



In the Bay Area – we talk a lot about housing, but sometimes we forget that we are talking about Home. Home is a place where we feel totally at ease and where we feel a sense of belonging.

However- the housing crisis has had a deep effect on everyone.

- If you're a renter –you might want to move– but can't afford it.
- Maybe you'd like a house – but a million dollars for a 2 bedroom is out of reach.
- If you're a homeowner, maybe you worry about how you'll afford to put your kids thru college or retire when so much is going toward the mortgage
- And if you grew up in the Bay Area – maybe you wonder if you need to leave the place you've called home your whole life.

For me – I've lived in the Bay Area for 22 years, and home ownership has been out of reach for me, and I worry that I won't be able to afford to retire here and need to leave my home – and with it, my sense of belonging.

But of course, all of us are doing a lot better than the thousands of low-income people of color who are being pushed out of the Bay Area.

Meet Betty



Meet Betty: She's a single mom – lived Concord for 18 years – this is her home. She's a cashier at the local liquor store and works 50 hours a week for \$14 an hour.

She lives in Concord where there is NO rent control and NO just cause eviction protections.

Rent Hike: \$1100 to \$1650

Deplorable living conditions



Her rent was \$1100, and last year her landlord out of nowhere jacked it up to \$1300 and then \$1650 in a 3-month period. Meanwhile, her apartment had bed bugs, broken down appliances, and mold.

Betty scraped by and figured out how to pay it.

She became active in Raise the Roof -

Betty started standing up and demanding her landlord address the bed bugs and the broken appliances.

Guess what – this year, her landlord retaliated and served her an eviction notice that – not because she did anything wrong – but in Concord, that No cause evictions are legal.

Betty's situation is a dime a dozen in Concord.

The Stats

- From 2011-2018, the median monthly rent for a 2-bedroom increased by 61%.
- Wages decreased by 1%.
- 48% reported household bugs.
- 40% reported mold.
- 75% fear eviction.

Let's look at some of the facts:

- Between 2011 and 2018, the median monthly rent for a two-bedroom increased by 61%.
- Wages decreased by 1%.
- 48% of survey participants reported household pests and 40% reported having mold.
- 75% of tenants fear evictions

CoCo County: Why Care???



But why should you care?

- Low wage workers can no longer live in San Francisco or Oakland
- I know as an organization you care about climate change and the use of fossil fuels. The further workers live from our workplaces – the more fossil fuel is used.
- Commuting as far as the central valley – and it's not sustainable for the environment –not sustainable for families – to be commuting 3-4 hours a day.
- In this room we care about diversity -

Rent Control & Just Cause

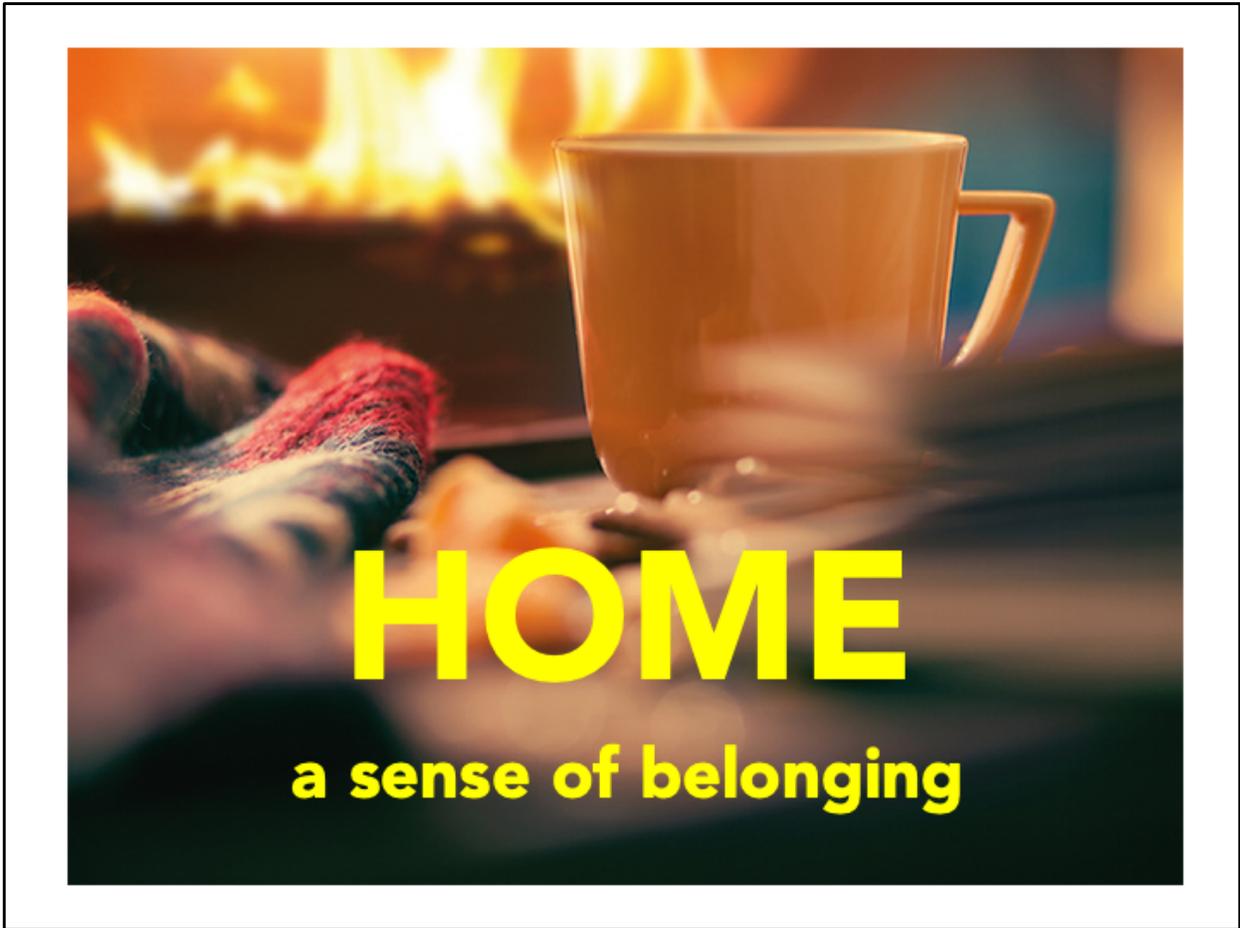


Solutions:

Because of Raise the Roof, City Council has formed a committee to address the housing crisis. TOMORROW – need a lot of pressure to pass rent control and just cause protections

So what can you do?

- You can donate to the Raise the Roof Coalition
- As an organization, I know you wouldn't fund something like this because it's outside of your mission, but you can send a letter of support urging city council to pass rent control and just cause protections because you believe that housing is a human right and that you want to maintain the Bay Area's diversity and cut down on the environmental impacts when low-wage workers are displaced.



Finally, on a very personal, human level, when we read articles and hear about the thousands of people being pushed out, kicked out, and forced out of the Bay Area, let's think beyond the numbers and remember we are talking about people like Betty who are losing their home, their sense of community and their sense of belonging.

This fractures our community, we are losing our rich diversity, to the point where all of us look around – and we don't belong either.

But if we take action, we can maintain our diversity, our identity, and protect our sense of home. And ultimately our very human need to belong.