

## A Milestone: 100 and Counting!

PCLT is honored to have helped its 100th family buy their first home this June!

PCLT's 100th Homeowners, Kara and David, closed on their beautiful NE Portland home in June. Tired of being cramped in their 400 square-foot apartment, Kara and David decided to learn more about becoming homeowners.

Although they were doubtful about their prospects, Kara and David came to PCLT. Within 8 months of getting on PCLT's waiting list, Kara and David were living in their new home!

Kara and David both work in the community. Kara at a non-profit organization providing social services to the Latino community, and David as a Spanish/English interpreter. The couple hopes that the move to a larger and more stable home will mean that they are able to start their own family.

This home represents the future and the couple's dreams—whether it's building a back patio or raising little ones—their home means new opportunities for Kara and David.

As Kara put it, "This was a long-term move for us. We're putting down roots here!"



David and Kara are all smiles as they leave the closing of their home. It was a milestone for PCLT as well. They are the 100th homeowner to purchase through PCLT!



David, PCLT's 100th homeowner, is joined by the PCLT staff and community partners who made this possible. Joining David is PCLT Executive Director Jesse Beason (holding welcome mat with David), PCLT board and staff members, project contractor Jan Kahn, and representatives from the Housing Authority of Portland, the Portland Development Commission, the City of Portland's Bureau of Housing and Community Development, Umpqua Bank, Fidelity National Title, and HomeStreet Bank, who presented PCLT with a \$10,000 grant award at this event.

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## Building Together Renovation Wraps Up



It's a wrap! PCLT's first housing development project as lead developer is complete. Thanks to our major community investor, the Housing Authority of Portland, there are nine more permanently affordable, beautifully renovated homes in Portland.

The buildingTogether partnership featured single-family homes with private yards for an average sales price of \$148,000. For more information on this green renovation project visit [www.pclt.org/buildingTogether](http://www.pclt.org/buildingTogether).



**Portland Community Land Trust**  
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[pclt.org](http://pclt.org)  
*Affordable homes  
today & tomorrow*

Thank you to Ankrom Moisan Associated Architects for their very generous donation of printing of this newsletter. AMA also generously donated the printing of our buildingTogether publication. We thank them for their continued support of PCLT!

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## Leaving a Legacy



In my first few weeks as Executive Director, I've been thinking a lot about legacy. What is the legacy I hope to leave for my community? What is the legacy that I hope to leave for the next generation?

We know that the actions of generations before us have created both winners and losers. The legacy of housing practices has created a gap in homeownership rates and wealth between families of color and white families.

A white family earning \$40,000 per year enjoys on average a nest egg of around \$80,000, while the same African-American family has less than half that amount. Similar disparities exist for other communities of color, and at all income levels.

Homeownership is the single largest factor in this inequity. *Where and whether a family could purchase a home sixty years ago has meant the difference between their grandchildren affording and attending college today.*

This gap in homeownership is widest among the families that PCLT serves—working families making around \$37,000 per year. At this income, homeownership rates for families of color are thirty percent below white families. To close this gap, we need to create more than 1,500 new homeowners at this income range.

Will I live to see the day when this gap no longer exists? I hope that I will, but I don't know the answer. But I do know that PCLT will continue to help close this gap and give every family we serve a way to get ahead, not just get by.

That's a legacy I am proud to be a part of.



## Transitions

PCLT is excited to welcome two new faces to our staff.

Community Relations Specialist Renee Watson-Taylor joined our team this spring, bringing her experience working with Central City Concern, Highland Christian Ministries, and the Department of Juvenile Justice.

After a summer full of community outreach activities, Renee is looking forward to a fall of forging new partnerships.

We also welcome our new Executive Director Jesse Beason. Jesse joins PCLT after working with Commissioner and Mayor-Elect Sam Adams and Metro Regional Government and serving three years on PCLT's board of directors.



PCLT Community Relations Specialist Renee Watson-Taylor, right, enjoys a laugh with Fara Laners of Fidelity National Title at PCLT's 100th Homeowner event in August.

As we welcome new faces, we also bid adieu. PCLT wishes the very best to departing Executive Director Allison Handler and Homeowner Specialist Susie Law-Godat as they move on to new adventures.

## New Homeowners Leigh & Mack (& Bella)



Leigh & Bella (who live with Leigh's husband Mack, and two other ducks, a dog and two cats) next to the duck coop with an ecoroof. The coop complements the green renovation features of the home Leigh & Mack purchased through PCLT's buildingTogether renovation project.

**What was the first thing you did when you got the house?**

Painted. Debated where to put things. Cooked a meal of greens and chicken in our kitchen. Let the ducks run about in their new yard. Make many plans, like vegetable garden, deck, sculpture ideas, etc...Played croquet!

**What was your experience like working with PCLT?**

Great. We keep telling others about PCLT and the support you gave us. Step by step help that did not feel like hand holding, but more like a partnership, where we retained ownership and responsibility of our actions.

**What has changed now that you own your home?**

We feel more comfortable in our house. We can make a commitment to projects and each other that all become reflected back in our house. 🏡

## Since We Last Wrote...

- 16 owners bought their first home through PCLT at a price they could afford, around \$149,000.
- Five new households with children will be able to send them to their neighborhood schools, knowing that they won't have to move during the school year.
- We began a partnership with Orange Splot LLC for 8 new construction homes in North Portland.
- We began a partnership with CityHouseBuilders LLC for 10 new construction homes in Lents.
- 15 homes were renovated in neighborhoods throughout Portland.
- The average annual household income of new homeowners we served was \$37,600.