



An interview with Debbie Lewis on the importance of home and why she's rallying Realtors as part of the Community Campaign for CHAF



*“We need to help **everybody** find their way home”*

Why does the Community Housing Assistance Fund resonate with you, personally?

First and foremost, I firmly believe that everybody should be able to have a safe, secure place to live. **With secure housing comes so many things: peace of mind, an address for a potential employer, a place of respite if you’re not well. Unfortunately, being able to access that is really difficult for a lot of people in our community.**

In my professional life as a Realtor with the Denman Drapkin Group at COMPASS, I spend my days helping people secure housing and I have the good fortune to work with people who have the financial means to not only secure housing but to secure it in a permanent way by buying homes. I’m so aware of all the security and peace of mind that comes with that.

Our philosophy at Compass is, “We want to help everybody find their way home.” **Well, you can’t just help financially secure people find their way home– we need to help everybody find their way home.**



What inspired you to start the Community Campaign for CHAF last year and to lead it again this year?

I've always been impressed and inspired by the work that CHAF does. It was clear to me that, because of the pandemic and its impact on in-person fundraising events, their ability to raise the funds they needed had been severely impacted. I decided that, if I was unhappy about that, I needed to do something about it. **There are so many things I don't have control over and can't make better, but this is a way that I can do something. That we can do something.**

What's your favorite part about coming back home after you've been away?

Lisa and I always say when we're on a vacation that the best part of going away is coming back home. There's just something about having the safety and stability of a home to come home to that gives me security and peace of mind.

There are a lot of hardships that I could sustain, but none of us can fully appreciate the chaos homelessness creates in one's life. **"During the best times and the worst times- particularly the worst times- knowing that I could go to my own place and have a safe and private place to be, to self-nurture and retreat, was just critical. Like breathing air.** I'd be so unmoored if I didn't have my own private space.

Complete this sentence, "Home is..."

That's an easy one! Home is peace of mind.

What's your favorite room in your house and why?

Well, my favorite piece of furniture is the bed. I absolutely love getting into my bed at the end of the day. I love sleeping and everything about the bed: the down comforter, wrapping myself in cotton sheets. Because I love my bed and sleeping, my bedroom is the favorite room in the house. Which is funny, because I don't spend all that much time in there. But it's my favorite.

Debbie Lewis is the Senior Vice President of the Denman Drapkin Group at Compass Real Estate.

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