

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 17, 2016

Contact: Nancy Gardner  
Phone: 206-461-8430, Ext. 2051  
E-mail: [nancyg@nhwa.org](mailto:nancyg@nhwa.org)

**M. Lorena González, Seattle City Councilwoman, and Mayor Ed Murray guest speakers at Neighborhood House's 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Breakfast Celebration**

SEATTLE — Neighborhood House, a Seattle-based nonprofit social service agency, will be celebrating 110 years on March 23 at our annual What Matters Most Breakfast. Guest speakers include Seattle Mayor Ed Murray, Councilwoman M. Lorena González, and Breakfast Chair, Stephen Norman, executive director of King County Housing Authority (KCHA).

Perhaps at no other time in history has our mission—to help people achieve self-sufficiency—been top of mind and weighing heavily on the conscience of community leaders and our clients alike. Like so many other American cities, Seattle is facing a critical shortage of basic housing and shelters. Mayor Murray, Councilwoman González and Executive Director Norman will share with attendees their ideas about how homelessness is impacting us all collectively.

González, the first Latina/o to hold a position on the Council, will discuss how her personal experiences and subsequent upbringing helped shape her life's work. She has fought against special interests for the fair treatment of women, the elderly, low-wage workers and people of color in employment, wage theft and gender discrimination cases. A native Washingtonian, she grew up in the Lower Yakima Valley where she and her family worked as migrant farm workers. One of six children raised in a Spanish-speaking household, she earned her first paycheck when she was just 8 years old.

Executive Director Norman will talk about the importance of affordable housing in our region and KCHA's partnership with Neighborhood House to address resident needs. Prior to joining KCHA, Norman was National Vice President of the Corporation for Supportive Housing and an Assistant Housing Commissioner for New York City. King



County Housing Authority houses more than 18,000 households and is the largest provider of affordable housing in the state. The Authority works with local communities to end homelessness, advance academic and life outcomes for young people, and ensure that all King County residents can live with dignity.

The annual breakfast, held from 7:30 – 9 a.m. at the Washington State Convention Center, presents a chance to celebrate the successes of Neighborhood House’s work in Seattle and King County—providing child development, youth education, employment and adult education, housing stability, family and social services, and health services — while allowing our community an opportunity to raise funds for our critical programs and welcome new friends into our organization. Our breakfast will bring together an expected 400 community and business leaders, philanthropic organizations, elected officials, volunteers, partner agencies and friends and serve as official recognition of our 110 years of community service throughout the Puget Sound.

#### ABOUT NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

From our earliest beginnings serving Jewish immigrants in the 1900s to our work today with people from numerous countries and cultures, Neighborhood House has helped generations of families fulfill the promise of America — an education for their children, self-sufficiency for their families and a meaningful place in a caring community. The mission of Neighborhood House is to partner with diverse individuals and families to build community and achieve their goals for health, education and self-sufficiency.

###

Neighborhood House | 206-461-8430 | [www.nhwa.org](http://www.nhwa.org)