



***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

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**Local, grassroots organization, dedicated to Snohomish County, grows up. Housing Hope celebrates two decades of groundbreaking accomplishments by providing lasting housing solutions for motivated low-income and homeless families.**

Everett, WA – Housing Hope, a locally grown affordable housing and services agency, is celebrating twenty years of serving low-income and homeless families in Snohomish County. A special Anniversary event will be held on Thursday, October 4<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Everett Golf & Country Club, and is hosted by Housing Hope’s current and six past Board Presidents. The event will pay tribute to the six agency founders as well as long-time and current supporters. The Anniversary event is being made possible by sponsors Cascade Bank, National Equity Fund and Frontier Bank, who have been long-time supporters of Housing Hope. As the agency has had the wonderful opportunity to assemble a great group of committed supporters over the past twenty years, Housing Hope means many different things to a variety of people. Yet, one of the things that seem to remain consistent is the fact that Housing Hope’s clients are aware that they are changing their lives for the better during their stay. Todd Morrow, one of Housing Hope’s founders and Board President from 1991-1996 has seen that process working from the very beginning. When reflecting back on his twenty-year involvement with Housing Hope, Todd states “From the beginning, [Housing Hope’s] vision has been to



provide a service-enriched continuum of housing options. We have accomplished that! Our families know that their community loves them and have received the tools to become self-sufficient.”

Concerned local citizens founded Housing Hope in 1987 to address increasing family homelessness in Snohomish County. Beginning with one property that housed two homeless families, the non-profit agency has grown rapidly, and currently owns and operates 268 units of affordable housing at 17 scattered locations throughout Snohomish County. In addition, 193 low-income families have become homeowners through Housing Hope’s ‘sweat equity’ program called Self-Help.

From the start, Housing Hope recognized that safe, decent and affordable housing is only the first step in creating housing stability for struggling families. The groundbreaking concept to provide a full range of housing with housing-related support services is a hallmark of the Housing Hope mission. Housing Hope combines emergency shelter and transitional housing with critical services such as life-skills training, childcare, case management, employment counseling and access to health insurance. Housing Hope also offers affordable-rent apartments and homeownership opportunities for low-income residents.

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