



MONTANA

Creating opportunities for families and individuals to live in affordable homes in strong communities across Montana.

NeighborWorks America Welcomes Marietta Rodriguez as President and CEO



I am thrilled to hear of the appointment of Marietta Rodriguez as the new President and CEO of NeighborWorks America, our national affiliate. I have known Marietta personally for many years as we have both been in the housing industry for a long time. Marietta became aware of NeighborWorks because she bought her first home through an affiliate in New Mexico.

She went to work with that local affiliate now Homewise, and then began working for Neighborhood Reinvestment--now NeighborWorks America, in the regional office in Denver. I met her during this time as I was working on what is now NeighborWorks Montana as a board member. Marietta relocated to DC to take on larger roles with NeighborWorks America in the homeownership area, most recently taking on all of the national initiatives that are rolled out through local NeighborWorks affiliates.

Marietta knows what NeighborWorks organizations do—and she is committed to working with local organizations to help make them successful. I am grateful to Marietta for taking on this important role and look forward to working with her and getting her to Montana!

Maureen Rude
NeighborWorks Montana Executive Director



Collaboration Key to Affordable, Safe Housing

YWCA Billings recently opened their 24-unit apartment called Gateway Vista. Located on their existing campus, the complex will be available to low-income individuals, with preference given to Gateway Shelter residents and others who have been affected by domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking.

This project is an excellent example of collaboration and team work, and NeighborWorks Montana is proud to have had a hand in bringing the project to fruition. YWCA received pre-development funding from NeighborWorks Montana, a \$3.8 million-dollar low-income tax credit award from Montana Housing, investment funds from First Interstate Bank, and numerous donations. Mike and Sherril Burke of HGFA also donated their design work for the project.

The supportive community includes a common area, BBQ, patio, playground, library/computer room and onsite childcare. While the childcare fees are scaled to family income, other services are available at no cost including job training, financial counseling, legal services and clinical counseling.

We Are Forging Ahead Together!

This has been a running theme for many of us since we attended the 2018 Montana Housing Conference at the end of April - and it is for good reason! As many of us of in the non-profit housing industry face more and more funding cutbacks, working together will be essential to our missions and

work.

It was this same philosophy that led the 2016 conference planning team to begin the tradition of "giving back" through this annual event. In the spirit of collaboration, this conference is made possible by many organizations in the housing industry working together, including NeighborWorks Montana. Giving back to the host community is another way to nurture and improve lives through partnership.

This year's event, held in Butte, raised over \$1,400 from the silent auction that was shared between Action Inc., Habitat for Humanity and the Butte Rescue Mission. These funds were combined with money from the Community Give Back sponsorship from Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines to make a real impact for these organizations. In a thank you letter from the Butte Rescue Mission, director Roxella Lyons said, "Because of generous and compassionate people like you, the Butte Rescue Mission is able to continue 'Investing in Lives to Make a Difference'. Thank you for thinking of the Mission and the homeless of Southwest Montana at your convention this year!"

Next year's conference will be held in Billings, so please be sure to watch for more details about the event in the coming months. We encourage everyone to participate in the silent auction by donating items, donating money and, of course, bidding on items at the conference.

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