

You may remember November of 2013, when a young boy, battling leukemia transformed to become “Batkid,” and saved the city of Gotham. Well maybe it was San Francisco, but still pretty amazing nonetheless. That Make-A-Wish experience was shared around the country and was even turned into a major motion picture. Experiences like this are what sets Make-A-Wish apart. They grant wishes, big or small to kids fighting for their lives. This month I was honored to launch the partnership between Homes for Good and Make-A-Wish Arizona.

Entrepreneurship and Philanthropy has always been a passion of mine. I grew up in Vancouver Canada, inspired significantly by 2 things: (1) the altruism and entrepreneurial spirit of my dad and (2) the greatness and community initiatives I saw from local professional athletes and sports teams (Go Canucks). Through the process of observation, education and participation, these mentors symbolically served as a personal standard for self-identification.

As I’ve shifted into a new career in real estate, I’ve leaned into the mindset of focusing on keeping it a relational business. The home buying and selling process is intimate, emotional and competitive. Having trust in your agent is crucial. As I made this transition, I was not only tasked with building a new business but the even grander challenge of how could I be different?

As many of you may know, I launched a 100 open homes challenge late summer 2017 after thinking about the Wayne Gretzky quote “you miss 100% of the shots you don’t take.” It was a way for me to completely commit to this new chapter, learn the business and immerse myself in the market.

Throughout that process it hit me that I could utilize that standard business model of open houses, a daily function of my job, as a platform to do more, and to do *good* in the local community.

When I set out to build and brand Homes For Good in 2018, I knew I wanted to give back, to share the good happening in the community and to create awareness for it. My goal in establishing the platform was to pay tribute to my past while at the same time connecting good people and paying it forward by using open houses, my daily real estate activity, and grassroots marketing to promote good and make an impact in the local community.

What I wasn’t prepared for was the market’s response to my program and how much Homes for Good would become a part of every conversation and activity. This past month I’ve averaged 52 people on a weekend coming through the open houses, that’s 52 opportunities for education and awareness about the foundation. It’s not just about concept of fundraising, more importantly, it’s about a shift I hope to create to motivate more people to get involved.

I am often asked how people can get involved and really there are so many ways. You can absolutely donate through my recently launched website, but you can also

nominate a local organization. Many of the local organizations I've aligned with for the coming year have been brought to me through my personal and professional networks, clients and various people I've met in the community. However, perhaps the most impactful way you can help is to share. Share these stories, talk to people, tell them how they can get involved and help me affect real change in the community.

Homes for Good pushes me daily to want to think big, dream big, and make an even bigger impact. In just two short months, what was started as a personal fundraising initiative has evolved into something so much more. Launched January 2018, Homes for Good has raised over \$2,000 for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Scottsdale (The Barker Branch) and The First Tee of Phoenix. This month I'm proud to share that we're on pace to match, if not pass, last month raised for Make-A-Wish Arizona. If you're interested in learning more, or would like to get involved or donate directly to the Make-A-Wish Arizona Chapter, please visit Arizona.Wish.Org or visit my website HomesforGoodaz.com.

In a time when the world seems to be spinning faster than ever, I believe its important to keep my purpose clear. No matter the industry I'm in, it has always been my goal to add value, to do more with the platform that I have, pursue and build relationships, give back and ultimately to help people.

There is a lot of good in our community and I'm humbled to be able to do my part in facilitate connections and sharing the stories and the good with you. Thank you to Make-A-Wish Arizona for letting Homes for Good be a part of your story and the incredible *good* that they're doing here in our city. Make-A-Wish has always resonated with me because of the countless wishes I've seen granted, specifically when it comes to professional athletes and sports organizations. Seeing kids get signed to a one-day NBA contract, go to the Super Bowl, or to simply hug their hero is extraordinary. It was truly an honor to partner with such a wonderful organization.

This month, with our Make-A-Wish Arizona partnership, I'll be specifically raising funds to cover bag fees for wish kids and their families when wishes entail air travel. Every day there will be new wishes made and new wishes granted and Homes for Good will always remain an advocate and a place to create awareness to help support these wishes.

Next month I've partnered with Striking Out Poverty, an innovative campaign connecting MLB players and fans to help end poverty in the Dominican Republic through Food for the Hungry (FH). To learn more, you can head to HomesforGoodAz.com to make a donation and follow me at (social media handles) to stay up to date on open houses and our progress for Striking out Poverty.

"The world is changed by your example not by your opinion"
-- Paulo Coelho

