



Sharing Lives

Fall 2020

■ New Titles, Continued Dedication & Compassion

When it comes to the workplace, a title should not only explain the nature and level of work being contributed to the organization, but it should also carry a level of personalization to highlight the qualification and expertise of the individual who performs that vital work.

Share recently elevated the titles of several key management staff members to acknowledge the depth and diversity of work undertaken by our compassionate and dedicated staff each day.

Becci Read-Ryan: Hunger & Nutrition Programs Manager—Becci oversees our Hot Meals, Backpack and Summer Meals programs (see page 3 for highlights of this year's Summer Meals program).

Heather Young: Data & Operations Manager—Heather maintains all client data from Share House, Share Homestead, Share Orchards Inn, Women's Housing and Transition (WHAT) and Winter Hospitality Overflow (WHO).

Holli Brice: Family Pathways Program Director—Holli manages operations at both of our family shelters, Share Homestead and Share Orchards Inn.

Jillian Daleiden: Community Wellness Program Director—Jillian oversees the Women's Housing and Transition, Share Outreach and Talkin' Trash (see page 5 for an update on how Outreach staff are working to help those experiencing homelessness during the time of COVID-19).

Dee Sanders: Affordable Housing & Stability Program Director—Dee manages our expansive housing programs (formerly called ASPIRE), some of which include Rapid Re-Housing, Housing & Essential Needs, Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnership and others; she also oversees our Rent Well and Individual Development Accounts (IDA) programs.

16,167
meals to kids
through our Summer
Meals Program



Our IDA program has seen a dramatic increase in applicants over the summer. Many of those enrolling have been resilient in the face of the significantly changing employment landscape. Through the program, participants will save up to \$1,000 to be used as a down payment on the purchase of a home, to start a business, or to pursue higher education; the program provides a 4:1 match. Plus, our partnership with Clark College allows people to save just \$500 which is matched 8:1. We'd like to share two of our participants' stories:

20 new
IDA clients
saving for a home,
business or education



Paul* was used to earning money doing odd household jobs, but when the pandemic hit, the demand for his services stopped. He was inspired to make a substantial career change by enrolling at Clark College for their welding program. "Without the IDA program, I'm honestly not sure how it would have been possible to lift myself up out of this situation." Paul continues classes at Clark and is in the process of securing an apprenticeship.

Claire* owns a bakery and relied on walk-ins for the purchase of most of her baked goods. In the early weeks of the pandemic, foot traffic declined severely putting her business in jeopardy. Claire realized she needed a way to advertise her business to attract online orders and new customers. She learned about the IDA program on Share's website and applied. "I thought I might have to shut down my business entirely. But with the funds saved through the IDA program, I've been able to reach new customers online and keep my doors open."

*names changed for anonymity; article continued on next page

■ New Titles cont.

Katie Louis: Collaborative Housing Program Director—Katie manages operations at Share House and the Winter Hospitality Overflow.

Michelle Bittinat: Housing Achievement & Enrichment Program Director—Michelle manages operations at Lincoln Place and oversees partnerships with multiple housing- and casemanagement-focused programs such as Story Street, Bridges to Housing, Bridging the Gap, Step Aging and Long-Term Support Administration.

These staff members are part of 75* who have been and remain on the front lines, serving nutritious to-go meals, helping individuals and families to secure permanent housing in this tumultuous market, and providing case management and key connections to supportive services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

As an organization, Share continues to press forward, adapting to the new normal, because our vital work cannot stop. We keep working, every day, to help make our community home.

**In all, Share has a staff of 90 individuals, with 75 of those working directly with our clients.*



Share Board Directors

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For a list of management staff:

sharevancouver.org

Follow us:

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It's Never Too Early to Plan for the Holidays!

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact almost every aspect of our daily lives, Share is working on plans to ensure that we can still bring holiday cheer to our clients—and you will still be able to help!

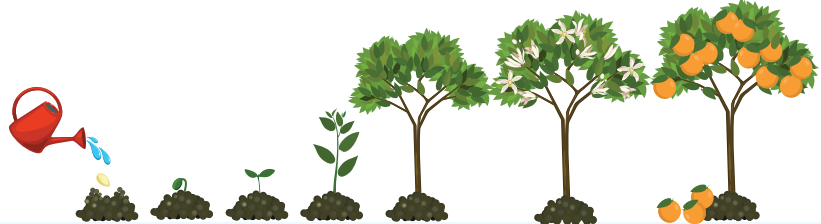
One change we do anticipate is an increased request for gift cards to provide the “gift of choice” to our clients.

“We recognize that many of our dedicated donors want to express thoughtfulness by carefully selecting items through our Wish Tags and Adopt-a-Family programs. But with so many people out of work and suffering financially, a gift card may actually be the most thoughtful and useful type of gift this year,” said Kim Hash, Director of Development & Communications.

Follow us—[facebook.com/ShareVancouver](https://www.facebook.com/ShareVancouver) and sharevancouver.org—where all the details will be posted once finalized.

Plant a ‘seed’ to help support &
grow our vital services.

Become a Monthly
Shareholder



Just \$15 a month can provide 3 kids with a bag of food through our Backpack Program—over the course of a year, your donation grows to feed 36 kids!

sharevancouver.org

Click ‘Donations’ then ‘Become a Monthly Shareholder’

■ Summer Meals Adapts to Serve Free Meals to Kids in Our Community

Summer Meals 2020 was a great success! Despite concerns and delays in the planning process, we were able to start the program on time, continue for a full eight weeks and serve 16,167 free meals to children in our community.

“This year, we utilized the USDA waiver that allowed children to take their meal with them instead of needing to stay on-site to eat. I feel like this reduced a lot of barriers for parents and for kids, and made the programs more desirable to the community. Being able to drive through and grab meals, instead of having to stay in one place while kids ate, made it easier for parents with busy schedules to still access the program,” said Becci Read-Ryan, Hunger and Nutrition Programs Manager.

While we missed partnering with summer camps, luckily the Police Activities League of Southwest Washington and Vancouver-Clark Parks & Rec still handed out regular activity packets that were very popular.

Summer Meals would not function without the help of amazing and dedicated volunteers. Our new on-line volunteer system, CERVIS, streamlined the sign up process allowing a volunteer to sign up for multiple shifts at once from the convenience of their own home computer. Our volunteer drivers took on regular routes and developed awesome relationships with the site supervisors.

While numerous volunteers and community partners were integral to the daily operations, we are tremendously grateful to St Joseph Catholic Church who stepped up this summer to offer Marian Hall and its commercial kitchen as the home base for our Summer Meals program.



■ Please Welcome Kelly Baumann!

Kelly Baumann has joined the Share team as our Volunteer & Community Resources Coordinator. Kelly has lived in Portland for almost two years but is originally from the East coast. As a long-time supporter of nonprofits, she joined Share to deepen her involvement with the local community and help expand the volunteer program. She has a B.A. in Cultural Anthropology and M.A. Public Policy from Stony Brook University. Previous positions have included teaching classes for the Red Cross, teaching English abroad, travel writing and various marketing roles.



In her free time, Kelly continues to explore the natural wonders of the Pacific Northwest by hiking, camping and swimming her way through its beauty. She writes creatively, is currently learning how to play the harmonium*, practices yoga and enjoys international travel.

** No, this isn't a typo and it wasn't supposed to read 'harmonica.' Also known as a reed organ (or pump organ), the harmonium is a small keyboard instrument that makes sound by blowing air through reeds, and sounds not unlike a church organ.*





October 5 to 11, 2020

A Week-long Celebration in Honor of Our Chef & Restaurant Sponsors

Supported by:



PACIFIC PREMIER BANK

As we have made the decision to cancel this year's Soup's On! event, we are offering an alternate way to support Share: Virtual Soup Week! (a spin-off on the popular TV series 'Shark Week'). Over the course of October 5 to 11, we will highlight our chefs and restaurants who were going to participate in Soup's On!

This week-long, virtual fundraiser is vital as *the soup is still on** at our Hot Meals program and our Housing Navigators continue to search for affordable housing for individuals and families in our community who have been and continue to be impacted by the pandemic, unemployment and the struggling economy.

Chefs will prepare a special soup for this week and each chef will be highlighted in a video. We'll also be selling Mystery Raffle Boxes for \$100; each box contains artisan soup bowls and fun surprises—plus one box contains a \$500 Target gift card! And, everyone who makes a donation during the month of October will be able to download our "Soup Week Recipe Book" featuring each chef's soup.

Here is our line-up of local chefs & restaurants:

- Beaches Restaurant & Bar
- Farrar's Bistro
- Legacy Salmon Creek Medical Center
- Say Ciao!
- Bleu Door Bakery
- Frontier Public House
- Line & Lure at ilani Casino Resort
- 3 Sheets at the Harbor
- Elements Restaurant
- The Hammond Kitchen & Craft Bar
- Nom Nom Restaurant & Grill

We will be encouraging our community to visit each of the restaurants to try their delicious soup—and we've assigned a donation link to each restaurant and so that you can make a donation to Share in honor of your favorite soup! The restaurant and chef who raises the most over the course of the week will be awarded the coveted Golden Ladle!



Soup's Still On ... For Those We Serve

Throughout the month of October, all donations to Share will be matched thanks to these sponsors:



Regence

Ann Bardacke & David Wolf



Tuesday, October 27 at 4 p.m.

Join us as we 'spill the soup' in a virtual celebration to present the Golden Ladle winner and honor our Volunteer of the Year and Community Partner Award

Hosted by Eric Sawyer, BBSI, with awards presented by Waste Connections

Visit sharevancouver.org to register for this free event!



WASTE CONNECTIONS INC.
Connect with the Future®



“Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves and the only way they could do this is by not voting.”—Franklin Delano Roosevelt, 32nd U.S. President

LEARN MORE. REGISTER TO VOTE. PLAN YOUR VOTE. | VOTEWA.GOV



■ COVID-19 Compounds Barriers for Those Experiencing Homelessness

COVID-19 has been a particularly difficult time for many of our Outreach clients. They struggle daily with getting their basic needs met, with finding an open restroom reported as one of the biggest challenges. With the Navigation Center closed, they are unable to have access to showers and laundry. People are having a hard time connecting with services such as Department of Social and Human Services (DSHS), Social Security (SSA) and Housing. Many people experiencing homelessness do not have access to a phone or internet service to make the necessary connections with the SSA office regarding benefits such as food stamps and disability income or with housing- and employment-based programs.

“Our clients have adjusted and are making the best of what is going on. As long as we are engaging out on the street and giving them the most updated information, they are taking it all in stride. We are not able to help everyone experiencing homelessness, but have been able to assist some in meeting their goals by providing them with support, advocacy and the ability to use our phones as needed,” said Jacky Snell, Outreach Case Manager.

One upside during the pandemic came as some of the most vulnerable clients were housed in the quarantine and isolation shelter at the Motel 6; this was made possible through state Department of Commerce and CARES Act funds. This has been a huge help in stabilizing those that got into a room. Deadlines that clients faced to meet with Vancouver Housing



Authority, DSHS and SSA have also been extended.

“This has been a huge help in stabilizing our clients allowing them enough time to complete steps needed to meet their goals,” said Snell.

One of our clients, Alice*, had received a Housing Choice Voucher through the Vancouver Housing Authority (VHA). She struggled to find housing by the deadline and would have lost her voucher. However, VHA extended her time frame by two months, during which she was able to find and move into an apartment.

Another very vulnerable client, Simon*, is sleeping outside and struggling with nowhere safe to go at any point in the day. Medical conditions require him to use the restroom frequently and the closure of so many public spaces is impeding his ability to do so. He stays near a gas station that will allow him to use their restroom if he purchases something.



But he recently lost his wallet, which held both his ID and debit card, on which he receives Social Security benefits via direct deposit.

“Without a phone or way to prove his identify, he has struggled getting everything together again. He typically would have just gone into local offices to replace everything. Borrowing phones from friends has been unsuccessful, as the hold times are so long that he ends up unable to complete the process. So, for now, he just waits until our community moves further along and places start opening back up.”

■ Volunteers: The heart of our organization!

Holley Walhood, Share's Food Coordinator, with thanks for a special volunteer.

I first met Mary about a month ago. She was very kind, willing to go above and beyond what she'd come in to help with, which was preparing and serving breakfast. She asked if there was anything else I needed help with and, before I could answer, she asked if we needed help with any cleaning projects. She volunteers to help clean somewhere else on a regular basis. As I was contemplating the massive amount of cleaning that needs to be done on a daily basis, she volunteered to clean our bathroom. I hesitated for a very short moment before answering because I don't like to have our volunteers do such undesirable jobs.

I think she noticed my hesitation so she let me know that she really

doesn't mind at all, sharing, "I like to help with projects that you really need help with rather than do some token job." Her eyes and words were so sincere that I thanked her and shared that I would gladly accept her offer to clean the bathroom. She then offered to clean it every Tuesday! In that moment, I was flooded with gratitude for Miss Mary—our bathroom is spick-and-span because of her.

I feel so blessed to be a firsthand witness to the love, care and generosity of spirit that our volunteers bring along with them. It's no surprise that our volunteers will do just about anything to help us in our work to serve our clients. It is a true statement that there is nothing like the heart of a volunteer. Our jobs at Share would



be incredibly difficult if not impossible to accomplish without the love and support of our beloved and gracious volunteers. Thanks to all our volunteers for being so generous with your time, energy and support!



We'd also like to extend our thanks to Gravitate, a Digital Marketing & Web Design Agency based in downtown Vancouver. Alan Hwang, Director of Growth, shared thoughts from their Team about volunteering.

At Gravitate, supporting our community is a key pillar to our company and culture. From the leadership team down, there's genuine passion for serving our community, leveraging our platform and our team to make a larger impact.

I'm personally impressed and moved by the compassion of our team and their passion to serve our community. Gravitate gives our staff a 'team day' once a month, where departments can take a day to do something fun as a group.

Earlier this summer, a couple of our team members saw a need for volunteers in the Share Hot Meals program through an email sent (they were on the list from attending the Soups On event last fall).

They signed up to serve and it snowballed from there. Other teams became interested and started

signing up to also participate. This was highlighted with an entire day where multiple Gravitate staff served to-go meals for all shifts, breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Our staff had amazing feedback, mostly around how fun and comfortable Share staff made their volunteer experience. Many of the Gravitate team have or plan to volunteer with Share more often.

I live and work in Vancouver. I want the community around me to thrive, so it lifts all sails—people and businesses alike. It's like taking care of your neighbors; just do what you can to help.

Share's mission to help those in need is something that resonated with me. You can see the impact that Share is making every single day, right here in the community that we love.



■ Fulfill a Wish (or 2!) for Our Clients by Shopping Online...

Our warehouse at the Share Fromhold Service Center is a wonderful resource. Not only do we utilize the space to host a number of vital programs, but it's also where we fill clients' order requests. When a client moves out of shelter and into permanent housing, many don't have the additional funds to purchase basic household items, making it difficult to turn that house into a home.

So, we create 'move-in' baskets for families or individuals which are filled with essentials (silverware, dish set, pots & pans, dish/bath/hand towels, etc.) donated by caring donors. We also provide personal hygiene items, cleaning supplies, clothing and more.

We could use your help—please consider purchasing an item (or two or three!) from our 'Wish List' and have them shipped to Share at 2306 NE Andresen Road, Vancouver, WA 98661. To view our 'Wish List' visit sharevancouver.org and click on 'Fulfill a Wish' on the home page. Any items you select will help make our clients feel at home!

Note: Needed items are not limited or specific to items on the list; different brands and colors are welcomed and appreciated. Additionally, similar items may also be purchased at alternative stores and shipped to the Share address above.

Share
Fulfill a Wish
(or 2 or 3!)
for Our Clients!

PURCHASE NEW, NEEDED ITEMS FOR SHARE



...or Schedule a Donation Drop-off

We want to thank KMR Group Foundation for delivering their annual donation of Essentials Kits. The 325 kits will be given to clients at Share House, Share Orchards Inn, Women's Housing and Transition (WHAT), Lincoln Place and our Affordable Housing & Stability Program.

Fall is the time each year in which we typically run low on essential items (toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, razors, shave gel, shampoo & conditioner, etc.) in our warehouse. This year has presented a number of challenges in obtaining these daily living items, so we are incredibly thankful for these kits.

Due to continued risks of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Share Fromhold Service Center remains open by appointment only. And while we are currently not able to accept donations of used clothing or used household items, we very much welcome donations of new, needed items, such as non-perishable food, cleaning supplies, and a short list of other high-need items. To schedule an appointment, please contact Kelly Baumann at kbaumann@sharevancouver.org.



Share
hot meals
program

Have you ever considered if volunteering for our Hot Meals program would be a good fit for you?

Give it a trail run by signing up for a short orientation before signing up for a shift! Our Director of Volunteers & Community Resources, Molly, is meeting groups of 3-4 on Tuesday afternoons and Thursday mornings to give a brief tour and overview. *It's*

also always fun to volunteer with friends! Do you have someone you could invite to join you?

Sign up online at sharevancouver.org/volunteer under the Hot Meals section or send a message to Molly at mevjen@sharevancouver.org. Hope to see you soon!





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Changes are happening daily,
 please check our website for the
 most up-to-date information.

Stay healthy & positive!

Have you missed attending local nonprofit fundraisers?

They've missed you, too! Make up for lost time—
 'attend' & give all day on Give More 24!

In addition to Share, there are 200+ worthy causes to support. We know that so many of you typically enjoy attending any number of benefit lunches, galas and fun-filled fundraisers throughout the year. But this year, those events were postponed, some recreated virtually and many ultimately canceled.

Now, more than ever, local nonprofits are in need of financial support to continue necessary and vital work that helps tens of thousands of local individuals and families in our community. Visit givemore24.org to view participant profiles and learn about local causes—from housing & food programs to educational foundations to arts & culture and much more!



\$20 could cover the cost to replace a lost ID card removing one barrier toward finding affordable housing



\$40 could provide 8 children with a bag of nutritious food decreasing anxiety for families living on a limited budget

Please donate on Thursday, September 24
givemore24.org

Your donation to Share will be matched up to \$34,364 thanks to:

- Paul & Deborah Speer | Larch Corrections Center Inmates
- Hicks Family Foundation | CrossFit Fort Vancouver
- Unitarian Universalist Church of Vancouver
- 2 Anonymous Donors

Please donate on Thursday, September 24
givemore24.org

