In July, 17 percent of Washington renters missed their rent payment due to lost employment, reduced work hours and furloughing. This included thousands of households right here in Clark County. Help came from the Emergency Rent Assistance Program (ERAP), which renters could access by contacting Share and Council for the Homeless.

One such individual was Phil. Earlier this year, Phil was involved in a not-at-fault accident in which he was hit by a car while riding his motorcycle. He sustained several injuries, some of which will affect him permanently including a fractured neck and fractured skull. His injuries were so severe that his heart stopped during surgery; fortunately, the doctors were able to resuscitate him.

Phil still has pieces of the car windshield in his neck and he has been unable to work. He used his savings to pay his rent and was grateful for assistance from a local church. He heard about ERAP and called Share; he qualified for the program and received funds for past, present and future rent, allowing him some breathing room to figure out his next steps.

"Without this program, I likely would have become homeless," said Phil.

(continued on page 2)
A portion of their acceptance speech is shared here:

“The chance to work together to get people needed care giving services in Share locations has been instrumental in helping so many. It was a match made perfect for both organizations,” said Duplessie.

“This partnership allowed us to successfully bridge the gap to allow access to services to those that really need them. We are truly seeing the positive effects of this program. We see a group who previously had challenges finding access to care services due to hurdles that other populations don’t necessarily face. Clients at Lincoln Place are willing and wanting services and they are benefiting in a life-changing way,” shared Stearns.

“We look forward to this continued partnership and our shared vision to service residents of Clark County,” added Barnwell.

Since the program launched at the end of August, Share has helped 451* households with rental assistance. Those eligible received one-time assistance that covered up to three months of past, present or future rent.

To qualify, households must have had an annual income of less than 50 percent of the area median income ($46,050 for a family of four or $32,250 for a single person) and have had at least one month of partially or fully unpaid rent since March. Additionally, at least one member of the household needed to be rent-burdened, disabled, at severe risk of illness due to age or underlying condition, previously homeless, have a history of eviction or have had housing disrupted due to race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation or religion. Citizenship was not a requirement to eligibility.

This project was supported by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of the Treasury. Grant funds are administered by the Local Government Coronavirus Relief Fund through the Washington State Department of Commerce.

*IThis number was current as of the printing of this publication; the number of households helped continues to increase daily.

Icing on the Cake!

Are you at least 72?

If so, you can now make tax-free gifts directly from your IRA. Your gift to Share will never count as income, but will always make a difference to families & individuals in our community.

Now that’s icing on the cake!

To get started, contact your IRA plan administrator & then Diane McWithey at dmcwithey@sharevancouver.org or 360-952-8216.
Give the Gift of Choice This Year

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 program. And while we will be accepting new, high-need items, including non-perishable food, we must balance a manageable capacity so that our staff and limited number of volunteers are able to organize and distribute items to our clients in a timely fashion.

With many people out of work, or with reduced work hours, and suffering financially, donating gift cards in amounts of $10 to $25 may be the most thoughtful and useful gift this year. Providing individuals and families with the opportunity to purchase items on their own can relieve personal anxiety and boost self-esteem as they take the lead role in selecting foods to prepare their holiday meal, finding just the right gift to give their child or partner or filling basic household needs.

Donations of gift cards can be dropped off by appointment only at the Share Fromhold Service Center at 2306 NE Andresen Road; contact Sara Johnson at 360-952-8312 or sjohnson@sharevancouver.org.

Help Us Raise $10,000 for a New Steamer

The steamer in the Share House kitchen is used multiple times a day, every day, to make food for the Hot Meals program. We’ve had our current steamer for more than 11 years and, over the past year, staff and volunteers have experienced issues with the ignition switch, despite repairs. Replacing the steamer before it becomes unusable is the responsible choice, as emphasized by Holley Walhood, Share’s food coordinator: “We use the steamer to prepare lots of food, all day…every day. We use it to steam eggs, cook rice, steam vegetables, cook or reheat meat, reheat thick items such as chili, stew and gravy, steam potatoes to make mashed or roasted potatoes, cook oatmeal, reheat pasta—this list is almost endless.”

You can help with a donation on December 1 (or any day in December) at sharevancouver.org for #GivingTuesday.

Donate ‘Wish List’ Gifts

From winter coats & clothing (all sizes, for men, women & children) to kitchen items & small household appliances to non-perishable food & cleaning supplies...and more! A list of most-needed items is available at sharevancouver.org.* You can also purchase items on-line via our Amazon Charities Holiday Cheer Wish List*.

*At sharevancouver.org, under ‘Donations,’ click ‘Holiday Cheer Program,’ then ‘Wish List.’ Needed items are not limited or specific to items on the list; different brands and colors are welcomed and appreciated and similar items may also be purchased at alternative stores and shipped to Share at 2306 NE Andresen Road, Vancouver WA 98661.
We had a tremendously successful, virtual Soup Week to honor our chefs and restaurants who were ready to compete at our Soup’s On! event. We want to give an enormous thank you to all of this year’s sponsors, who are listed on the opposite page!

This week-long, virtual fundraiser was vital as the soup is still on with daily, free to-go meals served through Share’s Hot Meals program … and Share’s 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.

We ‘spilled the soup’ on October 27 at a virtual event hosted by Eric Sawyer of BBSI. Eric is known for his amazingly creative costume changes at our Soup’s On! event, so he weaved in that spirit throughout the show (photos at right!).

Tony Johnson of Davidson & Associates Insurance presented the soup awards: the coveted Golden Ladle People’s Choice Award for Soup-er Chef was awarded to Bonnie Brasure of Bleu Door Bakery for her Manhattan Crab Chowder; the Presenting Sponsor’s Choice for Best Soup by Davidson & Associates Insurance was presented to Jason Pinney of 3 Sheets at the Harbor for his Watermelon Gazpacho; and the Chef’s Choice Award for Best Soup was a tie with awards presented to Brandon Carman of Legacy Salmon Creek Medical Center for his Buffalo Chicken and Bobby Rasaphangthong of Nom Nom for his Tom Kha.

Additional restaurants included Tanner Poncik of Beaches Restaurant & Bar, Wes Burgess of Farrar’s Bistro, Marian Adams-Manuel of Frontier Public House, Dylan Reisch of The Hammond Kitchen & Craft Bar, Tim Conklin of Line & Lure at ilani Casino Resort, and Peter Gallin of Say Ciao!—thank you all for participating!

Our volunteer of the year awards were also announced during the virtual event, sponsored by Waste Connections and presented by Cyndi Holloway. Our ‘Cheers’ award went to Mary Berg, our ‘Family Fusion’ award to The Lyne Family and the 2020 Emily Marshall Volunteer of the Year award to Duane Royer (see page 5). Also honored at the event was CDM Caregiving Services with the Community Partner Award (see page 1).
Emily Marshall Volunteer of the Year: Duane Royer!

Duane is an incredible person who cares about his community, Share’s mission and making sure food gets to those who need it most. He is friendly, helpful and flexible. Duane’s compassion makes Share a better place for our staff, volunteers and those we serve.

Despite challenges brought due to the pandemic, Duane was ready to help, whether it was sorting food, loading up cars for delivery or driving food to Summer Meals site locations. Duane was ‘all hands on deck’ to meet the needs of our community.

“I’ve been volunteering here at Share for seven years. It’s a lot of fun, low stress and I really enjoy the people I work with. The staff are considerate and sensitive to our needs. The volunteers are just awesome. I love the people that are loyal to the program—they are conscientious and we have a lot of fun!”

Barnes & Noble Holiday Book Drive

Tis the season! Barnes & Noble Vancouver, 7700 NE Fourth Plain Blvd., is hosting their annual Holiday Book Drive to benefit Share. Select any book for purchase in store and they’ll donate it to a child in our community. The drive runs through December 12. Stop by to browse or order ahead online for pick up—thank you!
Winter Hospitality Overflow Program Opens with Increased Health & Safety Protocols

The Winter Hospitality Overflow (WHO) shelters are open and, like most things in 2020, they are operating a bit differently this year. As quoted in a recent article in The Columbian: “The challenge this year is not about just having the bed space. It’s about having adequate space for everyone to social distance,” said Kate Budd, executive director of Council for the Homeless, which leads a winter shelter task force.

New this year, Share staff are operating the family WHO at St. Andrew Lutheran Church; the men’s WHO at St. Paul Vancouver continues to be operated by Outsiders Inn and Share House will continue to provide additional overflow for men in the dining room.

Guests are expected to wear a face mask unless they’re eating, sleeping or showering. The mask rules are fine by Merissa (pictured at right), who is staying at St. Andrew with her 6-year-old son, Aaron, who loves Spiderman and hot dogs.

In addition to masks, the sleeping area now includes curtains between mats, and air purifiers and hand sanitizer can be found in multiple locations.

Our Gala committee is stepping up their creativity to bring you a fabulous, virtual ‘There’s No Business Like Share Business’ gala next spring. Stay tuned for updates with all the details!

Until then, you can support Share with a ‘vote’ in honor of your favorite Best Dressed duo or duos with a donation at sharevancouver.org. You can also ‘meet’ all of our nominees on our website: view their amazing broadway-themed photos and read their bios. In addition to fundraising on behalf of Share, each duo will perform at our virtual gala—and we guarantee they’ll be worth the price of admission!
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!
Changes are happening daily, please check our website for the most up-to-date information.
Stay healthy & positive!

There’s no place like home for the holidays

We have had a tremendous outpour of financial support this year. But the need of local individuals and families not only remains but continues to increase.

Share serves a vulnerable population & this crisis has only made their daily lives more difficult—accessing meal & food programs, securing employment or housing, paying monthly bills & caring for themselves and their family.

Your generosity will make a difference!

Please consider a donation today: sharevancouver.org

Thank you for making our community home.