

# Community Leaders Recognize the Housing Need



"The challenge we have is making sure we have a variety of housing opportunities available for all income levels. That's not easy these days with the housing prices the way they are. That's why it's so important for us to have partnerships with organizations like St. Andrew's Housing Group that can figure out ways to be creative in coming up with viable solutions for affordable housing on the Eastside."

**Grant Degginger**  
Mayor, City of Bellevue



"If housing costs are extremely high, then people's incomes are diverted from other things. From transportation, from healthcare, sometimes from clothing, from food and so their putting all their money into housing. A tip in that very delicate balance can push them out of being housed into homelessness."

**Ava Frisinger**  
Mayor, City of Issaquah



"You see people with very long commutes from the places they can afford to the places they work. It affects just the fabric of families to have to make those kind of commutes. A very high percentage of people in the lower income brackets are paying more than half their income for housing."

**Bill Block**  
Project Director, Committee to End Homelessness



"I was speaking with a Bellevue elementary school principal whose school has 54% of their students participating in the Federal "free or reduced lunch" program. She reports a 30% turnover in classroom attendance with the main reason being the inability of families, mostly immigrants, having to leave the Eastside because of rent increases."

**James Lauinger**  
Mayor, City of Kirkland



"I was almost 40 before I was able to afford my first home, so affordable rental housing was critical to me as a single mom. It's families like that - families like mine - that are going to be left behind if we don't resolve these issues. I may even get tears in my eyes when I mention this but I feel that I am where I am and my children are where they are because of the availability of affordable housing on the Eastside where I worked."

**Jean Garber**  
Mayor, City of Newcastle

