

## News & Updates January 2020

### NeighborhoodLIFT Program Update



Susan celebrating her new home. She was the first homeowner who purchased using LIFT funds in Cascade County through NeighborWorks Great Falls.

With the launch of NeighborhoodLIFT at the end of October, none of us were quite sure what to expect in terms of response from potential homeowners. Now, in the middle of January and having fewer than 10 loans available, we are in shock!

The disbursement of these down payment funds has gone so much faster than we anticipated, but we have been excited to see all the new homeowners that have been created with the help of this program. This has also opened our eyes to new trends in the needs of potential homeowners who continue to face many barriers to purchasing a home, such as saving for a down payment, as both rental and home purchase prices continue to rise.

#### LIFT Breakdown:

- The program started October 28, 2019 with \$3 million to help potential homeowners
- LIFT is a nationwide program brought to you by Wells Fargo and NeighborWorks America
- Its purpose has been to create educated homebuyers through Homebuyer Education and Housing Counseling, and to help offset the cost of buying a home
- Each household has been able to apply for \$10,000
- Those who are first responders, military, or teachers have been able to apply for \$12,500
- This money is forgivable over a period of five years
- The program was not limited to first-time homebuyers

In the coming weeks and months we will be working to tell some of the LIFT clients' stories from across the state, so please watch your email and also connect with us on social media. Their stories are sure to warm your heart!

## New to the NWMT Team!



We welcome Kristen Bernard to our Great Falls office as an Administrative Assistance.

Kristen comes to us with an extensive customer service background, making her a great fit for this position. We are excited to have her as part of the NWMT team!



We welcome Logan Smith back to our work family!

Logan was formerly with NWMT as an AmeriCorps Vista, and she is excited to make her way back to housing. As the Housing Network Assistant, Logan will be working closely with our network of housing counselors and educators across the state.

## 2020 Montana Housing Partnership Conference

June 15-17, 2020  
Delta Hotel  
Helena, Montana

### **SAVE THE DATE FOR THIS YEAR'S HOUSING PARTNERSHIP CONFERENCE!**

This year's conference is coming together nicely and we are working to make it the best one yet. Registration is set to begin March 2, so watch for upcoming announcements about conference registration, lodging, and event activities through email or at [nwmt.org/2020-housing-conference](http://nwmt.org/2020-housing-conference).

### **PARTNER WITH US BY BEING A SPONSOR!**

The Montana Housing Partnership group is actively seeking sponsors for the 2020 Housing Partnership Conference, and spaces are filling quickly! If you are interested in learning more, please contact Michelle Rogers at [mrogers@nwmt.org](mailto:mrogers@nwmt.org) or call 406-604-4547.