It’s tempting to think Portland used to be a much simpler place. At least that’s how I feel when I look back on 2018-19, the year covered by this annual report. The past 12 months have brought previously unimaginable changes to our community, spearheaded by a deadly global pandemic and a long overdue wake-up call on racial injustice and police brutality. What a difference a year makes, indeed.

But in looking back, I’m reminded that the challenges we faced then still look quite similar to those we’re wrestling with today. The difference, it seems, is that the pandemic and the killings of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and so many other people of color have yanked back the veil on what we have always known, but not always named: life in our community is more dangerous and less forgiving if your skin happens to be black or brown. While this fact is reflected across nearly all aspects of American life, it’s impossible not to see the stark impact of systemic racism when it comes to homelessness.

Black people, who account for 14% of the county’s population, make up 40% of those experiencing homelessness. What’s more, Black people experience poverty at a rate nearly two and a half times that of their white counterparts. Simply put, we cannot make headway in reversing these gross racial disparities unless and until we succeed in dismantling the systemic forms of racism that drive people – especially people of color – into poverty, and then keep them there, generation after generation. **We can and must do better.**

Looking ahead, there are reasons for both concern and hope. With the pandemic exacting a devastating economic toll, there’s no escaping the fact that the road before us will be rough. Millions have lost jobs, life savings have evaporated, and rental debts have soared, pushing more and more of our neighbors towards homelessness. At the same time, our community recently showed that it can step up in a major way when it approved the Metro homeless services measure – creating one of the most powerful public revenue streams to fight homelessness anywhere in the nation. That sense of purpose, and the willingness to size our response to the scale of the need, gives me hope that we will find our way forward – not despite the challenges now facing us, but precisely because of them.

Thank you for doing your part, individually and collectively, to bring about the changes needed to ensure that all Portlanders have a place to call home.

George Devendorf

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Fiscal Year 2018 - 2019
Finances from July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019

Operating Revenue

- Public Grants: $18,748,731
- Private Contributions: $2,218,546
- Miscellaneous: $500,258
- Total Revenue: $21,467,535

Operating Expenses

- Programs & Services: $18,505,387
- Administration & Fundraising: $2,468,862
- Total Expenses: $20,974,249

Revenue Sources

- Joint Office of Homeless Services: $11,076,916
- Federal: $8,540,734
- Fundraising: $1,692,280
- Other Government Contracts: $660,572
- In-kind: $528,266
- Miscellaneous: $500,258
- Home Forward: $470,509

Transition Projects is committed to thoughtful stewardship and transparency, and upholds the Association of Fundraising Professionals’ Donor Bill of Rights with regard to donated resources.

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A partial list of more than 1,000 generous donors. Our 50th anniversary celebration gathered supporters from across the city, including our founder, Gil Lulay, and his wife Jeanine.