

Dear Friends,

All that I envisioned in being a part of a close family-friendly neighborhood has come to be since we bought our Matthei Place home in partnership with KulshanCLT. Knowing each other by name, counting on one another for support, sharing good times, caring for the place we call home – **these are the things that make us feel invested in our community and proud to be KulshanCLT homeowners.**

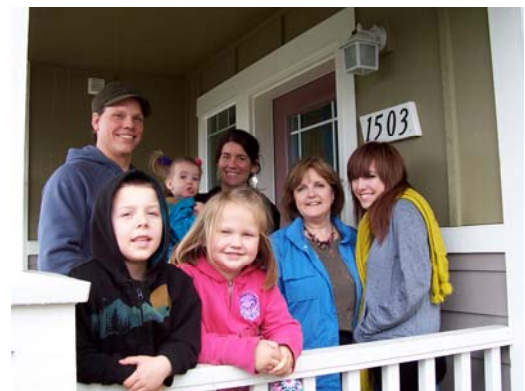
As a homeowner and longtime member, I want to share my journey to homeownership and ask for your financial support of KulshanCLT this year.

In these times I am even more grateful to be a homeowner. It wasn't so long ago that I felt a sense of futility as a newly single parent facing limited homebuying options when I first learned about KulshanCLT and became a member in 2004. I took their homebuyer education course and learned that with KulshanCLT it was possible to buy a home I could afford, a home in the neighborhood where we were renting. *Things were looking hopeful!* **Patience and perseverance paid off in January 2008 when I became homeowner sixty-five, one of fourteen families that comprise Matthei Place,** and one of 26 homebuyers who partnered with KulshanCLT in 2008.

At home in Matthei Place we are part of a vital and close neighborhood community. My daughter babysits for our next door neighbors, the same ones I shared a warm pot roast with last winter after they shoveled our snow-covered walkway. We trade stories over our porches, enjoy warm cookies fresh from the oven, and share weeding and mowing chores. We love the idea of being close to family, friends, school, church, parks and trails, bus service and a bustling neighborhood shopping district. Many of us live near where we work as teachers, healthcare providers, a journalist, a manufacturing technician, artists, and nonprofit staff.

My daughter and I look forward to making Matthei Place home for many years and finding ways to contribute to the community that has given us so much. If we ever decide to sell, we will do so knowing we have built a nest egg while keeping the home affordable for generations of homebuyers.

The work of KulshanCLT, growing a community everyone can afford, makes all this possible.



Rosanne Manning and her daughter, Carly, right, with her neighbors, the Haley-Mahaffey family, and friend Ruby Mahoney-Schwartz at home in Matthei Place.

(my story continues over)

Whether you are new to KulshanCLT or a renewing member, I encourage you invest in their work with a gift of support today. **With your financial support, KulshanCLT hopes to partner with 20 or more families to purchase homes of their own this year**, families like mine who otherwise would not be able to enjoy the security, stability and pride of homeownership.

KulshanCLT has a remarkable track record! **In just seven years, they have helped more than 95 families achieve safe, stable home ownership - without a single foreclosure in these unsteady times!** Right now, at least 40 more are in the process of buying. Among these are teachers, health care providers, those in retail and manufacturing jobs who otherwise might have to live outside the Whatcom County communities in which they serve.

Your support will also help KulshanCLT create access to permanently affordable land for farming to help local farmers grow safe, healthy food for all and contribute to a sustainable local farm economy.

I ask you to join me to reach KulshanCLT's goal of 400 members and supporters this year. Every \$35 basic membership (or more if you can) starts one more applicant on the road to homeownership, and protects the long-term affordability of homes already in the trust. When combined with other member gifts, every \$2,000 leverages \$70,000 in community investment, enough to bring another property into the trust. **You can do the math to see how every gift has a powerful impact on KulshanCLT's work.**

Thank you for the opportunity to share my story of becoming a KulshanCLT homeowner. Mine is one of nearly 100 stories KulshanCLT could tell about realizing the dream of homeownership by investing in local people, local business and the land we value.

People who work in our community should be able to afford to own a home here. Together, with your support, we can make that a reality!

Wishing you all the best,



Rosanne Manning
KulshanCLT homeowner and Happy Valley neighbor

P.S. In consideration of all the important causes requesting your support, I appreciate that you are making the urgent work of KulshanCLT a giving priority this year. **Please make a donation online at our secure site at [Network for Good](#)** or contact Jill Clark at 360-671-5600, ext 5 for a pledge form.