

*"Yesterday I was clever, so I wanted to change the world.  
Today I am wise, so I am changing myself."* – Rumi

Dear HIF Supporters, Friends and Family:

If the last few weeks have taught us anything, it is that the accumulation of small actions can lead to big reactions - and ultimately, lasting change. Whether it is local contractors donating masks to hospitals, hotels providing rooms for healthcare volunteers or residents walking alongside protesters, these collective actions take us forward. While it is easy to become overwhelmed by the anguish we have seen on the news and social media, we at HIF have also been inspired by the outpouring of support for justice and for families in need during the pandemic. So we took a moment to reflect on how we as individuals, and as an organization, can stand even stronger with communities of color. During some honest and raw conversations about what each of us strives for in our daily lives and here at HIF, one theme kept recurring throughout our conversations: we are here because of the people we can help, of the impact we can have, and our passion for helping as many people and families as possible. We are not content with the status quo, and because you have dedicated your time, effort and resources to support HIF's mission, you are not either.

Through years of providing support to communities in need, we know where you live can determine your health, your income, your quality of life, your children's education and well-being. We know that right now, communities of color have suffered disproportionate levels of fatalities during the pandemic. We also know that despite the recent improvement in the jobless numbers, unemployment for people of color remains around 17%, in part because a high percentage of workers in this demographic are in service and transportation related positions that have been hit hard by the pandemic.

So, how can we help to further reduce this stress on individuals and families that look to us for support? One of the great aspects of HIF is that we are uniquely positioned to make real and lasting change. Our mission will continue to evolve and push for change based on action not talk.

To date, we have expanded our Emergency Housing Fund, already doubling last year's annual application totals. HIF has helped 275 families remain housed (and at least 500 by year's end). Our Affordable Housing Initiative is seeing 100% renewal rates and with the help of Avalon Bay Communities, we are extending our program to front-line workers impacted by COVID-19.

HIF is proud of the difference we have made in the Bay Area, but we know we can do so much more. We intend to improve our data capture and management systems to better understand how to serve our communities. HIF will continue to expand the breadth and diversity of applicants through greater access to our services. The staff will work with our agency partners and our Board to identify new areas for expansion to deepen our impact and reach.

HIF believes that everyone has a right to safe and affordable housing and that our communities are stronger because of it.

As we collectively continue to work toward change, we are grateful for your support and together, we look forward to doing more for communities in need.

- The HIF Staff

*"There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about."*  
– Margaret J. Wheatley

