

May 18, 2018



## *From the Executive Director*

### **NOT EASY, BUT WORTH EVERY STEP**

Greetings.

We'd like to share with you the circle poem that our esteemed NW writers concocted together at HomeWord Bound this year.



Rachael Duke

What is a circle poem? It is something an old friend and I used to do at the end of writing workshops we led at housing communities and shelters. It is an exercise where each writer gets to write a line of poetry, but can only look at the line that comes above the line that they are writing. What you have, at the very end of it, is a little chaotic because you build as you go, but it still holds together in a lovely way. The work of affordable housing is not as chaotic, as we thankfully have a bit more information to move ahead on, but there are similarities: it requires collaboration, a shared vision, and faith we will get to the end.

We asked our guest writers to give us this poem because we wanted something special to remind us of this recent HomeWord Bound 2018 fundraiser. This year we are celebrating 20 years of HomeWord Bound and 25 years of operations for CPAH. The event is a fundraiser, yes, but is also a time for us to stop for a minute and reflect on so much:

- \* the work we have done and our BIG DREAMS for the future,
- \* our wonderful residents who are the reason we do this work,
- \* the funders and community members (YOU!) who support this work.

We hope you enjoy the poem as much as we do. Does Bart King really have a shiny CPAP machine? Or did he just make that up?

Affordable Housing – Not easy, but worth every step.

rasd

*Please scroll down to the next page to read the HomeWord Bound 2018 Circle Poem*

## HomeWord Bound 2018 Circle Poem

May our children laugh at the rain, jump in its puddles, certain of  
the sun's truth.

Get as wet as you can, jump high and watch the still sunset.

It's not nothing, this pausing, this looking, back like checking  
one's azimuth, before returning to the work.

But I am returning to the work & my boss has taken off his shirt &  
is drunk & someone says they've called the police.

I can't wait to get home, close the door, and forget about what  
happened today.

A home can be a haven, a hideout, a retreat.

As the robots close in, safe behind thick walls, give thanks.

For that which is new, that which is old & all in between.

The path forward is not without hope

Nor easy, but worth every step

So many new buildings your future will bring

All giving homes where folks can SING!

To conclude - I see CPAH in the future, its destiny 20 years and  
beyond

Shiny bright and clean

In fact, it reminds me of my CPAP machine!

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*Many thanks again to the 13 talented HomeWord Bound 2018 authors who contributed one line  
each to the above poem (listed here in alphabetical order, but not in poem order!):*

*Omar El Akkad, Joyce Cresswell, Rene Denfeld, April Henry, Bart King, Patricia Kullberg, Carolyn  
O'Doherty, Matthew Robinson, Rick Seifert, Susan Sokol Blosser, Willy Vlautin, Wilson Wewa  
and Daniel H. Wilson.*