

Predrag Radeta knew it would be a great day for four families who officially took ownership of four new, single-family homes built through a Habitat for Humanity program in the summer of 2018.

But when he saw the beaming smile of Faiza Abdiaziz, a Somali immigrant and mother of six, Predrag realized what the project meant to him.

“Looking at them, I see myself,” says Predrag, who came to the United States in 2000. “It was really touching and I’m glad I was part of it.”

In his role as a senior mortgage processor at Unitus Community Credit Union, Predrag had made certain that federal dollars used to assist Faiza and the other immigrant families with their down payment, mortgage, and closing costs, flowed efficiently from the Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines through Unitus to Habitat for Humanity Portland Metro East.

“We were really lucky that Unitus was able to partner with us,” says Tor Ostrom, Director of Volunteer Programs and Corporate Engagement at Habitat Portland Metro East. “I reached out to a number of financial institutions. Some people said they already had partners and some said they didn’t feel they had expertise to pull it off.”

Unitus could and did. Oregon credit unions supported nearly 2,000 non-profits in their communities in 2018. Many donated cash and volunteered time to local organizations. Some leveraged their expertise and role as a locally owned financial institution to help their neighbors.

In 2017 and 2018, Predrag and his colleagues handled the transfer of federal funds to the Habitat for Humanity program, helping 11 families build and move into new homes.

This is not a giveaway program, says Tor. The families are purchasing these homes with their blood, sweat, and tears.

Faiza says she was thrilled to have been accepted.

Owning a home, she says, will change her children’s future because they will “have a place to call home forever.”



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