## **OURCHARTER**

WHAT MAKES US, US

#### **CHARACTER**

comes from ancient times, meaning to scrape the earth, to make a mark.

OUR MARK WILL SET THE NEW STANDARD.



#### **IMAGINE**

Several generations of a family celebrate an important milestone together in a barn handcrafted nearly two centuries ago, and carefully brought back to life to respect who, and what, came before.

She was planning to spend the day preparing for a big meeting at home but finds the environment unproductive. Grabbing her laptop, she tells the dog she'll be back, and takes a quick walk to the coffee shop, where she sits with a view into the square, and finds the big idea she was looking for.

As a young couple walk up the front steps of their first home for the first time, one of the two, filled with anticipation, takes a knee just outside the front door and asks her to marry him.

Everyone drives down Main Street as it gently bends south at the end of town, admiring the new clocktower, a landmark that overlooks the special moments of each day.

#### **CHOOSE**

Few people ever get the opportunity to have their work touch the lives of tens of thousands of people and change what our country looks like for generations.

AND FEWER CHOOSE TO TAKE IT

We do, fearlessly counting on what we have in common, setting us apart and ensuring our success.

What we do is not easy, but NOTHING WORTHWHILE EVER IS.

Our work matters; to our homebuyers, to our team, to our neighbors, and to our future.

Along the way you will discover you stand for something, you have what it takes, you can be counted on, and you finish what you set out to do.

The choice to make a mark in what you do IS YOURS.



Our country is DEFINED by stories people tell about themselves, that include special places, moments, and memories we all want to have and hold on to.

But today much of what is built has no story worth sharing; it is simply more of the same, often taking more than it gives.

> We started ASKING WHY are we building these kinds of places, and learned the rules that define where people live are broken.

Getting around quickly has become more important than the journey itself or what the destination looks like when you get there. Everything being the same has replaced ONE OF A KIND, and following the letter of the law is more important than having places people want and DESERVE.

We decided it was time to CHANGE the game by again putting people first and asking what's possible, rather than what's allowed.

Today we are creating places that people find engaging, endearing, and valuable, that RESPECT what came before in what comes next. Each one unique, just like the people who call them home.

The ideas we use are not new, and they are not ours.

What is new, and what sets us apart,
is why we do what we do,
together setting the new standard
one neighborhood at a time,
INSPIRING others.

#### **OUR PURPOSE**

why

We are working together to set the new standard,

# REIMAGINING AMERICA<sup>TM</sup>

One Neighborhood at a Time.

FOR PEOPLE.

People are unique. Where they live should be too.

TO RESPECT.

We include the story of what came before and what comes next.

BY DESIGN.

We always ask "what's possible", rather than "what's allowed."

Ask people to describe where they WANT to live, what it looks like, and what they want to do there, and they rarely describe what is being built today.

They speak about places they visit on vacation or see in pictures, that ENGAGE them and that are one-of-a-kind, where they can take a break and connect with friends, that include the beauty of trees and natural spaces, all just a short walk from their front door.

For more than fifteen years, we've been asking people that question, and listening carefully.

It wasn't so much the places they talked about that got our attention, but how they spoke about them that MOVED us.

The places they described endeared themselves to people. They included the FEELINGS, hopes, and MEMORIES that they wanted to have and to hold on to.

These conversations made us recognize what we do becomes a part of who people are, and the UNIQUE story they tell about themselves.

So we visited the places people shared with us, learned what made them so SPECIAL, and CREATED a new way to give people what they want.

# REIMAGINING AMERICA

demands that we

DELIVER

**OUR PROMISE** 

FOR

OUR PEOPLE

**DEMONSTRATING** 

**OUR PRINCIPLES** 

AND WORKING

THE CHARTERWAY

EVERY DAY.

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OUR PROMISE IS WHAT
OUR HOMEBUYERS CAN
EXPECT FROM US.

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#### **OUR PROMISE**

what

We create

## THE GREAT AMERICAN NEIGHBORHOOD

each one delivering

LIFE A WALK AWAY®

and

A HOME AS SPECIAL AS YOU ARE®

WE WORK HARD
EVERY DAY TO PUT OUR
PEOPLE FIRST, KNOWING
THEY HAVE A CHOICE AND
THEY CHOOSE US. WE ARE
NEVER SATISFIED WITH
SECOND PLACE WHEN IT
COMES TO SATISFYING
OUR PEOPLE.

## OUR PEOPLE who

We are in the *people* business, which means we know who we work for and with;

HOMEBUYERS

THE

BEST PEOPLE

IN OUR INDUSTRY,

**&**NEIGHBORS

who value OUR PROMISE and share OUR PURPOSE

WE CHOOSE, TRAIN,
AND DEVELOP PEOPLE WHO
PUT OUR PRINCIPLES INTO
PRACTICE EVERY DAY.

#### **OUR PRINCIPLES**

how

The best people are defined by

ATTITUDE,

EFFORT,

& BELIEF

Together we share ten principles that define us.

OUR ATTITUDE to CARE MORE.

OUR EFFORT to DO MORE.

OUR BELIEF to BE MORE.

## LISTEN GENEROUSLY

with the intent to understand

You are willing to be influenced.

You understand the *purpose* of listening is understanding, not agreement.

You demonstrate the active listening position, facing the speaker with your eyes and body *focused*.

You let the other person finish *before* formulating your response.

You listen for *what* is being said without being spoken.

Action is character.

F. SCOTT FITZGERALD

# OURPRINCIPLE No. 2 DO WHAT'S RIGHT AS PROMISED, EVERY TIME.

This is *the* definition of integrity.

This is the basis for all your decision making, *regardless* of how difficult it is to follow.

You know doing this *consistently* is how you create trust.

Your own self-interest comes *second* if there is ever a conflict between the two.

Character may almost be called the most effective means of persuasion.

ARISTOTLE

# MAKE A DIFFERENCE

personally and professionally.

Things happens because of you, not circumstance.

You know that your *willingness* to muster a few seconds of courage to take the right action or speak up can *change* the future for the better.

You own what you think and say.

You see the opportunity in *every* challenge you face to develop your problem solving skills.

You speak *truthfully* and for yourself when there is something important to say.

You only say things about others that you would say in their presence.

You pick cigarette butts off the ground, knowing the *little things* count.

The man of character falls back on himself.

He imposes his own stamp of action,
takes responsibility for it, makes it his own.

CHARLES DE GAULLE

#### BESAFE

everyone home safe every night.

You are an example for how to BeSAFE™ in all you do, at all times.

You are *proactive* in maintaining and encouraging a safe workplace.

You are confident in telling others to STOP WORK if you think it is being done in an unsafe manner.

Be more concerned with your character than your reputation, because your character is what you really are, while your reputation is merely what others think you are.

JOHN WOODEN

# PREPARE FOR THE MOMENT

your best in seven seconds.

You ensure that you make a great impression as a *result* of the hard work of preparing for it.

You know it is not *what* you say that matters, but what others hear, so mastering what and how you communicate is important.

What sets you apart is doing it right the *first* time.

Character may be manifested in the great moments, but it is made in the small ones.

PHILLIPS BROOKS

## HONOR COMMITMENTS

who, what, by when.

You take responsibility to see a commitment *through* completion, whether you make it or agree to it.

You strive for *clarity*, detailing what needs to be done, when it needs to be completed, and who will do it, with the only responses being yes, no, or offering a counter proposal.

You *proactively* confirm, before the deadline, that a commitment will be met, and you understand and have (or can give) the support needed to achieve it.

You know that an unmet commitment results in us *all* losing.

Blame never makes anything better. The *right* response is to fix it fast.

You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

#### SPEED WINS

doing it all the Charter way.

You know the *value* of doing everything faster without ever sacrificing anything. Finishing the job completely and correctly is how we beat the competition.

You *embrace* the challenge of always providing your best, for less, faster.

Be quick, but don't hurry.

John Wooden

#### SERVE OTHERS

become a leader.

You ensure others have what *they* need to succeed.

You take *pride* when others get the credit.

You seek the best idea and what is best for the *team*, rather than what is best for you.

You treat others with *respect*, even when they have a different perspective that you may disagree with.

People with good intentions make promises. People with character keep them.  ${\tt UNKNOWN}$ 

# OURPRINCIPLE No. 9 ALWAYS IMPROVE

always be valuable.

You can always make and do everything simpler, faster, better, for less.

You are always open to training.

Your value is your *willingness* to learn, not just simply what you know.

Your *first* response to a new idea is curiosity.

You improve your skills and knowledge on your own, gaining comfort in knowing *your journey* never ends.

You know it is your responsibility to manage your career and to find your mentor.

You postgame *all* you do, asking yourself what could I have said, what could I have done better.

We never lose; we either win or we learn.

NELSON MANDELA

### DELIVER EVERY DAY

secure the future.

You deliver our work The Charter Way on time, on budget, to plan (100% complete). How you secure the future.

You value being measured by whether or not, and how well you *accomplish* what you set out to do.

You know your opportunities come from a track record of success.

You *prioritize* your tasks to ensure your work provides the most value to the team.

You never quit.

You understand there is no try; there is *only* do and not do.

Character, not circumstance, makes the man.

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON

#### THECHARTERWAY

We have *one* way we work.

#### THE CHARTER WAY

It is not the only way, but it is the way we have chosen, knowing when we follow it, we will consistently meet the Charter standard.

#### THECHARTERWAY

We have organized the team with our homebuyer on top, to remind us we are in the people business, and so we know what we have to do deliver OUR PROMISE.



CHARACTER IS DESTINY

HERACLITUS

Our business is built on one idea.

#### CHARACTER

It is included in all we do.

It is what everything in OURCHARTER comes from.

It tells the *story* of people and place. It shares what is *unique* about both.

It *connects* people, creates value, and leaves an endearing *legacy*.

It *inspires* us to inspire others, and to make our mark.

