



Post-Disaster Housing Seminar Presenter Bio's

Event Timing: November 29th, 2018, 8AM - 5PM

Event Address: Community First Foundation, 5855 Wadsworth Bypass, Unit A, Arvada, CO

Our Front Porch

Our Front Porch is a Denver based social enterprise who works with families that have been displaced by home fires. We provide casework, therapeutic services and assistance finding new housing in the community. Most families go it alone, and it doesn't have to be this way. We have learned that what these families need most is a place to live for a few months. We are working to create rental housing designed just for them, with built in services to address the emotional and financial stress, all under one roof.

Presenters: Heather Korth, Licensed Architect, Co-Founder and Maggie Babyak, Licensed Certified Social Worker, Co-Founder

After receiving an undergraduate degree in Biosystems Engineering, Heather spent time in Africa with the Peace Corps. Upon returning to the United States, she worked as an Environmental Consultant and then went on to get a Masters in Architecture and Urban Design from the University of Colorado. Heather has worked as an Architect for over 10 years in both the private and public sector, with a focus on design, construction, project management and disaster mitigation. Her projects have ranged from small residential remodels to large scale neighborhood master planning.

Maggie completed an undergraduate degree in Social Work and went on to get a Masters in Social Work from Columbia University in 2003. She worked with the homeless population in Connecticut for 10 years before moving to Colorado. She has provided trauma-informed treatment to homeless individuals and families, worked with affordable housing, and created and managed various clinical programs. Maggie has also supervised a staff of social workers, counselors, and her favorite group: student interns.

Sonoma County Office of Recovery and Resiliency

Presenter: John Kessel, Recovery and Resilience Coordinator

John will discuss lessons learned one year after the Santa Rosa fire.

John Kessel is from the Sonoma County, California County Administrators Office and works as part of the newly formed Recovery and Resiliency team. Working for more than 25 years in various communities in that region, John has held a number of professional planning and management positions, including Director of Planning and Executive Director of Development Services of McKinney, Texas and City Manager of Schertz, Texas.



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Moving back home to Sonoma County with his wife in February 2018 to help with the recovery efforts after the 2017 fires, John works in the housing area of the Recovery and Resiliency team, helping to coordinate various housing initiatives with local agencies and communities, the State of California, and a range of Federal agencies such as FEMA and HUD. The Recovery and Resiliency team have developed a five-year Framework to coordinate long-term recovery efforts, including developing funding, addressing regulatory change, and fostering regional cooperation.

Homes for Sonoma

Presenter: Robin Stephani, Associate AIA

Robin has 20 years of experience working in Design, Architecture and Construction. Robin founded 8th Wave a design-build development firm focused on infill housing.

Key projects include design/build Accessory Dwelling kits utilizing pre-permitted manufactured and panelized assembly to help lower costs, streamline permitting and minimize build time. 8th Wave has been working with Homes for Sonoma to develop and build Temporary Housing for people displaced from the 2017 Northern California Fires. Homes for Sonoma has created small and beautiful healthy buildings made from extremely durable materials for temporary use as emergency housing with the intent to relocate the homes for a second life post recovery as below market rental housing.

Robin is also the Chair of the Sonoma Housing Task Force that works on policy to support appropriate development and she is the Urban Affairs Director for the AIA Redwood Empire.

United Policyholders

United Policyholders (UP) is a non-profit organization that is a voice and an information resource for insurance consumers throughout the country. Their work is divided into three programs: Roadmap to Recovery, Roadmap to Preparedness, and Advocacy and Action. UP speaks for a diverse range of policyholders from flood victims to international energy companies to domestic manufacturers.

Presenter Kerri Oliver, Colorado Coordinator, United Policyholders

A survivor of the Waldo Canyon Wildfire of 2012, Kerri Olivier began her work with UP as a volunteer assisting in her community's long-term recovery. She transitioned into the role of UP's Colorado Coordinator when less than one year later a second major wildfire broke out in El Paso County. Kerri has helped coordinate wildfire and flood Roadmap to Recovery and Preparedness workshops in three Colorado counties. She is an experienced advocate helping partial loss



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“standing homes” survivors navigate the insurance claim process and is contributing writer of the Survivors Speak publications on this topic.