

Spring 2015

## Backpack Program Expands with Addition of Fresh Food Pantries

More than 40 families from the Marrion Elementary neighborhood come regularly to the Family & Community Resource Center (FCRC) for one important reason: they can choose what food they bring home to their families. And because Share is able to stock the pantry differently than the backpacks sent home, they are able to choose from fresh fruits, vegetables, dairy products and meat. On these Fresh Food Pantry days, the inside of the FCRC looks like a very small grocery store: boxes filled with bananas, potatoes, oranges, avocados and bread; coolers filled with lettuce, yogurt, hummus, frozen steaks and pizzas.

No longer simply the domain of canned corn and peanut butter, Share's Backpack Program has expanded with the opening of four Fresh Food Pantries, one each at Marrion, Orchards, Washington and Sarah J. Anderson Elementary Schools. The food offerings change from week to week, based on donations received at the Clark County Food Bank, with whom Share partners for this program.



But the outcome is the same: parents receiving fresh produce, meats and grains, which become nutritious meals for their families.

*"Individuals are used to visiting food pantries where they give you things that your family, for cultural or flavor reasons, do not want to eat,"* said Becky Parker, Hunger Response Assistant Director. *"This system allows them to pick what types of food they like and create a meal plan, rather than saying, 'What am I going to do with this?'"*

*"Although the location of the FCRC at Marrion Elementary (outside in a portable) can be difficult to get families to come inside, on Fresh Food (Continued on page 2)*



## Share Launches We Share Major Gifts Society

We have launched an important effort to build our capacity to serve the community: The We Share Major Gift Society.



*"Share has a 35+ year track record of solid and managed growth and responding to the need for services to the hungry and homeless in Clark County is at historically high levels,"* said Diane McWithey. *"By establishing the We Share Major Gift Society, our goal is to establish reliable, annual funding to bolster and sustain Share's ability to provide the programs and services that positively impact the lives of the hungry and the homeless."*

Community members can join the We Share Major Gift Society at one of eight levels, each of which carries a name reflective of how that level will help clients: \$500 Hopefulness; \$1,000 Encouragement; \$1,500 Compassion; \$2,500 Dignity; \$5,000 Inspiration; \$10,000 Confidence; \$25,000 Empowerment; and \$50,000 Sustainability. (Learn more on page 2)



## Share Board Directors

**President:** Peter Fels  
**VP—External:** Tim Miller  
**VP—Internal:** Terry Toland  
**Treasurer:** Ronald Dobyns  
**Secretary:** Wendee Shuell  
**Executive Director:**  
 Diane McWithey

Martin Flynn  
 Tim Foley  
 Amy Foster  
 Jesse Magaña  
 Nancy Olmsted  
 Adam Roselli  
 Jim Stender  
 Diane Toland

For a list of our management staff: [sharevancouver.org](http://sharevancouver.org)

2306 NE Andresen Road  
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## Pantries continued ...

*“Pantry days I have over 40 families that continue to come back for food assistance. While I am able to fulfill an immediate need of giving them food to take home to their family, it also gives me the ability to build a relationship with that family and help in other ways that they might not have known were available to them.”* said Erica London, Outreach Coordinator with the FCRC at Marrion. *“Without the Fresh Food Pantry, I believe that the number of families coming into the resource center would be much lower. In almost all cultures and social classes, food connects people together. I believe that having the Fresh Food Pantry in the Resource Center here at Marrion is a vital part in connecting families to our schools.”*

And the families agree. Below are quotes from three parents who participate in the program:



*“I would have probably never gone into a food bank to get food, even though we needed it, but I’m comfortable coming here (Marrion). Thank you for helping my family.”*  
 —Mom, family of six

*“This is so nice, you have no idea how much it helps.”*  
 —Single mom

*“Wow, chicken! We haven’t been able to buy meat for months, this is going to be a treat.”*  
 —Single dad of one

*“Actions speak louder than words; let your words teach and your actions speak.”*—Saint Anthony of Padua

## We Share continued ...

Membership levels are based on gifts from January 1 to December 31 of each year with benefits being recognized in the following year. [Join on-line today at sharevancouver.org.](http://sharevancouver.org)

Membership benefits vary by level and include items such as a society pin with name of level designation, invitation and recognition at major gift society annual meeting as well as invitations to quarterly tours of our shelters and Share Fromhold Service Center, tickets to Share’s annual fundraising events, a dinner cruise on the Portland Spirit with Share’s board president and executive director and more. The complete matrix of benefits by level can be viewed at [sharevancouver.org](http://sharevancouver.org).



For more information, contact Kim Hash, Director of Development & Communications, at [devdir@sharevancouver.org](mailto:devdir@sharevancouver.org) or (360) 952-8227.

## No Place Like Home for the Holidays



On December 20, we hosted our annual Holiday Cheer Party at Share Fromhold Service Center with **a record-breaking 839 guests!**

Dozens of volunteers along with Share staff and board members, helped to prepare and serve a delicious holiday meal. Santa gifts, clothing, toys, games and stuffed animals were provided to families throughout the day. A special thank you to KMR Foundation for providing a personal care kit filled with essentials such as toothpaste, tooth brush, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, soap and more to everyone who attended. Additionally, the children's kits were packed inside an animal-shaped backpack.

During the 2014 holiday season, 6,580 gifts were given to 550 people through our Adopt-a-Family program and 4,898 gifts were distributed at our Holiday Party. We are grateful to the generosity of our community for their donation of new gift items. We also want to extend a huge thank you to all of the volunteers who donated their time sorting gifts, serving lunch at the holiday party, helping ASPIRE families to fill their 'wish lists' and so much more. A special thanks to the organizations that donated time and resources—we couldn't do it without you!

### Adopt-a-Family = Incredible Generosity & Caring

Every year we ask our community to consider adopting one of the families we serve to provide gifts, clothing and food for the holidays. The families and individuals we serve in our two family shelters, our men's shelter and through our ASPIRE and HEN programs simply do not have the resources to provide many of the items they need for day to day living, not to mention the additional challenge of providing gifts during the holiday season.

This year we had a record breaking number of donors step up to make a difference in the lives of those we serve by **adopting over 500 children, women and men.** The gifts that we received to distribute to the families we serve were beyond generous! The boxes of gifts overflowed our two classrooms at the Share Fromhold Service Center.

We thank all of our donors for all of the wonderful gifts which were so appreciated by all of the clients of Share!



## Holiday Thank You's!

They say *'It Takes a Village'* and we are honored to have our own loyal villagers who answer our call each year to make the holidays bright for our clients. More than **30 organizations established giving trees, 86 organizations/people adopted a family and 10 organizations helped at our annual Holiday Party.**

Please visit our web site at [sharevancouver.org](http://sharevancouver.org), for a list of these amazing organizations and people and join us in saying 'Thank you!'

# Sharina Lives

## Volunteer Spotlight: Tyler Close

A legacy can truly have a powerful impact. Last December, Tyler Close, with the Department of Health & Social Services, came to the Share Fromhold Service Center to deliver a cash donation of over \$500. Tyler's great-grandfather, Harold Crooker, had served on the Share board and after the original Share House burned to the ground, Harold helped fundraise to rebuild the shelter. Tyler wanted to follow in his great-grandfather's footsteps, so he started a fundraising campaign at DSHS last fall.

He organized lots of fun contests like pumpkin carving, food drives and he encouraged fellow staff members to contribute to the Combined Federal Campaign designated for Share. In total, he raised almost \$4,600 through the CFC, collected over 1,000 lbs. of food and delivered over \$500 in cash from the competitions he organized. When we posted about Tyler on our FB page in December, it generated 2,314 hits in just a few hours!

Below is an excerpt from an article about Tyler's efforts which was posted on the Washington State Department of Social & Health Service's statewide web site:

*"Years ago, a very generous man by the name of Harold Crooker made it his mission to feed the homeless. Working hand in hand with Share, he was able to raise over 8,000 pounds of food totaling over \$4,000 with just one Thanksgiving Food Drive. In 2014, his great-grandson, Tyler Close, picked up that torch of*



A photo of Tyler Close (left) at Share in Dec. 2015, alongside a photo of his great-grandfather, Harold Crooker, in the early days of Share.

*"giving and spearheaded a Thanksgiving Food Drive of his own at the Columbia River Community Services Office to benefit Share. In the spirit of his grandfather, Tyler, a Financial Services Specialist at CRCSO, formed a committee with coworkers that was hugely successful in uniting the office around the cause of doing as much as they could to help feed the families in our community over the Thanksgiving Holiday.*

*"In addition to accepting donations of cash, food, and household items, there were also fun fundraising events for staff to participate in such as a pumpkin carving contest and a "guess the baby" photo contest. In total, the CRCSO office was able to raise 1,045 pounds of food, more than \$500 in cash donations through competitions/fundraisers, and \$4,570 through recurring donations as part of the Combined Fund Drive. Share estimates that this is equivalent to 4,228 pounds of food! The unit that raised the*

*"highest total through Foods, Funds and the CFD received a prize of a \$100 catered unit potluck, which was generously donated by one of the committee members, Eric Trask. In keeping with the spirit of giving, the winning unit elected to donate that \$100 directly back to Share.*

*"Tyler, and the incredible generosity displayed by the staff at Columbia River, have been inspirational and have truly embodied the DSHS mission of transforming lives. Tyler hopes he can continue this food drive annually in honor of his great-grandfather's legacy, and continue the incredible work within the community and with Share that was inspired by him."*

At Share, we both thank and admire Tyler for striving to mirror his great-grandfather's passion to help the hungry and the homeless and we hope that his example inspires others as well. Thank you Tyler and all the generous people at DSHS!

# Sharing Lives



## Springtime in Paris

Share's Annual Gala: Saturday, April 25, 2015

**Buy your tickets on-line today: \$75 per person, \$750 for Table of 10**

*"We are delighted to welcome Riverview Community Bank as the presenting sponsor of our 2015 gala," said Diane McWithey "We look forward to celebrating with our loyal supporters amid the 'Springtime in Paris' theme on April 25, while raising much needed funds for our vital programs and services."*

The Gala will be held from 5:30 to 10:00 p.m. at Hilton Vancouver and features dinner, casino-style gaming and both silent and live auctions. A featured item in the live auction is a new, five-foot, Kawai Grand Piano, Model GM-10K, in French Mahogany with matching bench. The piano has a list price of \$17,195. It comes with a 10 year (transferable) warranty on all parts and labor, free delivery to the lucky winning bidder and a courtesy tuning in their home after delivery. A special thanks to Portland Piano Company for the gracious donation of this instrument to benefit our auction. Those unable to attend the auction may still bid on this item via proxy; contact Kim Hash at [devdir@sharevancouver.org](mailto:devdir@sharevancouver.org) or 360-952-8227 for more information.

The silent auction will include 60+ items including gift baskets, trip packages and gift certificates. A list of live and silent auction items can be viewed at [sharevancouver.org](http://sharevancouver.org).

Special thanks to our event sponsors including Riverview Community Bank, Columbia Credit Union, Hopelift, Providence Health, Peacehealth, Gardner School, IBEW and Dan's Tractor.

**Donate baskets for our silent auction!** Themes could include a Baking Basket, Pet Basket, Italian Basket (or any nationality) or create your own theme—and the donation is tax-deductible! Baskets can be dropped off at the Share Fromhold Service Center, M-F, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thank you!

## A Letter from the Community: Stephen Brown

Dear Becky,

Thank you for the work you do to support the homeless in our community. As a Catholic and staff of St. Joseph and parishioner of Sacred Heart in Battle Ground, I volunteer my time at WHO. I have brought others, too, to share the experience of serving the homeless in our community.

I am extremely humbled each time I serve. Realizing the reality that they are just like us! Give a health emergency, a loss of a job, an addiction that cannot be cured, we, too, would be homeless. Your work gives voice to those who are disenfranchised in our community and, more so, gives us hope that those who have little will be fed, those who are homeless will receive shelter and those who are ignorant of the need will be educated. I applaud the work you do!

Stephen Brown

# Sharing Lives

## Christmas is Coming This Summer!

We will once again celebrate Christmas early this year for dozens of our clients. Over four days—June 12, 15, 16 & 17—and with the help of many volunteers, we will provide hundreds of clothing items and toys to make life just a little more enjoyable for men, women and children in our shelters and in our ASPIRE program.

In 2014, this inaugural event served 22 men from Share House and 43 families from our family shelters and ASPIRE. Each family received two outfits per person, plus underwear, socks, shoes, coats and sweat-shirts; each child also received three toys, plus a book, a game and a stuffed animal.

We need your help to make our 2015 'Christmas in Summer' a success! This event was organized because our shelter clients turn over every two months and are consistently adding new clients to our housing programs. This is our way of making sure that everyone receives the tremendous support that is given during December. Embrace the spirit of spring cleaning and set aside gently-worn t-shirts, shorts, sweatshirts, jeans, shoes, etc. to donate. Donations of new clothing items, especially underwear, children's swimsuits and sandals are always appreciated. All donated items can be dropped off at the Share Fromhold Service Center, M-F, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thank you!



## Little Facility Gives Back in a Big Way

Though Larch Corrections Center (LCC) houses an average of just 470 offenders operated by 126 staff, their size did not discourage them from making quite the ambitious goal to raise over \$10,000 for the 2014 Combined Fund Drive (CFD) season. "LCC not only came up with a strategy that helped us to achieve our goal of raising over \$10,000, but reached out to our communities as well. This was only possible with the encouragement and support of a superintendent, generous staff, and caring communities across Washington State," said Sid Clark, co-chairman of the committee.

The LCC CFD 2014 Committee partnered with four charities this year including Share, The Clark County Food Bank, Northwest Battle Buddies, which provides trained service dogs to returned combat veterans with PTSD, and BETA, who reaches out to LCC staff with thoughtful gestures during life changing events.

The offender population at LCC also got involved and donated six jewelry boxes and one hand painted toy chest filled with goodies donated by LCC's kitchen staff. Larch's Community Partnership Program Coordinator (CPPC), Nancy Simmons, organized two offender fundraising events that brought in over \$750 for a whopping \$1419.17 raised by the offenders at LCC.

*"Each year we look forward to supporting fantastic charities across Washington State, and we want to give a big thank you to all of our teams for donating such awesome gift baskets in this year's LCC CFD campaign!"*

*Thank you to the Communications Department at Larch Corrections Center who provided this article.*





## 2014 a Success for Share and Our Community

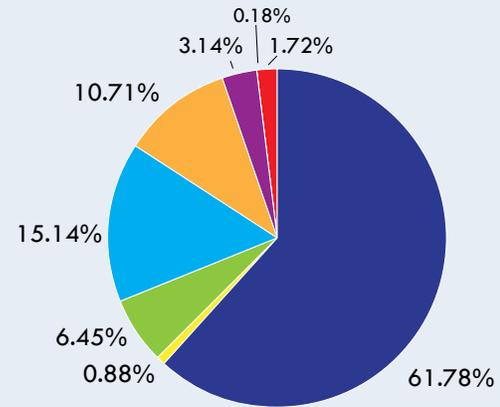
2014 was another successful year for Share—day in and day out, we focused our resources on our mission to serve the hungry and the homeless, including:

- 1,298 people served at our shelters and our partnership with the Winter Hospitality Overflow program
- 795 individuals accessed Share Outreach services.
- 92,259 free meals served through the Hot Meals Program.
- 506 people served through our Housing & Essential Needs Program
- Share ASPIRE (our transitional & permanent housing program) served 516 people in 235 households
- 27,172 free meals to children through Share Summer Meals

- 70,977 bags provided to 1,900+ children, and their families, at 90 schools through our Backpack Program
- Our Individual Development Accounts Program has 70 current savers and 17 asset purchases
- During the Holiday season, 6,580 gifts were given to 550 people through our Adopt-a-Family program; 839 people attended our annual Holiday Party at which 4,898 gifts were distributed
- 2,900 volunteers gave their time in support of Share programs, totaling 29,975 hours. In all, our volunteers provided \$675,918 of service to our organization!

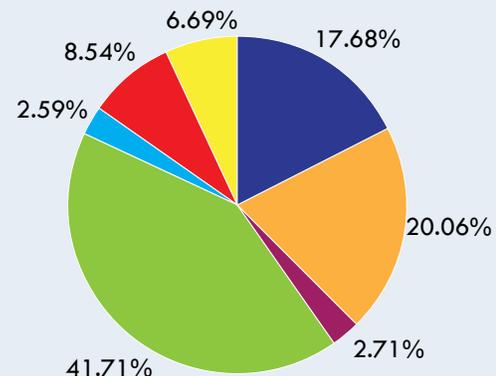
With the continued support of our community, 2015 holds hope and promise for individuals and families looking to improve their lives and gain self-sufficiency.

### 2014 Income



- Government Grants, \$3,812,030
- Interest & Dividends, \$54,436
- Private Donations, \$398,017
- In-Kind Donations, \$933,977
- Fundraising, \$661,155
- Foundation Grants, \$193,532
- Student Employment Reimb., \$11,332
- Rents & Misc. Reimbursement, \$106,154

### 2014 Expenses



- Shelter System, \$1,105,013
- Hunger Response, \$1,254,192
- Street Outreach Program, \$169,395
- Housing Programs, \$2,607,952
- Financial Programs, \$161,936
- Fundraising/Development, \$533,395
- Administration, \$418,486

\* 2014 Income & Expenses are unaudited numbers.



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*Watch for the CenturyLink  
 Matching Challenge for our Hunger  
 Response Program in June!*



**Beaches Restaurant will host a cashback fundraising event to benefit Share on March 24.**

50% of what each guest spends on food and beverage, including happy hour, will be donated to us!

We encourage people to make a reservation to enjoy the fantastic food and drinks at Beaches, all while helping hungry children in our community.

The offer is good at both the Vancouver and Portland Airport (PDX) locations:  
[beachesrestaurantandbar.com](http://beachesrestaurantandbar.com)

*Don't forget to let your server know you are there to support Share to ensure that 50% of your bill is donated to us!*



**Join the Share Team: 'Couve Clover Run, March 22 at 9 a.m.!**



NW Personal Training is hosting a charity run for St. Paddy's Day! Celebrate in your festive green while walking/running 3, 7 or 10 miles to support Share! If we can get 50 members on the Share team, we will receive \$5 for each team member

Best yet—when you sign up using the “Share” code, you will get an immediate \$5 discount on registration!

Check out the NW Personal Training website event page for more details: [www.nwpersonaltraining.com](http://www.nwpersonaltraining.com)

Enter the code “Share” for an immediate \$5 discount and to join the Share team!

Cost Includes: A great price for a fun event, runner's shirt, cool medal, music, food, beer & so much more! Please join us and tell all your friends to sign-up, too!

