Plymouth Housing Announces Success of PROOF Campaign to Build 600 Homes for People Experiencing Homelessness in Seattle and King County

SEATTLE – August 26, 2020 – Plymouth Housing is proud to announce the completion of the PROOF campaign, with $59.1 million raised from Seattle flagship corporations, foundations and nearly 700 individuals to build homes and provide critical support services for Plymouth residents into the future.

Major achievements of this campaign are: to build 600 apartments for those experiencing homelessness by 2023; provide an endowment to support Plymouth’s resident services; and build a fund to maintain and preserve five historic buildings in Seattle’s downtown core that provide hundreds of apartments for low-income and formerly homeless individuals.

Six development projects with 600 apartments are currently underway. New residents are being welcomed into Bob & Marcia Almquist Place in the Little Saigon neighborhood of the Chinatown-International District, which opened in April. The 2nd & Mercer project in Queen Anne broke ground in January. With these milestones on track, and in light of the changed landscape due to COVID-19, the Plymouth Housing board and campaign leadership recalibrated the initial goal of $75 million to $59 million and have brought the campaign to a close.

“With the arrival of COVID-19, the world as we know it changed beneath our feet,” said Paul Lambros, CEO of Plymouth Housing. “However, the PROOF campaign has shown when we work together, we are in a stronger position to meet the needs of the most vulnerable in our community. We close the campaign with one project completed and five actively underway. Today, supporting our operations and ensuring the safety of Plymouth Housing residents and staff is our highest priority.”

In response to COVID-19, nursing staff of Plymouth Housing healthcare partners Harborview Hospital and Neighborcare Health are providing health care screening and working with building staff to ensure that residents have what they need to stay safe. Residential staff is present in each of Plymouth’s 15 buildings. Staff members provide support for residents by connecting them to healthcare, educating them on preventative measures, checking on general wellbeing, and more. Plymouth has also begun a “Meal Health” partnership with FareStart to ensure that residents have access to regular, nutritional meals so they can minimize trips outside the building to grocery stores and food banks.
In June of last year, Plymouth Housing launched the PROOF campaign to raise millions of dollars to meet an unprecedented need for supportive housing in Seattle and King County for those experiencing chronic homelessness. The campaign, spearheaded by co-chairs Paula Rosput Reynolds and Matt Griffin, far exceeded initial expectations. With support from flagship Seattle corporations and foundations, including $5 million contributions from Providence St. Joseph Health, Swedish Health Services, Premera Blue Cross, Wyncofte Foundation NW, Microsoft, Connie and Steve Ballmer, and Amazon, and support of the entire Plymouth Housing community, the organization raised $59.1 million to fund the development of six permanent supportive housing projects, an endowment, and historic restoration of five buildings in the Plymouth portfolio.

In April, Plymouth welcomed the first residents into the fully furnished studios in the new Bob and Marcia Almquist Place, the first Plymouth building in the Chinatown-International District, with 102 fully furnished units. In January, the 2nd & Mercer project, in partnership with Path With Art and made possible by the City of Seattle’s award of public land, broke ground. The project will deliver 91 permanent housing apartments for adults who have experienced homelessness, most of whom have stabilized in housing, and will feature a ground floor space for Path with Art.

This fall, the first affordable high rise in Seattle in more than 50 years will break ground in First Hill. The Madison/Boylston project, which was made possible by a $0 land transfer from Sound Transit, is a joint development with Bellwether Housing and features 111 studio apartments for seniors experiencing chronic homelessness and 253 apartments operated by Bellwether for low-wage workers and other lower income people. In addition, a partnership with St. Francis House to redevelop their current location on 12th Avenue, with 100 studio apartments above their new space, will also break ground this winter. The fifth building, constructed in partnership with Inland Group, will be located in Ballard and was recently funded by the City of Seattle Office of Housing. The sixth building, also aiming to serve those experiencing homelessness, is in early development with partner Congregations for the Homeless.

“I’m very proud of what we’ve been able to achieve with the PROOF campaign. Six buildings in four years that will bring 600 people out of homelessness is an achievement our city can be proud of,” said Jane Zalutsky, Plymouth Housing Board President. “Going forward, our focus will be on strengthening and maintaining the core foundation of our mission: to preserve, develop and operate safe, quality, supportive housing serving those who need it most.”

Plymouth Housing will host a virtual Key to Hope Week, beginning Friday, September 25 and continuing with brief videos through Friday, October 2, 2020. This virtual event will give more than 1,000 supporters the opportunity to engage with Plymouth’s mission and learn more about Plymouth Housing residents. Suggested donation is $150.

More information about Key to Hope Week: https://plymouthhousing.org/key-to-hope/

About Plymouth Housing

Plymouth Housing’s mission is to eliminate homelessness and address its causes by preserving, developing and operating safe, quality, supportive housing and by providing adults experiencing homelessness with opportunities to stabilize and improve their lives. Plymouth follows the “Housing First” philosophy, operating on the principle that people cannot improve their lives until they have a safe, stable place to live. www.plymouthhousing.org.

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