners in Housing's assistance has continued to grow as we are still receiving far more qualified applications than we can help. More details on these plans will be provided in upcoming communications as each is fully developed. As an agency, we are so pleased to be poised to expand our reach and are so hopeful you will join in our efforts.



CREDIT COUNSELING FOR GOOD FINANCIAL HEALTH

Pulling your credit score can be very intimidating for anyone. Complicate that with having an eviction, having experienced homelessness and not having the resources to always pay your bills on time. Rebecca Cordova, a Certified Credit Counselor with Partners in Housing, guides families that are new to the program through the process of checking their score, mathematically figuring out what financial commitments they can make to their creditors and how to clean up their credit record. Forecasting what they will need to earn when they leave the program allows them to begin thinking about budgeting and increasing their wages. Rebecca explains that "the biggest goal at the end of the program is to secure sustainable housing. Credit scores and evictions are huge barriers." Working with the families to clear up an eviction and to increase their credit score means that more options are available to them when they leave. Partners in the program have an entire year to hone in on credit repair. Those first steps also set the foundation for the budget work that they will be doing with their Case Managers and Money Mentors throughout the year. "I love seeing the paradigm shift, that "AHA!" moment, when they realize I have power over this and that I truly know how much money I have and how much money I need." Rebecca discusses more in depth about the impact of the Credit Counseling program on our blog at: Partnersinhousing.org/blog.

"OUR PARTNERS WANT TO BE EDUCATED ABOUT THEIR CREDIT RIGHTS AND TO BE ABLE TO ADVOCATE FOR THEMSELVES. MOST HAVEN'T THOUGHT ABOUT FINANCIAL HEALTH AS A FORM OF SELF-CARE, BUT FINANCIAL SELF-CARE IS LIKE GOING TO THE DOCTOR. YOUR CREDIT REPORT SHOWS YOUR SYMPTOMS AND YOUR CREDIT COUNSELOR CAN OFFER SOLUTIONS TO BECOME FINANCIALLY HEALTHIER."

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Mike Waters, Board President
- Barbara Harris, Board Vice President
- Brenda Lammers, Board Treasurer
- Keri Ellen White, Board Secretary
- Dan Apricio
- Bill Barnett
- Judith Barthel
- Andy Barton
- Pam Bruni
- Krystina Freeman
- Brad Poston
- Bob White
- Mark White
- Brendan Zahl

We are especially proud to have 3 former Partners serving on our board of directors, giving a client-centered perspective on agency decision-making.

All board members made financial contributions to PIH in FY18-19.

STAFF

- Mary Stegner, Executive Director
- Lucy Amaran, Accounting Clerk
- Bonnie Adrzejczak, Leasing Clerk
- Hannah Blessing, Program Assistant
- Heather Brewer, Caseworker
- Megan Brown, CEC Coordinator /Support Specialist
- Ingrid Bruske, Intake Assessor
- Rebecca Cordova, Certified Credit Counselor
- Eric Evans, Family Services Director
- Dovey French, Program Manager
- Ricky Fulton, Housing Maintenance Coordinator
- Leonor Gonzales, Intake & Referral Administrator
- Courtney Hoff, RRH Program Manager/Grants Manager
- Carolena Jackson, On-Call Support
- Karen Kantor, Development Director
- Elia Macias, HR Manager/Intake & Referral Services Manager
- Kendall Miller, Vista Intern
- Cheryl Nygaard, Data & Software Analyst
- Lora Schwahn, Caseworker
- Ronnie Smith, Housing Maintenance Coordinator
- Abel Tovar, Housing Operations Director



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

After her second retirement, Freda sought out an opportunity to occupy her time in a meaningful way, that would also give back to the community. In 2008, she volunteered with her sorority, Alpha Iota, to help with mailings at Partners in Housing. For over 11 years now, Freda has been an extremely valued team member and serves as a Lead Volunteer. Additionally, Freda is an incredible ambassador for Partners in Housing in the community. She has coordinated countless drives, shows up

almost every Monday with donations from the community and has motivated Calvary United Methodist Church to give of their time, talent and treasure. Why does she love and support Partners in Housing so much? "It's important to see families thrive. Hearing some of the success stories, I feel like I am really making a difference."

Volunteers are critical to the mission of Partners in Housing. Volunteer time means that funds can be used for direct services and to obtain more housing units. More information about volunteering can be found at: Partnersinhousing.org/give-time.



More Than Just Housing

Angela never thought she would be homeless. With a decent job, she was able to provide a stable home for her three children. When her landlord increased her rent dramatically, she was forced to look for another place to live. She found a dream home on Craig's List: perfect size, affordable rent and still in the neighborhood where her kids went to school. She filled out the application and was approved, so she sent in her deposit and first month's rent and waited for move in day. Unfortunately, the listing was a scam and her savings were now gone. Unable to afford a new deposit, she moved from place to place, staying with friends and family until Partners in Housing accepted her. Considerable debt had racked up in that very short time. "I was so scared to look at my credit report after that, but the credit counselor put things in perspective and helped me come up with a plan to pay down my debt and get current with my bills." Armed with new knowledge and confidence, she contacted her creditors, made payment arrangements and began working with a Money Mentor to set up a workable budget. At the end of her year, her credit score increased 120 points and was higher than it ever had been, meaning she did not have to come up with an additional deposit when she moved. "I am so grateful to the Money Mentor volunteers for understanding my situation and walking with me in this process." Let us know if you are interested in serving as a Mentor!

