

PORTLAND

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INFORMING AND INSPIRING REAL ESTATE AGENTS

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AUGUST 2018

# Elisha Alcantara

*Encompass Life Foundation*



An interview conducted by Karen Alati.

According to the City of Portland and The Department of Housing and Urban Development, over the past two years, the number of adult women experiencing homelessness grew by 15 percent, and the number of homeless children rose by 24 percent. Those numbers are devastating.

Portland is an amazing city, full of compassionate people wanting to help those in need. One of those people is Elisha Alcantara, owner and Principle Broker of Encompass Realty. Elisha, with the help of women in her office, started the organization, Encompass Life Foundation. Elisha was kind enough to tell us about the foundation.



#### How and why did you start Encompass Life Foundation?

I wanted to have an organization that supported women, children, and single parents in a way that I experienced as a child and a young woman. It was the experiences and support I had that allowed me to get to where I am today. I was homeless many times throughout my childhood and at least once in my early 20s. I got a group of awesome women from my office together, and we decided to make this happen.

#### What is the goal/purpose of Encompass Life?

Our mission is to provide access to housing and education to marginalized or underrepresented people in an effort to help learn and grow so they can move forward in creating their own legacy. Our main prongs are (1) bringing education/panels to women entrepreneurs for education and support to achieve the levels they desire to live their best life; (2) provide scholarships for alternative education such as Montessori programs where kids who fall outside of “the box” will flourish; and (3) reduce the barrier to access for housing for single parents.

#### What would you like other agents to know about the organization?

We are better together and open for collaboration. If someone has a rental house or opportunity where we might be able to place a marginalized tenant who has a grant our voucher for rent, but doesn't look amazing on paper, let us know.

#### Anything else you would like to add (how to get involved, future plans, etc)

We are about to embark on a six-month passion project where we will be placing eight families from shelters into their own home

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by the end of the year. I don't want to give everything away, but stay tuned for exciting updates! We are definitely looking for advisory board members or people to join committees for this mission. It's going to be huge and impactful. Our website, [encompass-realty.com](http://encompass-realty.com), takes people to our nonprofit website, which will be live in the next two to three weeks.

