“We can’t just settle for doing some housing, finding some jobs or building some human support systems. We must do it all—decent housing in decent neighborhoods for everyone.”

In 1982—at the age of 68—Jim, along with his wife Patty, embarked on what he considered his life’s most important work: the launch of a national organization dedicated to giving everyone in the United States access to a safe and affordable place to call home, which Jim considered a “platform” for dignity, well-being and success. Inspired by three women from his church who had shown him how audacity and determination could transform a neighborhood, Jim wanted to inspire and strengthen similar efforts nationwide.

When it came time to name the organization, Jim thought of the spirit that had made our country great in the first place, the spirit that had carried us through the Depression and two world wars, the same spirit that had enabled him to lift himself and his family out of poverty—the spirit of Enterprise.

Today, Enterprise has created nearly 320,000 homes, invested $16 billion and touched millions of lives in communities across the nation. Still, America faces a growing housing insecurity crisis. Enterprise and its partners are working to end housing insecurity by creating opportunity. We believe opportunity begins when people have a safe, healthy and affordable place to call home. It grows with access to jobs, good schools transit and health care.