

News from the CREW

May 2019

Women Build: Creating space for women and girls to learn, build, and lead

“Habitat saved my sister’s life. Now she has something to leave for her children. We’re not just talking about helping that person who needs help right now—that is a really worthy cause. What we’re talking about is changing the world generationally.”

Cheryl Strayed, author of *The New York Times* #1 bestselling memoir, *WILD*, shared these sentiments during her keynote speech at Habitat for Humanity Portland/Metro East’s 19th annual HopeBuilder Breakfast last month. Hosted by KGW’s Brenda Braxton, April 24 was a whirlwind of a morning with nearly 1,600 Habitat guests and supporters at the Oregon Convention Center. All-told, our community raised over \$500,000 for Habitat’s work in Portland. And, thanks to 17 fabulous Women Build supporters – hosting a total of 20 tables and nearly 200 guests – **over \$50,000** in contributions will specifically support Women Build’s work at the newly-launched Olin build site, a 12-home community in North Portland.



Thank you to all of our guests and donors! Special thanks to our dedicated Women Build hosts: Ruth Betancourt, Shelly Brown (two tables), Jene Cates, Celestina DiMauro, Carolyn Graf, Jil Morby (two tables), Julie Frantz, Lauren Johnson, Leslie Johnson, Sara Moore (two tables), Emily Rios, Amethy Sandstrom, Christiana Smith Shi, Laurie Thomas, Susie Vischer, Jessica Vollendorf, and Karen Wolf. In addition, our dynamic CREW member, Laurie Thomas galvanized her company, Danner Boots, to sponsor the breakfast. The equally dynamic Women Build volunteer, Sara Moore, worked with her company Skanska, to sponsor this event, as well.

The program was packed with information and inspiration. Please [click here](#) to enjoy videos and a recap of the morning, including remarks by our CEO Steve Messinetti; Cheryl Strayed; and Habitat homebuyers, Heather and James, who are purchasing an affordable home at Cully Place home later this year.

Our Mother’s Day on the Build Site

“What a wonderful day! I’m always so invigorated by the camaraderie, community, support and empowerment from these Women Build events. It’s so amazing to have so many women from diverse backgrounds, ages, etc. coming together, working together and supporting one another.” Thank you, Sue Zeidler, for sharing this note of encouragement at the end of a busy day of Women Building on May 11!



Bright sun and warm temperatures welcomed 30 volunteers, future homebuyers, AmeriCorps service members, and Habitat staff to create an energetic day at Cully Place. No fewer than three sets of mothers and daughters were with us, spanning in age from 16 to 70. Thanks to her Portland sponsor, we were also honored to welcome a young woman from Honduras who is seeking safety and asylum. We were all proud to work together to learn, build, and lead through this special Women Build day celebrating the mothers and the mother figures in our lives.

The day's events were thoughtfully orchestrated by our own Cassie Punnett and her crew of WB volunteers on and off the site. Cassie included a lovely touch of roses as gifts at the end of the day. Kudos to Habitat's Cully Place professional construction team that day -- Nathan, Leo, Caitlyn, Elizabeth, and Mitch -- for bringing your special blend of enthusiasm and leadership to allow everyone a safe and productive day. A LOT was accomplished inside and out of several buildings with volunteers laying flooring, hanging exterior siding, blocking/framing interior walls, adding baseboards and door frames, and building a long retaining wall on the perimeter of the site. And huge congratulations for jobs well done to our volunteer crew leads, Leslie, Carolyn, Amethy, Debbie, and Sara. Thank you, all.



Here are just a few of the photos of the day. Check out the rest of our photos from the build [here](#) and join us for a future Women Build on August 24 or November 16. Contact Cassie@habitatportlandmetro.org to get on the list.



Cully Place, Olin, and MORE

Women Build volunteers are thrilled to be soon dedicating a Cully Place home which will be purchased by Minh Nguyen with an affordable mortgage. This is the home where Women Build funds have been directed in 2017-2018. [Here is a little tour of her house](#) as it was in March, during our previous Women Build day. Please join us on June 15 to celebrate the completion of Minh's home and the homes of 6 of her neighbors. This whole community celebration features a BBQ provided by Parr Lumber and lots of family-friendly activities for children. Be sure to RSVP to me or to Preston@HabitatPortlandMetro.org so we can be sure to save you a spot.

Since April 2018, funds to Women Build have been allocated to a future home at our Olin build site in North Portland. The great news is that our 12-home Olin site is now breaking ground! One of our Olin homebuyers is Reyna, who we introduced on our blog last month ([click here](#)). Everyone at Habitat looks forward to building together with Reyna and her family in the coming months.

As of mid May, Women Build is very close to completing our annual \$100,000 goal for building a home in the Olin community – with less than \$9,000 needed to reach this goal by June 30! Thank you for being part of this effort so far, and if you feel inspired to make an extra boost to cross the finish line, please feel welcome to help make this last big step. If you want to donate online, please use the dropdown box where it prompts you to direct your gift and select "Women Build." [Click here](#). And, please feel welcome to share the challenge with any friends or family you think might like to help!

Thank you for gifts of any size. And to what exactly, you might ask, are your Women Build contributions applied? Here are a few examples of gifts of various sizes. Larger or smaller, **all gifts are valuable** and needed to make the next Women Build project at Olin a reality.

- \$100 = a 50lb box of nails or 5 gallons of paint
- \$250 = a kitchen sink, a microware, or a dish washer

- \$500 = a complete front door, kitchen and bathroom sinks
- \$1,000 = all the lights in a home, a washer and dryer
- \$2,500 = all the non-donated appliances in a home, the heating system, windows for the whole house, or finish trim package
- \$5,000 = all the cabinets, floor covering, insulation for the whole home, lumber to frame the whole house, a whole siding package
- \$10,000 = all the plumbing for the home, all the electrical for the home; sheetrock- hung, taped and textured; the foundation of the house

Mark Your Calendar for Women Build

June 15 is the Cully Place home dedication and BBQ (for Phase One), including the dedication of the home of Minh Nguyen and her five daughters, generously sponsored by the amazing Women Build volunteers and donors in 2017-2018. We will enjoy a great BBQ lunch provided by Parr Lumber and ask that you please RSVP if you can join us! You can reply to me or to Preston to Preston@HabitatPortlandMetro.org



August 24 Women Build Day – save the date and contact Cassie@HabitatPortlandMetro.org to get on the volunteer list for our August 24 build day.

We will be commemorating a historic event in our nation’s history, the anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920, prohibiting states and the federal government from denying the right to vote to citizens of the United States on the basis of sex.

Thank you for your contributions to Women Build. You are making a difference.

In partnership,

Lauren Johnson for the CREW

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Visit Habitat Portland/Metro East’s Women Build [online](#)

What’s the CREW, you ask? **The CREW stands for “Connecting Resources to Empower Women”** and we are working to fuel Women Build’s work in Portland. This year’s fundraising will support Habitat’s 12-home build site on North Olin Street in Portland. If your personal resources allow you to make Women Build a high priority in your charitable giving this year, and you can help connect others to our work, please contact me to learn how you can join or help the CREW. Lauren@HabitatPortlandMetro.org