

# News from the CREW

March 2019



## Celebrating Women this Month

The whole month of March is Women’s History month in the United States and March 8 was International Women’s Day. It is a great time to bring extra light to women’s contributions to culture, science, and society. Our March 9 build day was our way of celebrating the message of taking action for gender equality. We kicked the day off with a circle of wonderful volunteers, Americorps, future homebuyers, current Habitat homeowners, and Habitat staff sharing the names of women they admire. A few of these people you will recognize, others might be new to you – click below to learn more about the inspirational women who were with us in the spirit of the occasion.

[Etta James](#) , [Edith Clarke](#), [Malala Yousafzai](#), [Wangari Maathai](#), [Mae Jemisen](#), [Joan Jett](#), [Marie Curie](#), [Serena Williams](#), [Maya Lin](#), [Nancy Pelosi](#), [Dorothy Day](#), [Ruby Bridges](#), [Emma Gonzalez](#), [Oprah](#), [Ruth Bader Ginsburg](#), [Liyana Silver](#) Plus: My Mom, My Sister, My Aunt Maisie, My friend who is riding her bike across India, and All Women Who are Passionate!



We worked intensively on four different buildings at the 15-home Cully Place site: framing and raising walls, cutting and installing exterior siding, and learning an array of new skills and techniques. We ended the day with an opportunity to make a pledge to the world to promote gender equity (#BalanceForBetter) and finally gathered for a well-earned happy hour at McMenamins Chapel Pub.

Later that evening, we were touched when we read this note from Noah, a young man who has just started with Habitat this past fall as an Americorps service member. He was a wonderful presence supporting our volunteer WB crew leads and shared this note after the build day. *"I just wanted to reach out and thank you all for coming out today. My favorite part of leading crews is getting the opportunity to empower others. After reflecting on the day I can honestly say that, through speaking and working with some of you throughout the day, I feel empowered by all of you. It was truly an honor getting to work with all of you today."*



## Women Build on KGW News!

Thanks to the thoughtful and compassionate reporter, Christine Pitawanich with KGW Channel 8 News, we all have the chance to share in Habitat homebuyer Minh Nguyen's accomplishment and a bit of her personal journey. Minh's hard work, along with the financial contributions from Women Build volunteers and donors in the past 2 years have made possible Minh's dream of a home of her own. Minh and Women Build volunteer Elizabeth Kozup paused from their work to help create a news piece that leaves us all inspired and motivated to keep working to empower more women to build strength and stability in their lives. **Please click [HERE](#) to view the story which aired on Channel 8 on March 9.**



## North Olin Project Update

Your gifts to Women Build this year are directed to the upcoming North Olin build – it is a special project for a few exciting reasons. First, the site is the first project Habitat will be building in conjunction with the Portland Housing Bureau's N/NE preference policy. The Portland Housing Bureau developed the N/NE Preference Policy as a tool to begin addressing the harmful impacts of displacement by prioritizing families and individuals with generational ties to N/NE Portland for new affordable housing opportunities in the area.



The policy identifies areas within N/NE Portland that were subject to high levels of urban renewal and its accompanying problems of displacement, especially for communities of color. The policy gives preference to housing applications from current or former residents of those areas and their descendants.

Secondly, all 12 homes at Olin will be permanently affordable. This means that the buyers of these homes will be able to accrue financial equity in their homes in the coming years, but, through contractual means, the homes will remain affordable to future low income buyers.

Third, Habitat is creating a mixed income development with Olin, as six of the units are reserved for Habitat buyers and six are for buyers working through Habitat's partner organizations who may have slightly higher household incomes. We are working in collaboration with Portland Housing Center and

Proud Ground to identify buyers and currently have three Habitat buyers identified that will be purchasing homes in our Olin community. We hope to introduce these families – and especially the women and girls of Olin -- to you soon!

## Mark Your Calendar for Women Build



**April 24** is Habitat's annual HopeBuilders Breakfast. This event is officially at capacity with a waiting list, thanks in large part to the popularity of our keynote speaker, Cheryl Strayed. However, there is still a chance to be part of the fun! Many Women Build volunteers and CREW members are hosting tables. **If you'd like to see if a Women Build seat is available, please contact me at [Lauren@HabitatPortlandMetro.org](mailto:Lauren@HabitatPortlandMetro.org) and I can try to connect you to a seat.**

**May 11** is Mother's Day with Women Build – save the date and contact [Cassie@HabitatPortlandMetro.org](mailto:Cassie@HabitatPortlandMetro.org) to get on the volunteer list for our May 11 build day.

**June 15** is the Cully Place dedication (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. Send a note to [Lauren@habitatportlandmetro.org](mailto:Lauren@habitatportlandmetro.org) for more information.

**Spring date TBD** - groundbreaking ceremony for North Olin build site.

**Thank you for your contributions to Women Build. It's possible because of you.**

In partnership,

Lauren Johnson for the CREW

[Lauren@HabitatPortlandMetro.org](mailto:Lauren@HabitatPortlandMetro.org), 503-287-9529 x21

P.S. What's the CREW, you ask? **The CREW stands for "Connecting Resources to Empower Women"** and we are just getting started to fuel Women Build's work in Portland. This year's fundraising will support Habitat's 12-home build site breaking ground soon 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.