

Penny Lamping Retires After 25 Years of Service to HRB



Penny Lamping

This fall HRB will bid a fond farewell to our Fundraising and Communications Manager, Penny Lamping, as she retires after 25 years of tireless work – first as a dedicated Board member and later as a staff member defined by her passionate and relentless advocacy for affordable housing. Penny first joined the HRB Board in 1995, after playing an

integral role in the design and development of HRB's Village Home apartments. Said Penny of the experience, "it made clear to me the benefits of having a diversity of housing options on the island and I knew I wanted to be a part of that effort."

In joining the Board of Directors, Penny brought her enthusiasm and experience as a life-long Islander to advance HRB's mission and expand its service to the community. She and her husband, Tom, raised their two children in Penny's childhood home in Crystal Springs and have witnessed the evolution of their hometown over the years. That lens has always informed Penny's work and continues as a source of inspiration for the fight to make Bainbridge Island a place that is open and welcome to all.

After over 11 years on the Board of Directors, Penny joined the Staff as HRB's Property and Office Manager. She immediately set out to work with the households that reside at HRB properties as well as the hundreds of individuals who contact HRB each year for housing and home finding assistance. Most recently, Penny transitioned into the roles of fundraising and communications with the same vigor and energy she brought to past endeavors.

Each year, Penny has planned and led HRB's Annual Fundraising Breakfast and has sought out speakers and messages that are perfectly suited to the time and moment. In 2019, after hearing a NPR news story about a City Manager in California who resigned over his City Council's lack of support for an affordable housing project, Penny tracked down the individual and shared our story. Soon after speaking with Penny, Steven Falk had accepted an invitation to travel from the Bay Area to Bainbridge Island as the keynote speaker for the Annual Breakfast.

Under her leadership, Penny has more than doubled HRB's fundraising capacity and donor base and she was a key leader in our organization's efforts to secure funding to purchase the 550 Madison Avenue property in 2019. Indeed, Penny is absolutely fearless when it comes to setting out to accomplish whatever task is before her – she will call, send emails, visit in person with any individual she thinks can help HRB with its message and work.

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HRB UPDATE

In early August, we welcomed our newest residents to the HRB community as Erika and her two children signed a lease for one of our apartment homes. After needing to relocate to Port Orchard, Erika was thrilled to be able to return home to Bainbridge Island and allow her children to finish off their school careers among friends and family.

Amidst a year defined by the pandemic and the protests demanding racial justice, it can be difficult to feel hopeful. And yet, in hearing Erika describe the impact that safe and affordable housing will have on her family's life, we at HRB have found it just a bit easier to look for those moments of happiness.

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Dear Neighbor,

As summer slips by, I'm filled with hope and apprehension for the final months of 2020. Like many of you, I found myself with an additional job this spring - first grade teacher to my daughter. As a former teacher, the experience deepened my profound appreciation for all who educate and support our children. As the year moved forward, I also saw glimmers of hope in the reckoning that followed George Floyd's murder. Yet, so much more must be done to set us down a more just path.

Here at HRB, I'm thankful each day for the dedication of our Staff. Stewarding our properties and assisting individuals with their housing has continued uninterrupted since early March. I'm also deeply grateful for the enormous generosity of the Bainbridge Island community. Funds raised and donated this year have allowed us to keep tenants stably housed regardless of their financial situation.

Later this fall, HRB will see significant transition as we bid Penny Lamping a fond farewell in her retirement and welcome new Staff to support HRB's growth. We are also busy planning for our annual fundraiser, which will move to an online format this year.

Though apprehension may come hand-in-hand with change, more importantly so does hope. For me, hope wins. At HRB, we have hope and continue to live our mission to create and maintain safe and stable housing for a vibrant and healthy Bainbridge Island.

With deep gratitude,



Phedra Elliott
Executive Director



Phedra Elliott

LAMPING RETIRES (continued from page 1)



Lara and Penny out front of the HRB office.

In one of her final projects, that she will continue to lead after her retirement, Penny has set out to document and share the stories of HRB residents and other Islanders about what this community means to them. Without a doubt, Penny is the "true embodiment of the spirit of inclusivity and equality that sustains Bainbridge Island as a wonderful community for all to enjoy. The mark she leaves on HRB will remain forever and I will miss her greatly," said Executive Director, Phedra Elliott.

As part of the transition, former HRB Board President, Lara Deits, joined the Staff in July and will assume many of Penny's responsibilities as the Fund Development Director. Lara will focus on expanding HRB's reach and capacity in preparation for even greater investments in the community. Lara also brings with her the personal knowledge of how housing makes a difference in people's lives and why the work at HRB is so important. Penny and Lara will continue to collaborate through the fall and are joining forces to transition HRB's annual fundraiser to an online program.

Reflecting on her decades of service, Penny shared that "it has been the honor of my life to work for this organization, with the wonderful Staff, the Board, and the residents who call our properties home." We wish Penny well in her retirement and remain forever grateful for her contributions to HRB and the Bainbridge Island community.

FALL FUNDRAISER – SAVE THE DATE!

While we will miss seeing you at our annual breakfast, we invite you to join us for this year's virtual fundraising event during the **week of October 5th**, culminating on **Thursday, October 8, 2020 at 6:00 P.M.**

Please send an email to info@housingresourcesbi.org to learn more.

Dear Friends,

I am thrilled to take over as Chair of HRB's Board of Directors for Lara Deits and look forward to continuing to work with her as our organization's Fund Development Director. As a public health professor, I teach 20-year olds about wage disparities that existed long before the Covid-19 pandemic. The workers we consider essential - those in child care, food production, construction, transportation, health care, the service industry, grocery stores, teachers, and school staff - tend to earn lower wages and have been hit especially hard with pandemic-related job loss.

The starkest consequence of lost wages is decreased access to stable housing. We know that being without a stable and affordable home makes us sicker, harms our mental health, and leads to earlier death. Even children who experience housing instability in utero are more likely to suffer worse health than their peers.

Now more than ever we get to rally as a community and show our true colors. We are thinking creatively about how to support our small businesses, our restaurants, our farms, and our schools that employ people who want to remain on Bainbridge Island.

Thank you for your support of Housing Resources Bainbridge while we weather together the latest threat to affordable housing.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Farquhar
Chair, Board of Directors



Stephanie Farquhar

HRB UPDATE (continued from page 1)

At HRB, our Staff and Board have spent much of 2020 redoubling our efforts to live out our mission in the community by providing and maintaining affordable housing on Bainbridge Island. Thanks to the generosity of the Bainbridge Community Foundation and countless other donors, we have been able to offer rental assistance to dozens of individuals and families that have been impacted by the pandemic. Our commitment to our residents ensures that safe and stable housing can be a cornerstone in our community's recovery.

We are also committed to adding more homes to our community land trust and are currently on track to make two single-family homes available to our wait list in early 2021. The addition of these two homes is part of our organization's larger goal of identifying residences across the island that are suitable for affordable home ownership. HRB's Independent Living Program has also continued to offer informational sessions about fall prevention and where safely possible, coordinated home improvements for seniors and individuals with disabilities.



HRB's newest tenant, Erika, signs her apartment lease

REGISTER TO VOTE!

It's not too late to register to vote for the November 3rd Election! A few deadlines to keep in mind:

- **October 26:** Online and mail registrations must be received by the Kitsap County Auditor's Office (visit kitsapgov.com/auditor/Pages/Voter_Registration.aspx for more information)
- **November 3:** Deadline to register in person by 8:00 p.m. at one of the following locations on Election Day

Kitsap County Elections

619 Division Street
Port Orchard, WA 98366
Election Day hours: 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Marvin Williams Recreation Center

725 Park Avenue
Bremerton, WA 98337
Election Day hours: 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Poulsbo Vote Center-Poulsbo Fire Station

911 NE Liberty Road
Poulsbo, WA 98370
Election Day hours: 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.



Donate at
www.housingresourcesbi.org

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