For Immediate Release: March 13, 2018

**Proud Ground Adds Capacity in Homeownership Education and Counseling Program**

Proud Ground is pleased to announce the newest addition to their staff, as Marita DeLeon joins the team as Homeownership Program Coordinator. DeLeon brings years of experience in Housing Counseling and is eager to use that experience to strengthen Proud Ground’s homeownership education and counseling work throughout Oregon and SW Washington.

After graduating with Bachelor of Arts degrees in Psychology and Philosophy from Seattle University, DeLeon worked in the non-profit sector for a decade. She spent the majority of her non-profit work at Solid Ground as a Mortgage Counselor, conducting workshops and individual meetings with homeowners who were facing foreclosure. DeLeon also provided Home Equity Conversion Mortgage Counseling and participated in Foreclosure Mediations. During her time at Solid Ground, DeLeon was active in their Anti-Racism Initiative and represented Solid Ground on the City of Seattle’s Race and Social Justice Core Team IV. She understands that there are many systemic and institutional barriers around homeownership, and will incorporate that understanding to further Proud Ground’s commitment to reduce the minority homeownership gap.

DeLeon will be the first point of contact for homeowners and homebuyers working with Proud Ground and will act as a community resource. It is Proud Ground’s intention to utilize DeLeon’s education, experience and enthusiasm to increase engagement and efficiency in their mission to expand homeownership opportunities for low- and moderate-income families so they can live or remain in the community of their choice. The public is encouraged to reach out to Marita DeLeon directly at marita@proudground.org or call 503-493-0293 ext.18.

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