Searetha – Plymouth Housing Resident and Board Member

Hope to me, means that there’s a chance to change the situation. Like, if it wasn’t for Plymouth giving me security, I don’t think I would have been able to go out and even work part time like I do, and volunteer at the food bank. You know, and giving back to people what was given to me by Plymouth.

J.C. – Plymouth Housing Resident

It’s going to be hard trying to find housing for the homeless. Thank God we have organizations like Plymouth. And I am so grateful that I am living here. I really am.

Joyce Taylor – KING 5 News

Hello everyone, I’m Joyce Taylor with King 5 News, on behalf of Plymouth Housing, thank you for joining us for Key to Hope.

By tuning in, visiting our interactive website, learning, donating, and sharing, you’re supporting the critical work that Plymouth is doing, right now, to address homelessness in our community, and it all starts with you.

I’m speaking to you from Seattle, where Plymouth Housing is located, and I would like to acknowledge that we are on the ancestral lands of the Duwamish People. We honor with gratitude the land itself and the people, past and present, of the Duwamish Tribe.

I’m here today for the same reasons many of you are: because I believe that everyone in our community deserves a foundation on which to build their lives. And I know that when we offer someone a path out of homelessness, and the support they need to weather bumps in the road, we all win.

It’s not just about improving one person’s life, although that alone is a worthy cause. The fact is, it’s also about improving the lives of the people they’re connected to. Friends, family, neighbors, an entire network of people. Providing safe, affordable, supportive homes for everyone truly betters our entire community.

During this year’s Key to Hope event, you have the opportunity to hear from Plymouth residents, staff, and partners. On the interactive event website, you will learn about the threads that tie us all together through nine short, inspiring videos. You’ll hear how the strength, the courage, and resilience of Plymouth’s residents lift up those around them.

This event is a crucial fundraiser for Plymouth Housing. Gifts made today will enable this incredible organization to continue the lifesaving work that it has been doing for more than 40 years.
Your gift - and I hope that you will be generous - will help Plymouth continue its 24/7 support services for residents, reduce the risk to both residents and staff during this ongoing pandemic, and further it’s critical mission to end chronic homelessness in our region.

Did you know that, thanks to the support of people just like you, Plymouth is on track to house an additional 500 people by 2023? In the last 18 months, Plymouth has opened one building - bringing 100 more people out of homelessness. It’s also broken ground on five more! In fact, Plymouth will celebrate the grand opening of Kristin Benson Place later this year!

And while the organization is growing, it has also supported residents and staff through the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the start of this pandemic, it has offered onsite COVID testing and vaccination clinics, served more than 240,000 meals in partnership with FareStart, implemented robust health and safety measures, and provided extra pay for staff whose jobs require them to work onsite.

Plymouth has also expanded its medical partnerships and added additional behavioral healthcare services. It has a stunning 97% success rate at helping people who have experienced years, even decades, of homelessness remain in housing!

In recognition of the crucial role that housing plays in healthcare, the Presenting Sponsors for this year’s Key to Hope are Swedish Health Services and Providence. These, plus all of our amazing sponsors, have not only made this event possible, but stepped up to make a huge, positive impact on our community.

Thank you again for joining Plymouth Housing’s Key to Hope.

**Tim Zaricznyj – Providence**

Hello, I’m Tim Zaricznyj Executive Director for Providence Supportive Housing.

**Kelly Guy - Swedish**

I’m Kelly Guy, Regional Director, Swedish Community Health Investments & Partnerships.

**Tim Zaricznyj**

It’s no stretch to say that homelessness is a public health crisis. Not only do medical conditions lead to homelessness far too often, but homelessness itself creates additional health problems. In fact, the life expectancy of those experiencing homelessness is 12 years lower than the American average.

There is, however, a straightforward solution: homes. We’re here, along with our partner Swedish, to celebrate the power of Plymouth Housing’s mission through this impactful event. Our vision of health for a better world goes hand in hand with Plymouth’s dream of a community in which every person has a home and a better quality of life.
Kelly Guy

Since 1910, Swedish has been a partner for health in our community. That commitment continues today, which is why we’re proud to support Plymouth Housing’s Key to Hope.

At Swedish, our mission is to improve the health and wellbeing of every person we serve. For our unhoused neighbors, that starts with a home. Housing is healthcare, and by bringing these two together, we can substantially improve health outcomes. More than that: we can improve quality of life, honoring the dignity and worth of all people.

Thank you for joining us today. With all of your support, Plymouth can continue doing what it does best: providing homes and support for those who need it the most, improving the health of individuals and of our community as a whole. Thank you.

Paul Lambros – Plymouth Housing

Hello, I’m Paul Lambros, CEO of Plymouth Housing. I’m excited to join you for one of my favorite events of the year. Thank you for being here for our reimagined Key to Hope.

Before I say anything else, I want to thank our incredible staff, who work hard every day to serve Plymouth’s residents and the broader community. Your strength and dedication, and, above all, compassion are an inspiration to all of us.

So over 40 years ago, volunteers from Plymouth Church envisioned an end to homelessness, and so they founded Plymouth Housing. Whether you’re a resident, staff member, partner or supporter, our mission continues with each and every one of you.

Thanks to you, Plymouth is preparing for growth unlike any in our history. As we look to expand our reach across the region, we’re investing in our organization so that we can grow sustainably and responsibly.

Thanks to you, Plymouth is deepening our commitment to DEI, our community and our mission, and laying the groundwork to becoming an anti-racist organization.

Thanks to you, Plymouth has become a catalyst for positive change. We know that housing is a human right. We know that everyone matters, exactly as they are. And we know that providing permanent supportive housing benefits everyone in our community. It’s the solution to ending homelessness.

And ending homelessness starts with me, and it starts with you. It starts with all of us. Together, we’ve been doing this for over 40 years, and we are ready to do it for 40 more.

Thank you for joining us for Key to Hope. I appreciate your support!

Lainey Sickinger – Plymouth Board Member & Community Volunteer
I’m Lainey Sickinger.

**Dr. Guy Hudson – CEO, Swedish Health Services**

And I’m Dr. Guy Hudson.

**Lainey Sickinger**

As the Co-Chairs for this year’s Key to Hope event, we’d like to welcome you to our reimagined virtual format. Whether you’re new to Plymouth or a long-time supporter, this is an opportunity to learn about the power of a home - and make that home a reality for those who need it the most.

**Dr. Guy Hudson**

The theme of this year’s event is, “It Starts with You.” And that’s true. We can all start ending homelessness, each in our own way and for our own reasons. For me, I’m here because I firmly believe that housing is healthcare, and that it is our duty to ensure that everyone has the opportunity for a healthy life.

**Lainey Sickinger**

And I’m here because I believe that housing is a fundamental right, and that our unhoused neighbors deserve equitable access to affordable, supportive homes. Working toward that starts with me, and it starts with you.

**Dr. Guy Hudson**

As you explore our event website, you’ll enjoy getting to know people connected to Plymouth Housing: residents, staff, partners, and supporters. As you will see, offering someone a home in a supportive community not only transforms their life, but also the lives of those around them.

**Lainey Sickinger**

And that’s why your gift today is so important. It’s about more than helping Plymouth provide housing and crucial support services to over 1,100 people each year. It’s about more than helping Plymouth protect their residents and staff during the pandemic. This event is about bettering our society as a whole, starting with providing homes.

**Dr. Guy Hudson**

Thanks to a generous group of donors, you have the opportunity to double, even triple, your impact! If you make a gift between $300 and $999, it will be doubled. If you stretch your gift, it will go even further, because gifts of $1,000 and above will be tripled!

**Lainey Sickinger**
I’m here because I believe that together, we can end chronic homelessness. I believe in the leadership and compassion of Plymouth’s staff, in the resilience of their residents, and in you! Give today by clicking on the “donate now” button at the top right of the website. Every dollar will make a difference!

**Dr. Guy Hudson**

That’s right! Any gift, of any size, will have a lasting impact.

If you’ve already donated on your champion’s page, thank you! If our words here, or the stories you’re about to watch, inspire you further, I hope you’ll consider stretching your gift to take advantage of our matching fund.

On behalf of myself and Lainey, I would also like to thank our Key to Hope committee as well as all the Plymouth Champions. These amazing people have brought us all together, virtually, for the vital cause of ending homelessness.

I know that when we come together to support Plymouth Housing, we can change lives, improve health, and uplift our community. Thank you for joining Plymouth in bringing more people into welcoming homes.

**Joyce Taylor – KING 5**

Hello again, everyone. So you’ve just heard many reasons to support Plymouth Housing during this critical event. But I have a question for you:

Why is ending homelessness important to you?

I know why it’s important to me. I have met Plymouth’s residents, I’ve spoken with Plymouth’s staff, and I’ve personally witnessed how stable housing, with services that support their needs, transforms lives - and communities.

But why are you here? And how will you be part of the solution?

We invite you to continue this journey by exploring our interactive event website. You’ll be able to watch the stories of nine people connected to Plymouth Housing and learn why Plymouth’s Housing First practices are the key to lifting up not just our neighbors experiencing homelessness, but also our entire region. Homelessness touches us all, and so does the resolution.

On behalf of Plymouth Housing and King 5, I’m Joyce Taylor. We thank you for joining us. We want you to stay safe. Bye-bye