

## Adolph “Val” Valfre

One notable thing about Adolph Valfre, or Val as most know him, is that he is quick to celebrate the contributions of others, but hesitant to highlight any of his own. When asked to speak about his own achievements, including his role in growing the Community Housing Fund (CHF), he expressed his honor of being affiliated with this elite organization and went on to share personalized kudos for the other CHF Board members and executive directors with whom he served. This merely underscores that Val is a leader who measures success through the unique synergism and contributions of a team.



*CHF Hero, Val Valfre (left) with former CHF Executive Directors, Ramsay Weit and Sheila Greenlaw Fink*

Val's honor. When asked about his namesake, Val is quick to note that "The Valfre proudly aligns with Oregon's vision for all affordable housing communities – to ensure that young lives and families in the community have a good start on the future because someone cared and invested. "

As part of his work as an affordable housing champion in Washington County, Val served on CHF's Board for more than a decade, and as Chair for many of those years. In his words, CHF is "one of the most collaborative groups I've ever been with." To underscore his point, he walked through a roster of people who were on the board with him who continue to serve today. "The longevity of the board says a lot about an organization." He views his own successes at CHF as tightly interwoven with those he served alongside. Val's energy as Board Chair contributed to some big changes at CHF, including its formation as a CDFI and its willingness to broaden its longstanding support and advocacy of Washington County's nonprofit developers to allow lending to for-profit developers as well. CHF made its first loan to a for-profit entity in 2019, thanks in large part to Val's vision.

As Val reviewed the life of CHF over the years, he noted that the organization has extended its mission to take on more risk and roles. "CFH is much more than a revolving loan company. It is an instigator, an innovator and a conduit to what is happening in the county in terms of funds, loans, and leveraging them all together."

Val often refers to a saying that brings clear context to our unremitting work promoting affordable housing: "We plant trees that we will never sit under." He goes on to say, "We are building for generations to come. Let's give our best efforts to advocate for and manage resources, time and effort, and be happy with that."

Today, Val serves with Habitat for Humanity and is a mentor – always willing to provide the benefit of his experience to others – from elected officials to affordable housing professionals. In his nearly two decades in the County, he could not foresee the number of affordable homes that the County now boasts, but he could certainly dream. "Yet here we are now – amazed," he quipped, "And it will only grow better from here."

Val's work in affordable housing in Washington County and at the State level helped catalyze the innovations and progress seen over the past decade and more. He led the Housing Authority of Washington County for over 13 years, first as the Assistant Director and then as the Director. During his tenure, he ushered in game-changing programs, such as the County's low-income housing tax exemption, the 0-Year Plan to End Homelessness, veterans housing initiatives, and the Housing Production Opportunity Fund, which set aside general funds to accelerate production of regulated affordable housing. At the state level, Val was also appointed by Governor John Kitzhaber to both the Veterans Advisory Committee and the Housing Stability Council, and then later by Governor Kate Brown as Chair of the Housing Stability Council.

Most recently, Val has served on the Forest Grove City Council where he led efforts to bring more affordable housing to that city. In fact, Forest Grove's newest development, The Valfre at Avenida 26, has been named in